

**THE MORPHOLOGY, SYNTAX, AND  
SEMANTICS OF ADVERBS IN CANTONESE**

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## **The Morphology, Syntax, and Semantics of Adverbs in Cantonese**

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This thesis reports on a study of adverbs in Cantonese as it is spoken in contemporary Hong Kong.

Previous studies of Cantonese adverbs have put particular emphasis on the grammatical meanings of a few individual adverbs, for instance, the adverb 先 *sin1* (Cheng, 1990; Cai, 1995; Luke 2002; among others). The general properties of the adverb class as a whole have received relatively scant attention. In this study, the characteristics of Cantonese adverbs, and especially the morphologically, semantically and syntactically relevant aspects of these adverbs are investigated in greater depth. The search for general patterns has been given priority above the description of the peculiarities of each individual adverb.

Linguists have generally agreed that an adverb can serve as an adverbial in a sentence (see, for example, Quirk & Greenbaum, 1973). Zhu Dexi (1982), in particular, provides the most insightful criterion in distinguishing adverb from other word classes. He proposes that an adverb can and can only function as adverbial, and never function as any other sentence constituent like subject and predicate. In the present study, only those words that can function only as adverbials according to Zhu's analysis are identified as adverbs. Particular attention is given to distinguishing adverbs from adjectives, time words (nouns) and conjunctions, which are commonly used as adverbials as well.

For the purpose of the present study, a collection, which should be fairly comprehensive, of 544 adverbs have been made. 242 of these have cognates in Mandarin whereas 302 are unique to Cantonese. An exploration of the form of these adverbs suggests that reduplication is the most salient characteristics especially in trisyllabic and polysyllabic adverbs. Cantonese adverbs are further

divided into seven subcategories based on semantic and grammatical criteria; manner adverbs, among these seven subclasses, tend to have the greatest number of members. It was observed that Cantonese adverbs modify verb phrase, adjective phrase and noun phrase as well as modify on the clausal level as adverbials. The fact that adverb subclasses differ in the syntactic categories they modify clearly justifies the classification used in this study. Cantonese adverbs are further shown to exhibit their own peculiarities in syntactic properties as distinguished from English and Mandarin Chinese ones.

Further investigations in Cantonese adverbs should consider their productivity and distribution with respect to sentence types.

(379 words)

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# Abbreviations

ADJ	Adjective
ASP	Aspect Marker
COMP	Verb Complement
EMPH	Expressing Emphasis
FP	Final Particle
IP	Initial Particle
LOC	Locative Marker e.g. 度 <i>dou6</i>
M	Measure Word
MP	Medial Particle
PL	Plural Marker
POSS	Possessive Marker <i>de</i> in Mandarin Chinese
PREP	Preposition with No Obvious Meaning e.g. 將 <i>zoeng1</i>
V	Verb



# 1

## Introduction

This study deals with different grammatical aspects of adverbs in Cantonese. Cantonese grammar is in the bloom of development in Hong Kong. Subsequent to the seminal work of Cheung Hung Nin (1972), a number of different issues have been addressed in the joint efforts of scholars and students, notably utterance-final particles (see, for example, Kwok, 1984; Luke, 1990), some detailed analyses on a particular word class (see, for example, Luke and Nancarrow, 1998; Lau, 1999), and some contrastive analyses on distinctive features between English and Cantonese grammar (see, for example, Nancarrow and Luke, 1998). Cantonese adverbs, however, have so far received relatively scant attention in the linguistic literature.

This chapter establishes at the outset how adverbs are identified in Cantonese, based on the illuminating criterion given by Zhu Dexi (1982). It provides a sketchy overview of the previous accounts about Cantonese adverbs. It also states the objectives of the present study which are primarily devoted to discussing the morphological characteristics, semantic subcategorisation and syntactic properties. It then outlines the methodology by which a list of Cantonese adverbs is obtained through various sources. Finally, it summaries how this thesis is organised.

### 1.1 IDENTIFICATION OF ADVERBS

Different linguists might have different opinions on classifying adverbs. Quirk and Greenbaum (1973:125), for example, identify the adverbs in the English language according to their morphological characteristics and syntactic functions.

They point out that most of the adverbs are marked morphologically by a derivational suffix *-ly* and syntactically function as either an adverbial or a modifier of adjective and adverb.

The Cantonese adverbs, unlike English ones, do not have any significantly prominent morphological markers of adverb. Hence, the adverbs in Cantonese need to be identified syntactically, that is, according to their grammatical functions. Cai Jianhua (1995a:28) clearly states that Cantonese adverbs, like their Mandarin Chinese counterparts, function as adverbial by putting before a verb, adjective or noun. They cannot independently function as predicate nor subject of the sentence.

In fact, Cai supports the view of Zhu Dexi (1982:192) that an adverb is only used as an adverbial but not any other sentence constituents like subject and predicate.<sup>1</sup> An adverb, therefore, is identified solely by its syntactic function as adverbial. An adverbial, as Zhu Dexi (1982:151-152) defines earlier, is a modifier of any predicative element which might include, generally, verbs and adjectives, and rather specially, quantifiers, "quantifier + measure word" structure and "quantifier + measure word + noun" structure so long as they function as the predicate of the sentence.<sup>2</sup>

Detailed treatment of how adverbs are identified and distinguished from other word classes is given in the next chapter.

## 1.2 PREVIOUS ANALYSES ON ADVERBS

Previous accounts of adverbs have been very limited in English as adverb has long been considered as a heterogeneous category being hard to be subject to a systematic analysis (Macaulay, 1995:41; Nakamura, 1997:247-248). Cantonese is no exception. Only a few of the previous studies tend to highlight the grammatical

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<sup>1</sup> "我們把副詞定義為只能充任狀語的虛詞。"

<sup>2</sup> "狀語是謂詞性成分的修飾語。數詞，數量詞，數量名結構都是體詞性的，但同時又兼有謂詞的性質，所以也受狀語修飾。"

meanings expressed by some adverbs in Cantonese: Chen Baoru (1982); Chen Huiying (1985); Cheng Ting Au (1990); Mai Yun (1993); Matthews and Yip (1994); Cai Jianhua (1995a, 1995b, 1997, 1998); Chen Xiaoming (2001).

Chen Huiying (1985:297-304), for instance, discusses the grammatical meanings and functions of two adverbs, 噉 *gam2* and 咁 *gam3*. Though these two adverbs have similar phonetic forms, they differ from each other grammatically.

According to Chen, the adverb<sup>3</sup> 噉 *gam2* expresses the way in which an action occurs, and thus it normally does not modify adjectives which describe a state rather than an action.

- (1) 大家搏命噉練。  
*daai6gaa1 bok3meng6-gam2 lin6*  
we desperate-in-such-a-way practise  
"We are practicing desperately."

In this example, the adverb 噉 *gam2* indicates that the people as the subject are undergoing the action named by the predicate 練 *lin6* in such a way that they are doing it desperately.

On the other hand, the adverb 咁 *gam3* is usually associated with adjectives to indicate a high degree of the state attained by the adjectives.

- (2) 再飲一啖咁多啖。  
*zoi3 jam2 jat1 daam6 gam3 dol tim1*  
again drink one mouthful so much FP  
"Just drink one more mouthful."

The above example illustrates that the adverb 咁 *gam3* is used to modify the adjective 多 *dol* "much" so as to intensify the degree of the state being "much".

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<sup>3</sup> See Peng Xiaochuan (2001) for the discussion of 噉 *gam2* as an adverbial particle or marker.

Chen adds that this adverb is sometimes put before stative verbs and in set verb phrases to express the same grammatical meaning, as shown in the following two examples.

(3) 咪咁𨀗喇！

*mai5 gam3 lau1 laa1*

not so angry FP

"Don't be so angry!"

(4) 石頭喺山上轆落嚟，好似落雨咁落。

*sek6tau4 hai2 saan1 soeng6 luk1 lok6lai4 hou2ci5 lok6 jyu5 gam3 lok6*

stones at hill above roll down come-down similar-to fall rain so fall

"The stones rolled down like rain."

In the former example, the adverb 咁 *gam3* modifies the stative verb 𨀗 *lau1* whereas in the latter, the adverb 咁 *gam3* appears in a set verb phrase with the "好似 *hou2ci5* + Verb<sub>0</sub>-Object + 咁 *gam3* + Verb<sub>0</sub>" structure.

Cai Jianhua (1997:176-179) briefly discusses three major grammatical meanings of the adverb 都 *dou1*. Extensive research has been done on the adverb 先 *sin1* (see, for example, Cheng Ting Au, 1990; Cai Jianhua, 1995; Luke Kang Kwong, 2002). Cheng (1990:189-192) basically analyses the grammatical meanings expressed by the adverb 先 *sin1*. He points out that the adverb has two major grammatical meanings, one of which is to indicate an action happens earlier than another, and the other of which is equal to that of the Mandarin Chinese adverb 才 *cái*. Cai (1995b:69-72) also discusses the grammatical meanings of the adverb 先 *sin1* by considering the different constructions and contexts in which the adverb occurs. Cai proposes that the adverb can occur after a verb, a verb and its object and a verb with its complement in two contexts, namely monologue and dialogue, to express the following grammatical meanings.

(a) earlier in time

(5) 我走先嘅。

*ngo5 zau2 sin1 laa3*

I leave first FP

"I leave first."

(b) prerequisite

(6) 我有錢先買喇。

*ngo5 jau5 cin2 sin1 maai5 laa1*

I have money then buy

"If I have money, I will buy (it)."

(c) doing something seriously

(7) 我哋食乜嘢先？

*ngo5 dei6 sik6 mat1 je5 sin1*

we eat what after-all

"What do we eat?"

(d) putting off a matter until later

(8) 唔使理咁多，拎過嚟先。

*m4 sai2 lei5 gam3 do1 ling1-gwo3-lai4 sin1*

not care so much bring-COMP-COMP first

"You don't need to care so much of (it). Just bring (it) over."

The first two grammatical meanings coincide with that given by Cheng. However, Cheng is aware of the existence of a sentence-final particle which has exactly the same form as the adverb 先 *sin1*. In fact, Mai Yun (1993:66-67) clearly points out that there is a temporal sentence-final particle 先 *sin1* which expresses the other two grammatical meanings mentioned by Cai.

Apart from focusing on the grammatical meanings of certain adverbs, previous studies have on occasion been devoted to different perspectives of analysing adverb properties; for instance, Chen Baoru (1982) selected eleven adverbs in Cantonese, and studied their positioning in a clause. Moreover, a recent study carried out by

Cai Jianhua (1998) stresses the importance of discerning a word to be an adverb. Cai (1998:91-94) convincingly demonstrates that the word 有 *jau5* is an adverb meaning "certainly" when it comes before a verb.

- (9) 我有返工。  
*ngo5 jau5 faan1 gung1*  
I certainly go work  
"I have certainly gone to work."

He asserts that the word 有 *jau5* is an adverb on the grounds that its negative counterpart 無 *mou5* is an adverb, and the grammatical meaning "certainly" is expressed only when it is placed in front of a verb, where an adverb normally occurs.

In short, most of the previous studies on Cantonese adverbs put their emphasis on the peculiarities of individual adverbs. However, reports on the general properties of the class of adverbs have been very limited (see Huang, 1975; Jacobson, 1978; Matthews and Yip, 1994). Hence, the present study attempts to fill this gap by giving a comprehensive analysis of the Cantonese adverbs.

### 1.3 OBJECTIVES OF PRESENT RESEARCH

In the preceding sections, I have reviewed a number of previous accounts in the study of adverbs and found that adverbs, drastically divergent from other lexical categories, form a heterogeneous class that precludes systematic treatment. This makes linguistic literature on adverbs extremely rare and highly restricted to a few problematic adverbs and, merely, to the semantic aspect of these adverbs. It is hardly sufficient to just scratch the surface of such a complex class as adverbs. Clearly, there is much more work to be done on, particularly, morphological and syntactic characteristics of adverbs. In this respect, the present research attempts to achieve the following objectives:

- (a) find out all the Cantonese adverbs including both the Cantonese adverbs equivalent to their Mandarin Chinese counterparts and those adverbs which are specific to Cantonese only;
- (b) investigate the morphological form of Cantonese adverbs;
- (c) classify the Cantonese adverbs into subgroups on the basis of their grammatical meanings, being justified in terms of syntactic characteristics;
- (d) discuss the syntactic functions they fulfil.

## **1.4 METHODOLOGICAL ISSUES**

Cantonese adverbs in this study have been discerned by a variety of criteria. This processing will be reviewed briefly in this section. Following on from this, how the data was collected in this study will be presented (section 1.4.2) and the way the data to be represented described (section 1.4.3).

### **1.4.1 Identification Criteria**

As the present study aims to give a list of Cantonese adverbs and discuss the grammatical aspects of these adverbs, the identification of adverbs is crucial. There seems to be a controversy in identifying an adverb in Mandarin Chinese, as shown in considerable discrepancies among different dictionaries on their compiled list of adverbs. On the one hand, dictionaries vary in their criteria of identification and sometimes include those adjectives and nouns that are not adverbs at all. On the other hand, dictionaries may miss out the right candidates of adverbs converted from verbs. In both cases, dictionaries do not agree with one another.

In the present study of the Cantonese adverbs, my strategy is to follow Zhu Dexi's analysis (1982:192) i.e. to identify those words which can function merely as adverbial but not any other sentence constituents like subject, object, predicate and complement as adverbs.

On the basis of the adverbs in Mandarin Chinese reported in the dictionaries, adverbs in Cantonese which seem to be equivalent to adverbs in these dictionaries in both meaning<sup>4</sup> and form, and most importantly, adhere to the criterion that they should function only as adverbial, have been identified as Cantonese adverbs having cognates in Mandarin and marked as **CM** under *type* in Appendix 1.

Apart from finding out those Cantonese adverbs which have their counterparts in Mandarin Chinese, adverbs which are Cantonese-specific have also been explored in the study. When an adverb in Cantonese is not equivalent to any adverb in Mandarin Chinese in terms of meaning and form, it is **Cantonese-specific**. These Cantonese-specific adverbs are represented by the *type CS* in Appendix 1.

It should be noted that only the Cantonese words used in Hong Kong have been examined. Those used elsewhere in other provinces of the mainland China or in the Chinese communities of any other countries have not been taken into consideration in this thesis.

Moreover, particular attention was given to distinguishing adverbs from adjectives, time words (nouns) and conjunctions. This particular issue will be dealt with thoroughly in the next chapter.

## 1.4.2 Collection of Data

### 1.4.2.1 Corpus

The data under investigation are taken from the Cantonese corpus of naturally occurring conversations, compiled by Luke and Nancarrow (see Luke and Nancarrow (1997) for a description of the corpus). The corpus, totalling 200,000 words, consists of some story-telling and plenty of face-to-face, two-or multi-party

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<sup>4</sup> In some cases, for example, 就 *zau6*, the Cantonese adverbs may have additional meanings that are lacking in the Mandarin equivalents. However, since they share nearly all the meanings of their Mandarin equivalents, they are not Cantonese-specific adverbs.



conversations between interlocutors of both sexes and of different age groups and social classes. As a result, the database is fairly representative of the speech of people in Hong Kong and not skewed towards the usage of a particular group.

In the description of grammatical phenomena, corpus-based findings can make important contributions (Tao Hongyin, 2000:68-69). Zhan Bohui (2001:3) insightfully notes that in the study of the grammatical system of a dialect, a corpus which features widely known stories narrated by native speakers and everyday conversations among native speakers would be vital as only this sort of natural language texts would precisely reflect the real picture of different intertwined grammatical phenomena. Having met these two important features of a corpus mentioned by Zhan, the corpus has been used to collect data on the possible adverbs specific to Cantonese, example sentences of certain adverbs, and more importantly, on the discussion of syntactic functions of Cantonese adverbs.

#### 1.4.2.2 *Dictionaries*

The following dictionaries, both Mandarin Chinese and Cantonese ones, have been consulted.

##### Mandarin Chinese dictionaries/reference books:

- Hou, Xuechao. 1998. *Xiandai Hanyu xuci cidian* [A Dictionary of Modern Chinese Function Words]. Beijing: Peking University Press.
- Jiang, Huichuan, Xu, Haoguang, Liu, Yanxin, & Song, Fengying. 1989. *Xiandai Hanyu fuci fenlei shiyong cidian* [A Practical Classified Dictionary of Modern Chinese Adverbs]. Beijing: Duiwai Maoyi Jiaoyu Chubanshe.
- Lü, Shuxiang. 1999. *Xiandai Hanyu babai ci: zengdingban* [Eight Hundred Words in Modern Chinese (a revised and enlarged edition)]. Beijing: Commercial Press.
- Qufu Shifan Daxue Benshu Bianxiezu. 1992. *Xiandai Hanyu Changyong xuci cidian* [A Dictionary of Common Function Words in Modern Chinese]. Hangzhou: Zhejiang Jiaoyu Chubanshe.
- Wang, Hai. 1992. *Hanying xuci cidian* [A Chinese-English Dictionary of Function Words]. Beijing: Huayu Jiaoxue Chubanshe.
- Wang, Ziqiang. 1984. *Xiandai xuci yongfa xiao cidian* [A Mini-dictionary of Modern

Chinese Function Words]. Shanghai: Shanghai Cishu Chubanshe.

Cantonese dictionaries/reference books:

- Li, Xinkui, Huang, Jiajiao, Shi, Qisheng, Mai, Yun, & Chen, Dingfang. 1995. *Guangzhou fangyan yanjiu* [Research in Yue Dialects]. Guangdong: Guangdong Renmin Chubanshe.
- Mai, Yun, & Tan, Buyun. 1997. *Shiyong Guangzhouhua fenlei cidian* [A Practical Classified Dictionary of Cantonese] Guangdong: Guangdong Renmin Chubanshe.
- Qiao, Yannong. 1966. *Guangzhouhua Kouyuci de yanjiu* [A Study of Colloquial Cantonese]. Hong Kong: Huaqiao Yuwen Chubanshe.
- Rao, Bingcai, Ouyang, Xueya, & Zhou, Wuji. 1996. *Guangzhouhua fangyan cidian* [A Dictionary of Dialectal Words in Yue Dialects]. Hong Kong: Commercial Press.
- Rao, Bingcai, Ouyang, Xueya, & Zhou, Wuji. 1997. *Guangzhouhua cidian* [A Dictionary of Yue Dialects]. Guangdong: Guangdong Renmin Chubanshe.
- Wu, Kaibun. 1997. *Xiangganghua cidian* [Hong Kong Cantonese Dictionary]. Guangdong: Huacheng Chubanshe.
- Zeng, Zifan. 1999. *Guangzhouhua Putonghua kouyuci duiyi shouce (zengdingban)* [Colloquial Cantonese and Putonghua Equivalents (a revised and enlarged edition)]. Hong Kong: Joint Publishing.
- Zhang, Liyan, & Ni, Liehuai. 1999. *Gangshi Guangzhouhua cidian* [A Dictionary of Hong Kong Cantonese]. Hong Kong: Wan Li Book Company.
- Cheng, Ting Au. 1997. *Xianggang Yueyu cidian* [A Dictionary of Hong Kong Yue Dialects]. Nanjing: Jiangsu Jiaoyu Chubanshe.

#### 1.4.2.3 *Mass Media*

Some example sentences regarding the actual usage of a particular adverb is adapted from the utterances heard in some local radio phone-in programs<sup>5</sup> and Cantonese-speaking films.

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<sup>5</sup> For example, Commercial Radio's 《芝 See 菇 Bi Family》 [Chi's Family] and 《豁達崇拜》 [Enlightened Pilgrimage] broadcast on Monday to Friday from 12:00 a.m. to 2:00 a.m. and on Sunday from 1:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., respectively, and Radio Television Hong Kong's 《星空奇遇鐵達尼》 [Adventure on Titanic] broadcast on Mon to Fri from 9:00 p.m. to 12:00 p.m.

#### 1.4.2.4 *Native-speaker Introspection*

Some dictionaries as mentioned above clearly state the word class of certain words. When the information of a word given by the dictionaries is in conflict with the authentic data, native intuition prevails. The data under investigation have been considered by a number of native speakers until a final verdict is accepted by a majority of them.

### 1.4.3 **Presentation of Data**

#### 1.4.3.1 *Use of Parentheses and Slash*

The parentheses "( )" represent that the Cantonese character bracketed is optional. The adverb in which the character occurs can still retain the same meaning without it. For example, the adverb 𠵼(𠵼)先 *ngaam1(ngaam1)sin1* has two variants in form, both 𠵼先 *ngaam1sin1* and 𠵼𠵼先 *ngaam1ngaam1sin1*. These two forms of the same adverb share the same meaning "just".

The use of a slash "/" indicates that two synonymous adverbs differ only in one character. For instance, one of the entries, 唔淨只/唔單只 *m4zing6zi2/m4daan1zi2*, in the findings represent two separate adverbs 唔淨只 *m4zing6zi2* and 唔單只 *m4daan1zi2*, both of which differ by one character in the middle. They are equivalent to each other in meaning and actual use. Similarly, the entry 𠵼𠵼好/𠵼𠵼線 *ngaam1ngaam1hou2/ngaam1ngaam1sin3* represents two adverbs, 𠵼𠵼好 *ngaam1ngaam1hou2* and 𠵼𠵼線 *ngaam1ngaam1sin3*, both of which mean "just right".

#### 1.4.3.2 *Translation of Cantonese Examples*

The Cantonese examples normally comprise four elements. These examples start with the Cantonese characters officially published by the Government in the

Hong Kong Supplementary Character Set<sup>6</sup>. They are followed by the romanisations which are used in the LSHK (Linguistic Society of Hong Kong) *Jyutping* System. This system is different from the traditional Yale system in the following aspects. The romanisations are followed by the literal gloss of each of the words in the Cantonese examples. The free translations based on English are given finally.

	<u>Yale system</u>	<u>LSHK Jyutping system</u>
<i>Initial consonant</i>	j	z
	ch	c
	y	j
<i>Vowel</i>	eu	oe (long); eo (short)
	a	aa
<i>Tone</i>	distinguish high-level and high-falling tones	not distinguish
	letters and diacritics	numbers 1-6

Note: The differences between the Yale system of romanisation and the LSHK Jyutping system are mentioned in one of the publications by the Linguistic Society of Hong Kong (1997:xviii).

#### 1.4.4 Final Remarks

The Cantonese adverbs are typically found in a number of ways in order to reflect the actual usage of each adverb in colloquial Cantonese and to reduce the idiosyncrasies of native speakers in the use of a particular adverb.

## 1.5 ORGANISATION OF THESIS

Chapter One, this chapter, gives a review of the previous studies on Cantonese adverbs, establishes the research area and describes the research methodology adopted in the present study, including the way the data under investigation were collected and presented. Chapter Two discusses how to distinguish adverbs from other word classes, namely time words (nouns), adjectives and conjunctions. Chapter Three and subsequent chapters deal with the general properties of the

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<sup>6</sup> It can be download from the web page <http://www.info.gov.hk/digital21/chi/hkscs/download.html> .

Cantonese adverbs set out in (b) to (d) of the objectives. Chapter Six is the conclusion which suggests possible areas for further research and acknowledges the implications of the present study, followed by appendices and references.

# 2 Adverbs and Other Word Classes

As we will be concerned with the category adverb and its various aspects, it is best to establish in advance of any discussion some agreement as to what is an indisputable, uncontroversial member of that category.

This chapter presents previous literature on the discussion of adverbs as a word class. Since Cantonese is one of the dialects of Chinese, it must share, partially, with Chinese, in both vocabulary and grammar system. In particular, adverbs in Cantonese should include some of that of Chinese. Hence, the research on adverbs in Chinese must serve as a good reference and will be discussed below.

## 2.1 TOWARDS A DEFINITION OF ADVERBS

Different grammarians have given different criteria for classifying adverbs. Wang Li (1959:21) states that adverbs are the words that express the meanings of degree, scope, time, possibility, negation, etc. and cannot be used independently to refer to entities, attributes and facts. In other words, he makes use of the grammatical meanings expressed by adverbs as criteria to classify them. Ding Shengshu et al. (1979:7) classify adverbs by their functions in a phrase. He points out that adverbs modify main verbs, auxiliary verbs, prepositions, adjectives and other adverbs.

The classification based on meanings like the one mentioned by Wang Li should be avoided lest it might be subjective, as suggested by Lü Shuxiang (1979:42) and Li

Quan (1996:366). The criteria based on functions of a phrase by Ding Shengshu are rather limited in that adverbs could function in a clause. A better, to my knowledge, the best, criterion to classify adverbs is given by Zhu Dexi (1985:20). He defines adverbs as words which merely function as adverbials but not any other elements in a clause such as predicate and complement.<sup>7</sup> Li Quan (1996:376) confirms Zhu's analysis by arguing that though some adverbs appear to function as complement in a clause, they are exceptions: only 很 *hěn* "very" and 極 *jí* "very much" are used in this particular function. Citing Lu Jianming and Ma Zhen (1999:175), Li also convincingly argues that though some adverbs can be used as "predicate" in a clause, they are specially used only in speech where ellipsis is a commonplace, and they thus should not be treated as predicate because the real predicate can be recoverable from the context.

Zhu's criterion of classifying adverbs can be tested by using a pair of words in Cantonese, 頭先 *tau4sin1* and 啱啱 *ngaam1ngaam1*.

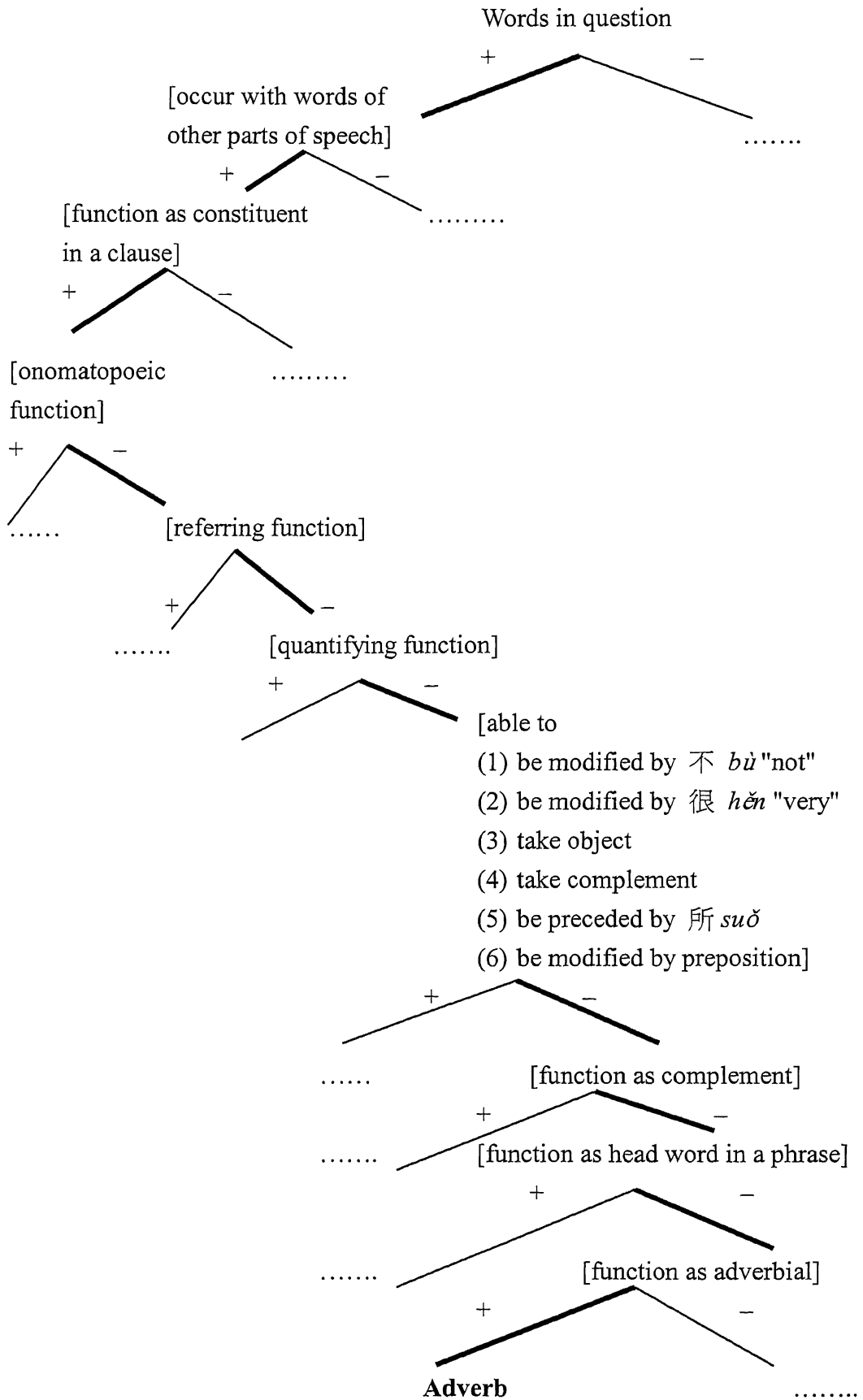
- (a) classifying by meaning: it is impossible because they are the same in meaning "just now";
- (b) classifying by function: the above criterion of classifying adverbs as being only adverbials can be applied here. 啱啱 *ngaam1ngaam1* is an adverb because it can only function as adverbial but not other sentence constituent. 頭先 *tau4sin1* is not an adverb because it can function as object of preposition in 到頭先 *dou3tau4sin1* "until just now". It is a time word.

Lu Jianming (1999:406-409) provides a systematic framework in tackling classification of words in which words are properly classified according to different conditions. Each condition is considered as one level in this hierarchical framework as shown in the following figure (see next page).

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<sup>7</sup> "比較合理的方法是把副詞定義為只能做狀語的詞。'只能做狀語'這句話蘊含著兩項語法特徵。一是能做狀語，二是不能做其他句法成份。"

Figure 1: A framework of classifying adverbs





In Figure (1), a simplified version of Lu's framework, each condition is put inside square brackets. If a word satisfies the condition, it follows the route marked by "+". If not, it follows the route marked by "-". The above figure shows all the conditions fulfilled by adverbs that they do not perform any function other than adverbial. Lu therefore echoes the view proposed by Zhu Dexi on the classification of adverbs.

Before examining the various ways in which adverbs are distinguished from other word classes, a basic distinction needs to be drawn between the terms **adverb** and **adverbial**, since both are relevant to the present study. Hoyer gives the best perspective in which these two terms can be understood to be separate entities.

Syntactically, adverbs can be related to such questions as Where?, When?, How long?, How often?, Why?, How? and, once this is done, the functional equivalence of multi-word units immediately becomes apparent. Thus, the question 'When will you leave?' may elicit any one of the following responses: 'Tomorrow' (adverb of time), 'Very soon' (adverb phrase with 'soon' as its head), 'The day after tomorrow' (noun phrase), 'In a couple of hours' (prepositional phrase), 'When I see fit' (finite clause). On the basis of functional analogy with the corresponding part of speech, namely adverbs, these diverse realizations are commonly referred to as adverbials. **'Adverb' is thus a word-class whereas 'adverbial' is a syntactic unit which contrasts with the other elements of clause structure, subject, verb, object and complement.**

(Hoyer, 1997:140-141; emphasis mine)

It is the single-word, adverb, with realisation of the adverbial function which is the primary focus in this study. One final terminological issue: the term **adverb phrase** above refers to a non-clausal structure consisting of two or more words with an adverb as its head: "quite [premodifier] possibly [head]".

To conclude, adverbs should be classified as words that function only as adverbials and never as the other element/constituent of sentence structure. I shall use this as a touchstone of what an adverb is.

## 2.2 AS DISTINGUISHED FROM ADJECTIVES, NOUNS (TIME WORDS) AND SUBORDINATE CONJUNCTIONS

Apart from adverbs, other word classes like adjectives and nouns (time words) can function as adverbials as well. On the other hand, adverbs can sometimes function like subordinate conjunctions to link a subordinate clause with a main clause as in the sentence 佢去，我就去。 *keoi5 heoi3 ngo5 zau6 heoi3* "If he comes, I will come." It is therefore necessary to distinguish adverbs from these word classes.

### 2.2.1 Adverbs and Adjectives

Zhu Dexi (1982:192) suggests that besides functioning as adverbials, adjectives can function as modifier, predicate and complement but adverbs can function only as adverbial in a clause. In Cantonese, for instance, 好彩 *hou2coi2* "lucky", 求其 *kau4kei4* "perfunctory" and 無謂 *mou4wai6* "pointless" are adjectives but not adverbs, as they can function as predicate, complement and modifier respectively.

- (1) 今次真係好彩。 (predicate)

*gam1 ci3 zan1hai6 hou2coi2*

this time really lucky

"It's really lucky this time."

- (2) 佢做嘢做得好求其。 (complement)

*keoi5 zou6 je5 zou6-dak1 hou2 kau4kei4*

s/he work thing work-COMP very perfunctory

"He works very perfunctorily."

- (3) 佢問埋晒的無謂嘅問題。 (modifier)

*keoi5 man6-maai4-saai4 di1 mou4wai6 ge3 man6tai4*

s/he ask-COMP-COMP PL pointless GE question

"All he has asked are meaningless questions."

## 2.2.2 Adverbs and Nouns (Time Words)

Chao Yuen Ren (1968:165) states that "a distinction should be made between (1) adverbs of time, and (2) time words." He suggests one way to distinguish time words from time adverbs that time words can serve as object of the preposition 到 *dào* "until" but time adverbs cannot. He demonstrates that it is possible to say 到現在 *dào xiàn zài* "until present" but not \*到就 *dào jiù* "until soon"; therefore 現在 is a time word and 就 is a time adverb. In Cantonese, for example, 最近 *zeoi3gan6* "recently" and 收靚 *sau1mei1* "at last" are time words but not time adverbs because they can be object of the preposition 到 *dou3* "until".

A more comprehensive analysis on the differences between time words and time adverbs is provided by Chao Enfon (1998). She identifies two major differences:

- (a) Though both time words and time adverbs can function as adverbial, only time words can function as other sentence constituents such as subject, modifier, object, etc.
- (b) Time words can be preceded by prepositions but time adverbs cannot. This second major difference is similar to Chao Yuen Ren's test of using 到 *dào*, which is a preposition.

To sum up, time words can be a sentence constituent like subject and modifier besides functioning as adverbial. They can also be object of preposition. They are thus syntactically distinguished from adverbs which cannot be other sentence constituents except adverbial.

## 2.2.3 Adverbs and Conjunctions

Previous studies of Chinese grammar have distinguished adverbs from conjunctions. Chao Yuen Ren (1968:791) identifies that "if a word marking the relations of clauses and sentences cannot follow but must precede a subject, then it

must be treated as a conjunction". However, as noted by Chao earlier on, a conjunction can follow the subject if both the subordinate and main clause share the same subject (113-114); if the subjects of these two clauses differ, the conjunction should be put before the subject of the clause in which it occurs. Lü Shuxiang (1979:45) suggests that words which can occur before and after the subject of a clause should be conjunctions whereas words which cannot come before the subject and only after it should be classified as adverbs.

At first glance, Chao's views on the positioning of a conjunction in a clause seems not very consistent as on the one hand, a conjunction should come before the subject, but it can occur either before or after the same subject shared by the main and subordinate clause on the other. However, as Zhang Baolin (1996) comments, conjunctions can be divided into two types according to Chao's analysis. One group occurs only before the subject and the other can occur before or after the subject. Concerning the distribution, these two types of conjunction are common in one of the positions of occurrence, that is, before the subject. We can come to a conclusion that the word which occurs before the subject must be a conjunction whereas the one which occurs *only* after the subject must be an adverb.

Though the above means to differentiate between adverbs and conjunctions seems reasonable, it can be proven wrong rather easily as some adverbs, for example, 可能 *ho2nang4* "perhaps" can take a sentence-initial position, i.e. before the subject. In view of this problem, Zhang (1996:399) concludes that both the position and grammatical meaning of a word should be taken into account in determining whether it is an adverb or a conjunction.

- (a) If a word serves to link two clauses and occurs only before the subject, it must be a conjunction.
- (b) If a word serves to link two clauses and occurs either before the subject or after the subject, it must be a conjunction.
- (c) If a word serves to link two clauses and occurs only after the subject, it must be an adverb.

- (d) If a word does not link two clauses, it might be an adverb or of any word class other than adverb and conjunction.

My own position is no different from these previous accounts. I believe that conjunctive adverbs i.e. adverbs that serve a linking function can only come after the subject in Cantonese. Conjunctions, however, can come before or after the subject. Hence in Cantonese 一係 *jat1hai6* "alternatively" and 事關 *si6gwaan1* "because" are conjunctions, not adverbs at all, as they can come before the subject.

- (4) 你而家唔得閒，一係我轉頭再嚟過。

*nei5 ji4gaa1 m4 daak1haan4 jat1hai6 ngo5 zyun3tau4 zoi3 lai4-gwo3*

you now not available alternatively I later again come-ASP

"You are not available now. Maybe I come again later."

- (5) 佢唔嚟得，事關佢今日約咗人。

*keoi5 m4 lai4-dak1 si6gwaan1 keoi5 gam1jat6 joek3-zo3 jan4*

s/he not come-COMP because s/he today has-ASP-an-appointment people

"She couldn't come because she has an appointment with someone."

## 2.3 SUMMARY

Words which can only function as adverbial but not any other sentence constituents such as subject, object, complement, etc. are classified as adverbs. This criterion helps distinguish adverbs from other word classes, particularly adjectives and nouns. It is difficult to distinguish adverbs from conjunctions as both perform a linking function between two clauses. In such a case, the positioning of occurrence plays a determinant role in that adverbs can occur only after the subject in linking up two clauses.

# 3 Forms of Adverbs

This chapter will mainly focus on five aspects concerning the form of Cantonese adverbs. These five aspects are: (1) simple and complex adverbs, (2) patternings shared by various adverbs, (3) reduplicated constructions, (4) pairs of adverbs in coordination and (5) pairs of adverbs in antonymy.

## 3.1 SIMPLE AND COMPLEX ADVERBS

Adverbs fall into two major classes on morphological grounds. In this study, most of the monosyllabic and disyllabic adverbs are morphologically **simple** in the sense that they do not have any internal structure. By contrast, trisyllabic and polysyllabic adverbs are morphologically **complex** in that their internal structure encompasses, for example, different forms of reduplication patterns or coordination.

More than half of the Cantonese adverbs are disyllabic, constituting 63% (343/545) of the total number of adverbs found in the present study. In particular, nearly most of the Cantonese adverbs which are equivalent to their Mandarin Chinese counterparts are disyllabic. Of the 51 monosyllabic adverbs, about half are specific to Cantonese and about half have equivalents in Mandarin Chinese. In contrast, trisyllabic adverbs (totalling 99 instances) and polysyllabic adverbs (totalling 52 instances) seem to be more prominent in Cantonese-specific adverbs than in adverbs equivalent to those in Mandarin Chinese. This preponderance of trisyllabic and polysyllabic adverbs suggests that **polysyllabicity** is one of the characteristics of Cantonese-specific adverbs, as opposed to the fact that Cantonese

adverbs equivalent to their Mandarin Chinese counterparts are typically disyllabic.

### 3.1.1 Simple Adverbs

#### 3.1.1.1 Monosyllabic Adverbs

白 <i>baak6</i> "in vain; for nothing"	半 <i>bun3</i> "half"	初 <i>co1</i> "at first"	重 <i>cung4</i> "again; once more"
都 <i>dou1</i> "all; emphasis"	乾 <i>gon1</i> "in a dry manner"	一 <i>jat1</i> "as soon as"	又 <i>jau6</i> "repeatedly; also"
力 <i>lik6</i> "make every effort"	誤 <i>m6</i> "mistakenly"	漫 <i>maan6</i> "casually"	未 <i>mei6</i> "not yet"
無 <i>mou5</i> "have not"	每 <i>mui5</i> "whenever"	偏 <i>pin1</i> "contrary to speaker's will"	新 <i>san1</i> "newly"
死 <i>sei2</i> "desperately; determinedly"	算 <i>syun3</i> "fairly"	偷 <i>tau1</i> "secretly"	互 <i>wu6</i> "each other"
就 <i>zau6</i> "very soon; then"	最 <i>zeoi3</i> "the most"	盡 <i>zeon6</i> "exhaustively"	至 <i>zi3</i> "then; until"
直 <i>zik6</i> "directly"	再 <i>zoi3</i> "again; more"	專 <i>zyun1</i> "specially; always"	

(The above are those Cantonese adverbs having more or the less the same counterparts in Mandarin Chinese.<sup>8</sup> Adverbs which are specific to Cantonese are given as follows.)

<sup>8</sup> These Cantonese adverbs are checked against the Chinese dictionaries. If they happen to have the same meaning and form as the Mandarin ones, they are considered in this study to have counterparts in Mandarin. See Chapter one, section 1.4.1.

包 <i>baau1</i> "certainly"	超 <i>ciu1</i> "super"	長 <i>coeng4</i> "for a long time"	夠 <i>gau3</i> "as well; too"
幾 <i>gei2</i> "rather; very"	極 <i>gik6</i> "extremely"	勁 <i>ging6</i> "extremely"	鬼 <i>gwai2</i> "not; emphasis"
有 <i>jau5</i> "certainly"	狂 <i>kwong4</i> "crazily"	咪 <i>mai5</i> "don't"	咪 <i>mai6</i> "exactly; really"
硬 <i>ngaang6</i> "certainly"	哽 <i>ngang3</i> "even very"	惡 <i>ngok3</i> "with painstakingly"	勢 <i>sai3</i> "difficultly; "absolutely"
實 <i>sat6</i> "actually; certainly"	成 <i>seng4</i> "full; as much as"	盞 <i>zaan2</i> "in vain; for nothing"	淨 <i>zing6</i> "only"
仲 <i>zung6</i> "still; nevertheless"			

### 3.1.1.2 Disyllabic Adverbs

百般	<i>baak3bun1</i>	"by every means"
不斷	<i>bat1dyun6</i>	"continuously"
不妨	<i>bat1fong4</i>	"there is no harm in; might as well"
不如	<i>bat1jyu4</i>	"it would be better to"
不愧	<i>bat1kwai5</i>	"be worthy of"
本來	<i>bun2loi4</i>	"originally"
親自	<i>can1zi6</i>	"in person"
趁早	<i>can3zou2</i>	"as early as possible"
曾經	<i>cang4ging1</i>	"ever"
隨處	<i>ceoi4cyu3</i>	"everywhere"
隨地	<i>ceoi4dei6</i>	"anywhere"
隨口	<i>ceoi4hau2</i>	"(speak) thoughtlessly"



隨手	<i>ceoi4sau2</i>	"conveniently"
隨時	<i>ceoi4si4</i>	"at all times"
始終	<i>ci2zung1</i>	"after all"
似乎	<i>ci5fu4</i>	"seemingly"
情願	<i>cing4jyun2</i>	"would rather"
從來	<i>cung4loi4</i>	"always; at all times"
重新	<i>cung4san1</i>	"again; anew"
從頭	<i>cung4tau4</i>	"anew; once again"
從中	<i>cung4zung1</i>	"from among"
大約	<i>daai6joek3</i>	"approximately"
大力	<i>daai6lik6</i>	"vigorously"
大略	<i>daai6loek2</i>	"roughly"
單獨	<i>daan1duk6</i>	"alone"
特別	<i>dak6bit6</i>	"particularly"
頂多	<i>ding2do1</i>	"at the most"
當初	<i>dong1co1</i>	"originally"
當然	<i>dong1jin4</i>	"of course"
當面	<i>dong1min2</i>	"in somebody's presence"
當眾	<i>dong1zung3</i>	"in the presence of all"
到處	<i>dou3cyu3</i>	"everywhere"
到底	<i>dou3dai2</i>	"actually; exactly"
反復	<i>faan2fuk1</i>	"repeatedly"
反而	<i>faan2ji4</i>	"on the contrary"
反爲	<i>faan2wai4</i>	"on the contrary; instead"
反正	<i>faan2zing3</i>	"anyway"
分明	<i>fan1ming4</i>	"clearly; plainly; evidently"
分頭	<i>fan1tau4</i>	"separately"
分外	<i>fan6ngoi6</i>	"particularly"
簡直	<i>gaan2zik6</i>	"simply"
較爲	<i>gaau3wai4</i>	"relatively"
跟手	<i>gan1sau2</i>	"next; then; after that"
近乎	<i>gan6fu4</i>	"close to"
更加	<i>gang3gaa1</i>	"even more"
究竟	<i>gau3ging2</i>	"actually; exactly"
幾乎	<i>geilfu4</i>	"almost"
居然	<i>geoi1jin4</i>	"unexpectedly"
極力	<i>gik6lik6</i>	"do one's utmost"
竟然	<i>ging2jin4</i>	"unexpectedly"

姑且	<i>gu1ce2</i>	"for the time being"
公然	<i>gung1jin4</i>	"openly"
果然	<i>gwo2jin4</i>	"accordingly"
過分	<i>gwo3fan6</i>	"excessively"
過後	<i>gwo3hau6</i>	"afterwards; later"
刻意	<i>hak1ji3</i>	"painstakingly"
肯定	<i>hang2ding6</i>	"surely"
起初	<i>hei2co1</i>	"originally"
起碼	<i>hei2maa5</i>	"at least"
輕易	<i>hing1ji6</i>	"rashly"
可能	<i>ho2nang4</i>	"probably"
何必	<i>ho4bit1</i>	"there is no need"
何苦	<i>ho4fu2</i>	"why bother"
向來	<i>hoeng3loi4</i>	"always"
好似	<i>hou2ci5</i>	"presumably"
好在	<i>hou2zoi6</i>	"fortunately"
一齊	<i>jat1cai4</i>	"together"
		"along with all the others"
		"at a time"
一旦	<i>jat1daan6</i>	"once; in case"
一定	<i>jat1ding6</i>	"certainly; surely"
一度	<i>jat1dou6</i>	"for a time"
一共	<i>jat1gung6</i>	"altogether"
一口	<i>jat1hau2</i>	"with certainty"
一向	<i>jat1hoeng3</i>	"consistently; all along"
一概	<i>jat1koi3</i>	"without exception; totally"
一律	<i>jat1leot6</i>	"without exception"
一連	<i>jat1lin4</i>	"in succession"
一路	<i>jat1lou6</i>	"continuously; always; all along; all the way"
		"at the same time; simultaneously"
一味	<i>jat1mei2</i>	"blindly; endlessly"
一眼	<i>jat1ngaan5</i>	"in a glimpse"
一心	<i>jat1sam1</i>	"wholeheartedly"
		"intentionally"
一手	<i>jat1sau2</i>	"single-handed"
一直	<i>jat1zik6</i>	"continuously"
一再	<i>jat1zoi3</i>	"time and again"
有時	<i>jau5si4</i>	"sometimes"

依稀	<i>ji1hei1</i>	"vaguely"
依然	<i>ji1jin4</i>	"still"
已經	<i>ji5ging1</i>	"already"
異常	<i>ji6soeng4</i>	"extremely"
亦(都)	<i>jik6(dou1)</i>	"as well"
仍然	<i>jng4jin4</i>	"still; yet"
約莫	<i>joek3mok2</i>	"approximately"
預先	<i>jyu6sin1</i>	"in advance; beforehand"
完全	<i>jyun4cyun4</i>	"completely"
原來	<i>jyun4loi4</i>	"originally"
原先	<i>jyun4sin1</i>	"originally"
及早	<i>kap6zou2</i>	"as soon as possible"
其實	<i>kei4sat6</i>	"actually; in fact"
確實	<i>kok3sat6</i>	"really; indeed"
立即	<i>laap6zik1</i>	"immediately"
連續	<i>lin4zuk6</i>	"successively"
另外	<i>ling6ngoi6</i>	"in addition"
略為	<i>loek6wai4</i>	"slightly"
陸續	<i>luk6zuk6</i>	"in succession"
亂(咁)	<i>lyun2(gam3)</i>	"thoughtlessly"
貿然	<i>mau6jin4</i>	"rashly; hastily"
未必	<i>mei6bit1</i>	"not necessarily"
未曾	<i>mei6cang4</i>	"never"
未免	<i>mei6min5</i>	"a bit too"
未嘗	<i>mei6soeng4</i>	"not (negative sentence)"
無從	<i>mou4cung4</i>	"have no way of doing something"
無非	<i>mou4fei1</i>	"nothing but; simply; no more than; only"
無日	<i>mou5jat6</i>	"all the time (negative sentence)"
難怪	<i>naan4gwaai3</i>	"no wonder"
毅然	<i>ngai6jin4</i>	"determinedly"
寧願	<i>ning4jyun2</i>	"would rather"
憑空	<i>pang4hung1</i>	"without foundation"
稍為	<i>saau2wai4</i>	"slightly"
誓死	<i>sai6sei2</i>	"firmly"
新近	<i>san1gan6</i>	"recently"
實則	<i>sat6zak1</i>	"actually"
實在	<i>sat6zoi6</i>	"actually"
首先	<i>sau2sin1</i>	"first of all"

純粹	<i>seon4seoi5</i>	"simply"
順便	<i>seon6bin2</i>	"conveniently"
順帶	<i>seon6daai3</i>	"in passing"
順勢	<i>seon6sai3</i>	"by taking advantage of an opportunity"
順手	<i>seon6sau2</i>	"conveniently"
私自	<i>si1zi6</i>	"secretly"
先(至)	<i>sin1(zi3)</i>	"first; then"
擅自	<i>sin6zi6</i>	"without authorisation"
索性	<i>sok3sing3</i>	"simply"
素來	<i>sou3loi4</i>	"always; usually"
太(過)	<i>taai3(gwo3)</i>	"too"
通常	<i>tung1soeng4</i>	"usually"
同時	<i>tung4si4</i>	"at the same time"
或者	<i>waak6ze2</i>	"perhaps; maybe"
唯有	<i>wai4jau5</i>	"only; anyway"
永遠	<i>wing5jyun5</i>	"forever"
互相	<i>wu6soeng1</i>	"mutually; each other"
最多/至多	<i>zeoi3dol/zi3dol</i>	"at the worst"
		"at the most"
最好	<i>zeoi3hou2</i>	"it is good to"
最少/至少	<i>zeoi3siu2/zi3siu2</i>	"at least"
盡情	<i>zeon6cing4</i>	"as much as one likes"
儘快	<i>zeon6faai3</i>	"as fast as one could"
盡力	<i>zeon6lik6</i>	"try one's best"
儘量	<i>zeon6loeng6</i>	"to the full"
儘早	<i>zeon6zou2</i>	"as early as possible"
即刻	<i>zik1haak1</i>	"immediately"
照例	<i>ziu3lai6</i>	"as a rule"
照理	<i>ziu3lei5</i>	"generally"
照常	<i>ziu3soeng4</i>	"as usual"
將近	<i>zoeng1gan6</i>	"nearly; almost"
		"very soon"
再三	<i>zoi3saam1</i>	"over and over again"
早日	<i>zou2jat6</i>	"soon"
足以	<i>zuk1ji5</i>	"enough"
逐個	<i>zuk6go3</i>	"one by one"
逐一	<i>zuk6jat1</i>	"one by one"
終於	<i>zung1jyu1</i>	"finally"

總共	<i>zung2gung6</i>	"altogether"
總算	<i>zung2syun3</i>	"at long last; finally"
		"all things considered"
專程	<i>zyun1cing4</i>	"specially"
專門	<i>zyun1mun2</i>	"specially; always"
絕對	<i>zyut6deoi3</i>	"absolutely"

(The above are those Cantonese adverbs having more or the less the same counterparts in Mandarin Chinese. Adverbs which are specific to Cantonese are given as follows.)

擺明	<i>baai2ming4</i>	"clearly"
弊在	<i>bai6zoi6</i>	"unfortunately"
不撈	<i>bat1lau1</i>	"consistently; all along"
不知	<i>bat1zi1</i>	"to speaker's/hearer's surprise"
查實	<i>caa4sat6</i>	"in fact; actually"
千祈	<i>cin1kei4</i>	"for heaven's sake"
初頭	<i>col1tau4</i>	"at the beginning"
打掂	<i>daa2dim6</i>	"vertically"
打戙	<i>daa2dung6</i>	"vertically"
打孖	<i>daa2maa1</i>	"in pair"
打橫	<i>daa2waang4</i>	"horizontally"
大早	<i>daai6zou2</i>	"some time ago"
單係	<i>daan1hai6</i>	"only"
得滯	<i>dak1zai6</i>	"too"
特登	<i>dak6dang1</i>	"for a special purpose; specially"
點止	<i>dim2zi2</i>	"not only"
頂籠	<i>ding2lung2</i>	"at the most"
多數	<i>do1sou3</i>	"probably; most likely"
當堂	<i>dong1tong4</i>	"immediately"
都係	<i>dou1hai6</i>	"had better"
到時	<i>dou3si4</i>	"at that time"
凡親	<i>faan4can1</i>	"whenever"
逢(親)	<i>fung4(can1)</i>	"whenever"
奉旨	<i>fung6zi2</i>	"as a rule"
監粗	<i>gaam3cou1</i>	"unyieldingly"
監生	<i>gaam3saang1</i>	"while still alive"

夾硬	<i>gaap3ngaang2</i>	"unyieldingly"
計正	<i>gai3zeng3</i>	"under normal circumstances; as a rule"
咁(鬼)	<i>gam3(gwai2)</i>	"very"
咁啱	<i>gam3ngaam1</i>	"by chance"
咁滯	<i>gam3zai6</i>	"almost (positive sentence)"
跟住	<i>gan1zyu6</i>	"afterwards; then"
梗(係)	<i>gang2(hai6)</i>	"undoubtedly; certainly"
急住	<i>gap1zyu6</i>	"in a hurry; in a haste"
九成	<i>gau2sing4</i>	"very likely"
舊底	<i>gau6dai2</i>	"in the past"
幾大	<i>gei2daai2</i>	"no matter (what; how; etc.)"
幾咁/幾鬼	<i>gei2gam3/gei2gwai2</i>	"very"
極之	<i>gik6zi1</i>	"extremely"
經已	<i>ging1ji5</i>	"already"
乾脆	<i>gon1ceoi3</i>	"simply"
鬼咁	<i>gwai2gam3</i>	"very"
過頭	<i>gwo3tau4</i>	"very; too"
喺度/喺處	<i>hai2dou6/hai2syu3</i>	"in progress of"
係都	<i>hai6dou1</i>	"with insistence"
係噉	<i>hai6gam2</i>	"continuously"
後尅	<i>hau6mei1</i>	"afterwards; later"
起勢	<i>hei2sai3</i>	"desperately"
起先	<i>hei2sin1</i>	"at the beginning"
何止	<i>ho4zi2</i>	"not only"
响度/响處	<i>hoeng2dou6/hoeng2syu3</i>	"in progress of"
好(鬼)	<i>hou2(gwai2)</i>	"extremely"
好日	<i>hou2jat6</i>	"rarely; seldom (negative sentence)"
好少	<i>hou2siu2</i>	"rarely; seldom"
一日	<i>jat1jat6</i>	"in the final analysis; at bottom"
一於	<i>jat1jyu1</i>	"regardless of the consequences"
		"simply; just; altogether"
		"expressing decision"
一早	<i>jat1zou2</i>	"in advance"
由頭	<i>jau4tau4</i>	"from the beginning"
有得	<i>jau5dak1</i>	"it is possible to"
		"it is worthwhile to"
有意	<i>jau5ji3</i>	"intentionally; deliberately"
又試	<i>jau6si3</i>	"again"

應份	<i>jing1fan6</i>	"necessarily"
認真	<i>jing2zan1</i>	"absolutely"
預早	<i>jyu6zou2</i>	"in advance; beforehand"
確係	<i>kok3hai6</i>	"really; indeed"
揸埋	<i>laa2maai4</i>	"easily; frequently; at every turn"
		"generally speaking"
拉勻	<i>laai1wan4</i>	"on average"
躡日	<i>laam3jat6</i>	"every two days"
笠亂	<i>lap6lyun2</i>	"carelessly; casually; at random"
輪流	<i>leon4lau2</i>	"in turn"
連隨	<i>lin4ceoi4</i>	"immediately"
連氣	<i>lin4hei3</i>	"in succession"
靈舍	<i>ling4se3</i>	"particularly"
兩份	<i>loeng5fan2</i>	"together"
落手	<i>lok6sau2</i>	"by oneself; in person"
唔多	<i>m4do1</i>	"not very"
唔慌	<i>m4fong1</i>	"absolutely not"
唔(鬼)	<i>m4(gwai2)</i>	"not"
唔好	<i>m4hou2</i>	"don't"
唔使	<i>m4sai2</i>	"not necessarily"
唔通	<i>m4tung1</i>	"expressing rhetorical question"
		"can it be that; is it possible that"
唔知	<i>m4zi1</i>	"unknowingly"
		"really"
唔只	<i>m4zi2</i>	"not only"
猛(咁)	<i>maang5(gam3)</i>	"desperately"
乜滯	<i>mat1zai6</i>	"not quite (negative sentence)"
無得	<i>mou5dak1</i>	"it is not possible to"
無乜	<i>mou5mat1</i>	"almost not"
無話	<i>mou5waa6</i>	"never"
硬係	<i>ngaang2hai6</i>	"in contrary to speaker's will"
怕(且)	<i>paa3(ce2)</i>	"perhaps"
晨早	<i>san4zou2</i>	"well in advance"
		"early in the morning"
實梗	<i>sat6gang2</i>	"certainly"
實係	<i>sat6hai6</i>	"certainly"
實行	<i>sat6hang4</i>	"certainly"
成日	<i>seng4jat6</i>	"always"

試過	<i>si3gwo3</i>	"before; formerly; in the past"
是必	<i>si6bit1</i>	"certainly"
是但	<i>si6daan6</i>	"randomly; as one pleases"
誠心	<i>sing4sam1</i>	"intentionally"
睇怕	<i>tai2(paa3)</i>	"apparently; seemingly"
同埋	<i>tung4maai4</i>	"together"
話名	<i>waa6meng2</i>	"nominally"
話晒	<i>waa6saai3</i>	"after all"
枕長	<i>zam2coeng4</i>	"for a long time"
枕住	<i>zam2zyu6</i>	"continuously"
真係	<i>zan1hai6</i>	"really"
就快	<i>zau6faai3</i>	"very soon"
就嚟	<i>zau6lai4</i>	"very soon"
正話	<i>zeng3waa6</i>	"just"
卒之	<i>zeot1zil</i>	"finally"
只係	<i>zi2hai6</i>	"merely; only; just"
即管	<i>zik1gun2</i>	"feel free to; not hesitate to"
直情	<i>zik6cing4</i>	"straight; directly"
		"simply; at all"
		"surely"
直頭	<i>zik6tau4</i>	"straight; directly"
		"simply; at all"
		"surely"
正(一)	<i>zing3(jat1)</i>	"indeed; really"
正式	<i>zing3sik1</i>	"indeed; really"
淨係	<i>zing6hai6</i>	"only"
		"constantly"
接住	<i>zip3zyu6</i>	"immediately afterwards; in a minute"
照計	<i>ziu3gai3</i>	"according to reason; in the ordinary course of events; normally"
座底	<i>zo6dai2</i>	"at least"
再試	<i>zoi3si3</i>	"again"
撞喺	<i>zong6ngaam1</i>	"by chance"
早知	<i>zou2zil</i>	"having known this beforehand"
逐啲	<i>zuk6dil</i>	"one by one"
終須	<i>zung1seoi1</i>	"anyhow; eventually; after all"
總係	<i>zung2hai6</i>	"always; invariably"
仲係	<i>zung6(hai6)</i>	"still; nevertheless"



仲加	<i>zung6gaa1</i>	"even more"
專登	<i>zyun1dang1</i>	"for a special purpose; specially"

### 3.1.1.3 Trisyllabic Adverbs

霎時間	<i>saap3si4gaan1</i>	"in a twinkling"
甚至(無)/甚至(乎)	<i>sam6zi3(mou4)/sam6zi3(fu4)</i>	"even"
死命(噉)	<i>sei2meng6(gam2)</i>	"desperately"
唯獨是	<i>wai4duk6si6</i>	"only"
照舊(噉)	<i>ziu3gau6(gam2)</i>	"as usual"
照樣(噉)	<i>ziu3joeng2(gam2)</i>	"in the same old way"

(The above are those Cantonese adverbs having more or the less the same counterparts in Mandarin Chinese. Adverbs which are specific to Cantonese are given as follows.)

不特止	<i>bat1dak6zi2</i>	"not only"
第(二)日	<i>dai6(ji6)jat6</i>	"later"
第(二)時	<i>dai6(ji6)si4</i>	"next time"
點(不)知	<i>dim2(bat1)zi1</i>	"unexpectedly"
極其量	<i>gik6kei4loeng6</i>	"at the most"
𠵼𠵼𠵼	<i>ham6baang6laang6</i>	"all"
好多時	<i>hou2do1si4</i>	"very often"
好意思	<i>hou2ji3si1</i>	"have the nerve"
一口價	<i>jat1hau2gaa3</i>	"at a fixed price"
一口氣	<i>jat1hau2hei3</i>	"in one breath; without a break"
一輪嘴	<i>jat1leon2zeoi2</i>	"without a break"
一瞬眼	<i>jat1zaam2ngaan5</i>	"in an instant"
有幾何	<i>jau5gei2ho2</i>	"rarely; seldom"
有陣時	<i>jau5zan6si2</i>	"sometimes"
唔見得	<i>m4gin3dak1</i>	"not likely"
唔淨只/唔單只	<i>m4zing6zi2/m4daan1zi2</i>	"not only"
萬二分	<i>maan6ji6fen1</i>	"very much; extremely"
未有耐	<i>mei6jau5noi1</i>	"not (in time or degree)"
無幾何	<i>mou5gei2ho2</i>	"rarely; seldom"
耐唔中	<i>noi6m4zung1</i>	"once in a while"
死(人)都	<i>sei2(jan4)dou1</i>	"in any case; anyway"

私底下	<i>si1dai2haa6</i>	"in secret; in private"
少不免	<i>siu2bat1min5</i>	"to a certain extent"
聽講(話)	<i>teng1gong2(waa6)</i>	"be told; heard of"
玩吓手	<i>waan2haa5sau2</i>	"most likely"
周(不)時	<i>zau1(bat1)si4</i>	"often; constantly"
只不過	<i>zi2bat1gwo3</i>	"merely; only; just"
至多(咪)	<i>zi3dol(mai6)</i>	"at the worst"
自不然	<i>zi6bat1jin4</i>	"naturally"
(老)早就	<i>(lou5)zou2zau6</i>	"in advance"

### 3.1.1.4 Polysyllabic Adverbs

的(而且)確	<i>dik1(ji4ce2)kok3</i>	"indeed; really"
無論如何	<i>mou4leon6jyu4ho4</i>	"in any case; whatever happens"

(The above are those Cantonese adverbs having more or the less the same counterparts in Mandarin Chinese. Adverbs which are specific to Cantonese are given as follows.)

第一時間	<i>dai6jat1si4gaan1</i>	"immediately"
突然(之)間	<i>dat6jin4(zi1)gaan1</i>	"suddenly"
疊埋心水	<i>dip6maai4sam1seoi2</i>	"wholeheartedly"
忽然(之)間	<i>fat1jin4(zi1)gaan1</i>	"suddenly"
滾水淥腳(噉)	<i>gwan2seoi2luk6goek3(gam2)</i>	"in a hurry"
一日到黑	<i>jat1jat6dou3hak1</i>	"all day long"
一時(之間)	<i>jat1si4(zi1)gaan1</i>	"for the time being"
鏈住條頸	<i>lin2zyu6tiu4geng2</i>	"unwillingly"
唔怪(之)得	<i>m4gwaai3(zi1)dak1</i>	"that's why"
無端白事/無情白事	<i>mou4dyun1baak6si6/mou4cing4baak6si6</i>	"without reason"
三番四次	<i>saam1faan1sei3ci3</i>	"repeatedly"
三爬兩撥(噉)	<i>saam1paa4loeng5but6(gam2)</i>	"very quickly"
失驚無神	<i>sat1geng1mou4san4</i>	"suddenly"
死死地氣	<i>sei2sei2dei6hei3</i>	"have no way out"
食住個勢(就)	<i>sik6zyu6go3sai3(zau6)</i>	"by taking advantage of a situation"
至多(唔係)	<i>zi3dol(m4hai6)</i>	"at the worst"

## 3.1.2 Complex Adverbs

### 3.1.2.1 Monosyllabic Adverbs

越 ... 越 ...	<i>jyut6 ... jyut 6 ...</i>	"the more ..., the more ..."
時 ... 時 ...	<i>si4 ... si4 ...</i>	"sometimes ..., sometimes ..."

(The above are those Cantonese adverbs having more or the less the same counterparts in Mandarin Chinese. Only one instance among Cantonese-specific adverbs is a complex monosyllabic adverb.

唔 ... 又 ...	<i>m4 ... jau6 ...</i>	"not ... but ..."
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### 3.1.2.2 Disyllabic Adverbs

白白	<i>baak6baak6</i>	"in vain; to no purpose"
親口	<i>can1hau2</i>	"(speak) personally"
親耳	<i>can1ji5</i>	"(hear) personally"
親眼	<i>can1ngaan5</i>	"(see) personally"
親手	<i>can1sau2</i>	"with one's own hands"
遲早	<i>ci4zou2</i>	"some time in the future; some day"
前後	<i>cin4hau6</i>	"altogether"
大大	<i>daai6daai6</i>	"greatly; enormously"
一邊...一邊...	<i>jat1bin1...jat1bin1...</i>	"at the same time"
一一	<i>jat1jat1</i>	"one by one"
一面...一面...	<i>jat1min6...jat1min6...</i>	"at the same time"
日日	<i>jat6jat6</i>	"daily; regularly"
日夜	<i>jat6je6</i>	"day and night"
遠遠	<i>jyun5jyun5</i>	"largely"
略略	<i>loek6loek2</i>	"a little; a bit; slightly"
來回	<i>loi4wui4</i>	"back and forth"
微微	<i>mei4mei2</i>	"slightly"
明明	<i>ming4ming4</i>	"certainly"
頻頻	<i>pan4pan4</i>	"again and again"

偏偏	<i>pin1pin1</i>	"contrary to speaker's will" "only"
時時	<i>si4si4</i>	"often; constantly"
先後	<i>sin1hau6</i>	"one after another"
通通	<i>tung1tung1</i>	"all; entirely"
漸漸	<i>zim6zim2</i>	"gradually"
早早	<i>zou2zou2</i>	"well in advance"
足足	<i>zuk1zuk1</i>	"full; as much as"

(The above are those Cantonese adverbs having more or the less the same counterparts in Mandarin Chinese. Adverbs which are specific to Cantonese are given as follows.)

差啲	<i>caal1dil</i>	"almost"
齊齊	<i>cai4cai4</i>	"together"
次次	<i>ci3ci3</i>	"every time"
初初	<i>co1co1</i>	"at first"
速速	<i>cuk1cuk1</i>	"very quickly; at once"
斷(斷)	<i>dyun6(dyun6)</i>	"absolutely"
快啲	<i>faai3dil</i>	"quickly"
急急	<i>gap1gap1</i>	"nearly at once"
輕輕	<i>heng6heng1</i>	"slightly"
一便...一便...	<i>jat1bin6...jat1bin6...</i>	"at the same time"
一時...一時...	<i>jat1si4...jat1si4...</i>	"sometimes; ...sometimes..."
有啲	<i>jau5dil</i>	"a little bit"
郁啲	<i>juk1dil</i>	"easily; frequently"
郁下	<i>juk1haa5</i>	"easily; frequently"
勤啲	<i>kan4dil</i>	"frequently"
慢慢	<i>maan6maan2</i>	"slowly"
啱啱	<i>ngaam1ngaam1</i>	"exactly"
		"just"
哩頭...個頭...	<i>ni1tau4...go2tau4...</i>	"as soon as"
先先/先前	<i>sin1sin1/sin1cin4</i>	"before; previously"
上下	<i>soeng6haa2</i>	"almost"
偷雞	<i>tau1gail</i>	"secretly"
頭尾	<i>tau4mei5</i>	"from beginning to end; altogether"
頭頭	<i>tau4tau2</i>	"at the beginning"

橫掂	<i>waang4dim6</i>	"anyway"
掙啲	<i>zaang1di1</i>	"almost"

### 3.1.2.3 Trisyllabic Adverbs

比較(上)	<i>bei2gaau3(soeng6)</i>	"fairly; rather"
大體(上)	<i>daai6tai2(soeng6)</i>	"on the whole"
大致(上)	<i>daai6zi3(soeng6)</i>	"roughly; more or less"
動不動	<i>dung6bat1dung6</i>	"frequently"
非常(之)	<i>fei1soeng4(zi1)</i>	"very"
根本(上)	<i>gan1bun2(soeng6)</i>	"at all; simply"
基本上	<i>gei1bun2soeng6</i>	"basically"
貿貿然	<i>mau6mau6jin4</i>	"rashly; hastily"
十分(之)	<i>sap6fen1(zi1)</i>	"very"
時不時	<i>si4bat1si4</i>	"sometimes"
事實上	<i>si6sat6soeng6</i>	"in fact; actually"
相當(之)	<i>soeng1dong1(zi1)</i>	"quite; fairly; considerably"

(The above are those Cantonese adverbs having more or the less the same counterparts in Mandarin Chinese. Adverbs which are specific to Cantonese are given as follows.)

嘅嘅聲	<i>baang4baang2seng1</i>	"very quickly; at once"
不期然	<i>bat1kei4jin4</i>	"unexpectedly"
脆脆哋	<i>ceoi3ceoi2dei2</i>	"reluctantly; grudgingly"
遲啲(再)	<i>ci4di1(zoi3)</i>	"later"
大大步	<i>daai6daai6bou6</i>	"with wide steps"
大大啖	<i>daai6daai6daam6</i>	"at a big mouthful"
大大力	<i>daai6daai6lik6</i>	"with a strong force"
大大聲	<i>daai6daai6seng1</i>	"very loudly"
大嚟嚟	<i>daai6laa4laa4</i>	"as much as"
团团轉	<i>dam4dam4kwaak1</i>	"in a circle"
到頭嚟	<i>dou3tau4lai4</i>	"in the end; finally"
分分鐘	<i>fen1fen1zung1</i>	"at any time"
假假哋	<i>gaa2gaa2dei2</i>	"in any case; anyhow"
間(唔)中	<i>gaan3(m4)zung1</i>	"occasionally"
雞噉腳	<i>gai1gam2goek3</i>	"very quickly"

急急腳	<i>gap1gap1goek3</i>	"in a fast pace"
久唔久	<i>gau2m4gau2</i>	"once in a while"
各自各	<i>gok3zi6gok3</i>	"respectively"
固然之	<i>gu3jin4zi1</i>	"no doubt"
閒閒哋	<i>haan4haan2dei2</i>	"very easily"
係噉意	<i>hai6gam2ji2</i>	"perfunctorily"
好好(哋)	<i>hou2hou2(dei2)</i>	"well"
一步步	<i>jat1bou2bou6</i>	"step by step; progressively"
一時時	<i>jat1si2si4</i>	"occasionally"
現兜兜	<i>jin6dou1dou1</i>	"in cash"
越嚟越	<i>jyut6lai4jyut6</i>	"more and more"
擒擒青	<i>kam4kam2ceng1</i>	"quickly"
噏(噏)臨	<i>laa4(laa4)lam4</i>	"very quickly; at once"
噏噏聲	<i>laa4laa2seng1</i>	"very quickly; at once"
唔使問	<i>m4sai2man6</i>	"undoubtedly"
唔使審	<i>m4sai2sam2</i>	"undoubtedly"
唔掙在	<i>m4zaang1zoi6</i>	"never mind"
面對面	<i>min6deoi3min6</i>	"face-to-face"
無情情	<i>mou4cing4cing4</i>	"without reason"
無端端	<i>mou4dyun1dyun1</i>	"without reason"
無意中	<i>mou4ji3zung1</i>	"not intentionally; by chance"
無慶慶	<i>mou4laa1laa1</i>	"without reason"
喺(喺)先	<i>ngaam1(ngaam1)sin1</i>	"just"
喺喺好喺喺線	<i>ngaam1ngaam1hou2/ngaam1ngaam1sin3</i>	"just right"
眼白白	<i>ngaan5baak6baak6</i>	"helplessly"
耐不耐/耐唔耐	<i>noi6bat1noi2/noi6m4noi2</i>	"once in a while"
十成十	<i>sap6sing4sap6</i>	"surely"
衰衰哋	<i>seoi1soei1dei2</i>	"nevertheless"
施施然	<i>si1si1jin4</i>	"leisurely; unhurriedly"
偷偷哋	<i>tau1tau1dei2</i>	"secretly"
瞓吓眼	<i>zaam2haa5ngaan5</i>	"in an instant"
借啲意	<i>ze3dilji2</i>	"by making an excuse"
整整吓	<i>zing2zing2haa2</i>	"gradually"
靜雞雞	<i>zing6gai1gai1</i>	"quietly"
轉吓眼	<i>zyun2haa5ngaan5</i>	"in an instant"
轉(個)頭	<i>zyun2(go3)tau4</i>	"later"

### 3.1.2.4 Polysyllabic Adverbs

口口聲聲	<i>hau2hau2seng1seng1</i>	"(say) again and again"
陸陸續續	<i>luk6luk6zuk6zuk6</i>	"in succession"
無緣無故	<i>mou4jyun4mou4gu3</i>	"without reason"
無時無刻	<i>mou4si4mou4hak1</i>	"all the time"

(The above are those Cantonese adverbs having more or the less the same counterparts in Mandarin Chinese. Adverbs which are specific to Cantonese are given as follows.)

大大話話	<i>daai6daai6waa6waa6</i>	"approximately"
大啖大啖	<i>daai6daam6daai6daam6</i>	"at a big mouthful"
多多少少	<i>do1do1siu2siu2</i>	"to a certain extent"
快快脆脆	<i>faai3faai3ceoi3ceoi3</i>	"quickly"
快手快腳	<i>faai3sau2faai3goek3</i>	"quickly"
加加埋埋	<i>gaa1gaa1maai4maai4</i>	"altogether"
夾手夾腳	<i>gaap3sau2gaap3goek3</i>	"jointly"
急急忙忙	<i>gap1gap1mong4mong4</i>	"in a hurry; in a haste"
幾時得嚟	<i>gei2si4dak1lai4</i>	"not (within a period of time)"
口快快(噉)	<i>hau2faai3faai3(gam2)</i>	"without hesitation"
開口埋口	<i>hoi1hou2maai4hou2</i>	"(keep) talking over the same thing"
好好醜醜	<i>hou2hou2cau2cau2</i>	"in any case; whatever happens"
好唔好都	<i>hou2m4hou2dou1</i>	"in any case; whatever happens"
一次又一次	<i>jat1ci3jau6jat1ci3</i>	"time and again; repeatedly"
一手一腳	<i>jat1sau2jat1goek3</i>	"by oneself"
有理無理	<i>jau5lei5mou5lei5</i>	"regardless of the consequences"
依時(依候)	<i>ji1si4(ji1hou6)</i>	"punctually"
卡那(卡那)	<i>kaa3laa1(kaa3laa1)</i>	"alternatively"
臨急臨忙	<i>lam4gap1lam4mong4</i>	"at the last moment"
臨時臨急	<i>lam4si4lam4gap1</i>	"at the last moment"
哩哩啦啦	<i>li4li1laa4laa4</i>	"very quickly"
落手落腳	<i>lok6sau2lok6goek3</i>	"by oneself; in person"
唔多唔少	<i>m4do1m4siu2</i>	"to a certain extent"
唔經唔覺	<i>m4ging1m4gok3</i>	"without knowing consciously"
唔聲唔聲	<i>m4seng1m4seng1</i>	"quietly"
實牙實齒	<i>sat6ngaa4sat6ci2</i>	"certainly"

實實在在	<i>sat6sat6zoi6zoi6</i>	"in fact"
時時刻刻	<i>si4si4hak1hak1</i>	"all the time"
借頭借路	<i>ze3tau4ze3lou6</i>	"by making an excuse"
自自然然	<i>zi6zi6jin4jin4</i>	"naturally"

### 3.2 RECURRENT PATTERNINGS OF ADVERBS

Some internal structures are found to recurrently accompany disyllabic, trisyllabic and polysyllabic adverbs. Among these adverbs, trisyllabic adverbs display a greater variety of common structures than the others. Among these common structures, reduplication is given greater prominence than others, which is to be discussed in greater detail in the next section.

#### 3.2.1 With Directional Complement 嚟 *lai4*

到頭嚟	<i>dou3tau4lai4</i>	"in the end; finally"
幾時得嚟	<i>gei2si4dak1lai4</i>	"not (within a period of time)"

#### 3.2.2 With Directional Complement 上 *soeng6*

比較(上)	<i>bei2gaau3(soeng6)</i>	"relatively"
大體(上)	<i>daai6tai2(soeng6)</i>	"on the whole"
大致(上)	<i>daai6zi3(soeng6)</i>	"roughly; more or less"
根本(上)	<i>gan1bun2(soeng6)</i>	"at all; simply"
基本上	<i>gei1bun2soeng6</i>	"basically"
事實上	<i>si6sat6soeng6</i>	"in fact; actually"

#### 3.2.3 With Negation Adverb

唔掙在	<i>m4zaang1zoi6</i>	"never mind"
唔使問	<i>m4sai2man6</i>	"undoubtedly"
唔使審	<i>m4sai2sam2</i>	"undoubtedly"



### 3.2.4 With 中 *zung1*

間(唔)中	<i>gaan3(m4)zung1</i>	"occasionally"
無意中	<i>mou4ji3zung1</i>	"not intentionally; by chance"
耐唔中	<i>noi6m4zung1</i>	"once in a while"

### 3.2.5 With 腳 *goek3*

Two trisyllabic adverbs denoting quickness of an action are associated with the word 腳 *goek3*.

雞噉腳	<i>gai1gam2goek3</i>	"very quickly"
急急腳	<i>gap1gap1goek3</i>	"at a fast pace"

### 3.2.6 With 意 *ji2*

係噉意	<i>hai6gam2ji2</i>	"perfunctorily"
借啲意	<i>ze3di1ji2</i>	"by making an excuse"

### 3.2.7 With 然 *jin4*

不期然	<i>bat1kei4jin4</i>	"unexpectedly"
貿貿然	<i>mau6mau6jin4</i>	"rashly; hastily"
施施然	<i>sil1sil1jin4</i>	"leisurely; unhurriedly"

### 3.2.8 With 之 *zi1*

非常(之)	<i>fei1soeng4(zi1)</i>	"very"
十分(之)	<i>sap6fen1(zi1)</i>	"very"
相當(之)	<i>soeng1dong1(zi1)</i>	"quite; fairly"
固然之	<i>gu3jin4zi1</i>	"no doubt"

### 3.2.9 AA + 聲 *seng1*

Two trisyllabic adverbs end in a word literally denoting "sound". It is associated with reduplicated adverbs meaning "very quickly" and a change of tone to the high-rising tone on the second syllable.

嘮嘮聲	<i>baang4baang2seng1</i>	"very quickly; at once"
嚟嚟聲	<i>laa4laa2seng1</i>	"very quickly; at once"

### 3.2.10 A-唔 *m4-A*

久唔久	<i>gau2m4gau2</i>	"once in a while"
耐唔耐	<i>noi6m4noi2</i>	"once in a while"

### 3.2.11 A-不 *bat1-A*

動不動	<i>dung6bat1dung6</i>	"frequently"
時不時	<i>si4bat1si4</i>	"sometimes"
耐不耐	<i>noi6bat1noi2</i>	"once in a while"

### 3.2.12 V / ADJ + 啲 *di1*

This word 啲 *di1* occurs mainly with disyllabic adverbs. It carries a diminutive meaning of "a little bit".

差啲	<i>caa1di1</i>	"almost"
遲啲(再)	<i>ci4di1(zoi3)</i>	"later"
快啲	<i>faai3di1</i>	"quickly"
有啲	<i>jau5di1</i>	"a little bit"
郁啲	<i>juk1di1</i>	"easily; frequently"
勤啲	<i>kan4di1</i>	"frequently"
掙啲	<i>zaang1di1</i>	"almost"

### 3.2.13 V + 吓 *haa5*

The suffix 吓 *haa5* is attached to the end of the verb or inserted between the verb and its object.

郁吓	<i>juk1haa5</i>	"easily; frequently"
整整吓	<i>zing2zing2haa2<sup>9</sup></i>	"gradually"
瞓吓眼	<i>zaam2haa5ngaan5</i>	"in an instant"
轉吓眼	<i>zyun2haa5ngaan5</i>	"in an instant"

### 3.2.14 Verb + Object

偷雞	<i>tau1gai1</i>	"secretly"
轉(個)頭	<i>zyun2(go3)tau4</i>	"later"
鏈住條頸	<i>lin2zyu6tiu4geng2</i>	"unwillingly"
食住個勢(就)	<i>sik6zyu6go3sai3(zau6)</i>	"by taking advantage of a favourable situation"

### 3.2.15 ADJ<sub>i</sub> + ADJ<sub>i</sub> + 咁 *dei2*

This suffix -咁 *dei2* is used productively with trisyllabic adverbs. The suffixation of this affix results in a change of tone to the high-rising tone on the second adjective, unless the tone on which is already a high level tone or a high-rising tone.

脆脆咁	<i>ceoi3ceoi2dei2</i>	"reluctantly; grudgingly"
假假咁	<i>gaa2gaa2dei2</i>	"in any case; anyhow"
閒閒咁	<i>haan4haan2dei2</i>	"very easily"
好好(咁)	<i>hou2hou2(dei2)</i>	"well"
衰衰咁	<i>seoi1seoi1dei2</i>	"nevertheless"
偷偷咁	<i>tau1tau1dei2</i>	"secretly"

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<sup>9</sup> The tone of the suffix -吓 is changed to a high-rising one.

### 3.2.16 親 *can1* + Noun (denoting body part responsible for speech or actions)

親口	<i>can1hau2</i>	"(speak) personally"
親耳	<i>can1ji5</i>	"(hear) personally"
親眼	<i>can1ngaan5</i>	"(see) personally"
親手	<i>can1sau2</i>	"with one's own hands"

### 3.2.17 Antonymous Combinations

遲早	<i>ci4zou2</i>	"some time in the future; some day"
前後	<i>cin4hau6</i>	"altogether"
日夜	<i>jat6je6</i>	"day and night"
來回	<i>loi4wui4</i>	"back and forth"
先後	<i>sin1hau6</i>	"one after another"
上下	<i>soeng6haa2</i>	"almost"
頭尾	<i>tau4mei5</i>	"from beginning to end; altogether"
橫掂	<i>waang4dim6</i>	"anyway"

## 3.3 REDUPLICATED ADVERBS

As previously mentioned, adverbs have shown some recurrent patterns. Some reduplicated adverbs are recurrently used with 咁 *dei2*, 聲 *seng1*, 不 *bat1* and 唔 *m4*. In fact, the manifestations of reduplication in Cantonese adverbs fall into a wide range of systematic patterns. These patterns are to be discussed in the following.

### 3.3.1 AA Form

Some disyllabic adverbs, typically formed from adjectives, are accompanied by reduplication. As Matthews and Yip (1994:184) point out, "the reduplication may result in a changed tone on the second adjective." The tone being changed to is usually the high-rising tone (Tone 2); only one adverb is found with the high level

tone (Tone 1) on its second adjective. Examples are shown below. The shaded syllables of the adverbs are found to undergo the change in tone.

白白	<i>baak6baak6</i>	"in vain; to no purpose"
大大	<i>daai6daai6</i>	"greatly; enormously"
一一	<i>jat1jat1</i>	"one by one"
日日	<i>jat6jat6</i>	"daily; regularly"
遠遠	<i>jyun5jyun5</i>	"not at all"
略略	<i>loek6loek2</i>	"a little; a bit; slightly"
微微	<i>mei4mei2</i>	"slightly"
明明	<i>ming4ming4</i>	"certainly"
頻頻	<i>pan4pan4</i>	"again and again"
偏偏	<i>pin1pin1</i>	"contrary to speaker's will; just"
時時	<i>si4si4</i>	"often; constantly"
通通	<i>tung1tung1</i>	"all; entirely"
漸漸	<i>zim6zim2</i>	"gradually"
早早	<i>zou2zou2</i>	"well in advance"
足足	<i>zuk1zuk1</i>	"full; as much as"
齊齊	<i>cai4cai4</i>	"together"
次次	<i>ci3ci3</i>	"every time"
初初	<i>co1co1</i>	"at first"
速速	<i>cuk1cuk1</i>	"very quickly; at once"
斷(斷)	<i>dyun6(dyun6)</i>	"absolutely"
急急	<i>gap1gap1</i>	"nearly at once"
輕輕	<i>heng6heng1</i>	"slightly"
好好(哋)	<i>hou2hou2(dei2)</i>	"well"
慢慢	<i>maan6maan2</i>	"slowly"
啱啱	<i>ngaam1ngaam1</i>	"exactly; just"
先先	<i>sin1sin1</i>	"before; previously"
頭頭	<i>tau4tau2</i>	"at the beginning"

### 3.3.2 AAB Form

The reduplicated adverbs with 哋 *dei2* and 聲 *seng1* fall into this category. Other examples of this class are shown as follows. The syllable with change of tone to the high-rising tone is shaded.

貿貿然	<i>mau6mau6jin4</i>	"rashly; hastily"
大大步	<i>daai6daai6bou6</i>	"with wide steps"
大大啖	<i>daai6daai6daam6</i>	"at a big mouthful"
大大力	<i>daai6daai6lik6</i>	"with a strong force"
大大聲	<i>daai6daai6seng1</i>	"very loudly"
团团轉	<i>dam4dam4kwaak1</i>	"in a circle"
分分鐘	<i>fen1fen1zung1</i>	"at any time"
急急腳	<i>gap1gap1goek3</i>	"in a fast pace"
擒擒青	<i>kam4kam2ceng1</i>	"quickly"
噏(噏)臨	<i>laa4(laa4)lam4</i>	"very quickly; at once"
啱(啱)先	<i>ngaam1(ngaam1)sin1</i>	"just"
啱啱好/啱啱線	<i>ngaam1ngaam1hou2/ngaam1ngaam1sin3</i>	"just right"
施施然	<i>si1si1jin4</i>	"leisurely; unhurriedly"
整整吓	<i>zing2zing2haa2</i>	"gradually"
靜雞雞	<i>zing6gai1gai1</i>	"quietly"

### 3.3.3 ABA Form

The reduplicated adverbs with 不 *bat1* and 唔 *m4* fall into this category.

Other examples are shown as follows.

各自各	<i>gok3zi6gok3</i>	"respectively"
越嚟越	<i>jyut6lai4jyut6</i>	"more and more"
面對面	<i>min6deoi3min6</i>	"face-to-face"
十成十	<i>sap6sing4sap6</i>	"surely"
一次又一次	<i>jat1ci3jau6jat1ci3</i>	"again and again"

### 3.3.4 ABB Form

This form might occasionally result in the change of tone on the first element of the reduplicated part. The changed tone is typically the high-rising tone.

大噏噏	<i>daai6laa4laa4</i>	"as much as"
口快快(噉)	<i>hau2faai3faai3(gam2)</i>	"without hesitation"

一步步	<i>jat1bou2bou6</i>	"step by step; progressively"
一時時	<i>jat1si2si4</i>	"occasionally"
現兜兜	<i>jin6dau1dau1</i>	"in cash"
無情情	<i>mou4cing4cing4</i>	"without reason"
無端端	<i>mou4dyun1dyun1</i>	"without reason"
無慶慶	<i>mou4laa1laa1</i>	"without reason"
眼白白	<i>ngaan5baak6baak6</i>	"helplessly"

### 3.3.5 AABB Form

口口聲聲	<i>hau2hau2seng1seng1</i>	"(say) again and again"
陸陸續續	<i>luk6luk6zuk6zuk6</i>	"in succession"
大大話話	<i>daai6daai6waa6waa6</i>	"approximately"
多多少少	<i>dol1dol1siu2siu2</i>	"to a certain extent"
快快脆脆	<i>faai3faai3ceoi3ceoi3</i>	"quickly"
加加埋埋	<i>gaa1gaa1maai4maai4</i>	"altogether"
急急忙忙	<i>gap1gap1mong4mong4</i>	"in a hurry; in a haste"
好好醜醜	<i>hou2hou2cau2cau2</i>	"in any case; whatever happens"
哩哩啦啦	<i>li4li1laa4laa4</i>	"very quickly"
實實在在	<i>sat6sat6zoi6zoi6</i>	"in fact"
時時刻刻	<i>si4si4hak1hak1</i>	"all the time"
自自然然	<i>zi6zi6jin4jin4</i>	"naturally"

### 3.3.6 ABAB Form

大啖大啖	<i>daai6daam6daai6daam6</i>	"at a big mouthful"
卡那(卡那)	<i>kaa3laa1(kaa3laa1)</i>	"alternatively"
唔聲唔聲	<i>m4seng1m4seng1</i>	"quietly"

### 3.3.7 ABAC Form

無緣無故	<i>mou4jyun4mou4gu3</i>	"without reason"
無時無刻	<i>mou4si4mou4hak1</i>	"all the time"
快手快腳	<i>faai3sau2faai3goek3</i>	"quickly"
夾手夾腳	<i>gaap3sau2gaap3goek3</i>	"jointly"
好唔好都	<i>hou2m4hou2dou1</i>	"in any case; whatever happens"

一手一腳	<i>jat1sau2jat1goek3</i>	"by oneself"
依時(依候)	<i>ji1si4(ji1hou6)</i>	"punctually"
臨時臨急	<i>lam4si4lam4gap1</i>	"at the last moment"
臨急臨忙	<i>lam4gap1lam4mong4</i>	"at the last moment"
落手落腳	<i>lok6sau2lok6goek3</i>	"by oneself; in person"
唔多唔少	<i>m4do1m4siu2</i>	"to a certain extent"
唔經唔覺	<i>m4ging1m4gok3</i>	"without knowing consciously"
實牙實齒	<i>sat6ngaa4sat6ci2</i>	"definitely; undoubtedly"
借頭借路	<i>ze3tau4ze3lou6</i>	"by making an excuse"

### 3.3.8 ABCB Form

開口埋口	<i>hoi1hau2maai4hau2</i>	"(keep) talking over the same thing"
有理無理	<i>jau5lei5mou5lei5</i>	"regardless of the consequences"

## 3.4 CO-ORDINATE PAIRS

Some adverbs must occur in co-ordination with another adverb of the same form.

- (1) 越...越...*jyut6...jyut6...* "the more... the more..."

我越諗越𦘔。

*ngo5 jyut6 nam2 jyut6 hing3*

I more think more angry

"The more I think, the more I get angry."

- (2) 時...時...*si4...si4...* "sometimes... sometimes..."

佢時喊時笑。

*keoi5 si4 haam3 si4 siu3*

s/he sometimes cry sometimes laugh

"S/he cried partly and laughed partly."



- (3) 一路...一路...*jat1lou6...jat1lou6...* "at the same time; simultaneously"  
 我一路睇一路笑。  
*ngo5 jat1lou6 tai2 jat1lou6 siu3*  
 I simultaneously read simultaneously laugh  
 "I kept on laughing while reading."
- (4) 一時...一時...*jat1si4...jat1si4...* "sometimes... sometimes..."  
 啲天氣一時好熱，一時好凍。  
*di1 tin1hei3 jat1si4 hou2 jit6 jat1si4 hou2 dung3*  
 M weather sometimes very hot sometimes very cold  
 "The weather sometimes became very hot but sometimes became very cold."

### 3.5 ANTONYM PAIRS

Some adverbs are in fact antonyms. These antonymous adverbs are typically formed by a minimal pair of adjectives or verbs with opposite meanings.

好在	<i>hou2zoi6</i>	"fortunately"
弊在	<i>bai6zoi6</i>	"unfortunately"
好日	<i>hou2jat6</i>	"rarely; seldom"
無日	<i>mou5jat6</i>	"all the time"
有得	<i>jau5dak1</i>	"it is possible to"
無得	<i>mou5dak1</i>	"it is not possible to"

It is worth noting that a pair of adverbs, 有幾何 *jau5gei2ho2* and 無幾何 *mou5gei2ho2* which appear to be antonymous superficially turn out to have the same meaning "rarely; seldom". However, their usage is different; 有幾何 *jau5gei2ho2* is required to occur in rhetorical question but 無幾何 *mou5gei2ho2* is not (see also Chapter 6, section 6.2.2).

- (5) 你有幾何嚟嘢?  
*nei5 jau5gei2ho2 lai4 aa1*  
 you rarely come FP  
 "You rarely come here."
- (6) 你無幾何嚟。  
*nei5 mou5gei2ho2 lai4*  
 you rarely come  
 "You rarely come here."

### 3.6 SUMMARY

Over half of the Cantonese adverbs are disyllabic. Trisyllabic adverbs are characteristic of various common structures. Polysyllabic adverbs are characteristic of different patterns of reduplication. Some adverbs must occur in co-ordination with themselves. Some adverbs are formed by antonymous adjectives and verbs that make them opposite in meaning. The following table gives a summary of the distribution of Cantonese adverbs with respect to their structural complexity and syllabicity.

<i>Syllabicity</i>	<i>Simple Adverbs</i>		<i>Complex Adverbs</i>		<i>Total</i>
	<b>CM<sup>a</sup></b>	<b>CS<sup>a</sup></b>	<b>CM</b>	<b>CS</b>	
Monosyllabic Adverbs	27	21	2	1	51
Disyllabic Adverbs	164	129	25	25	343
Trisyllabic Adverbs	6	30	12	51	99
Polysyllabic Adverbs	2	16	4	30	52
	199	196	43	107	<b>545<sup>b</sup></b>

**Table 1:** Simple and complex adverbs in Cantonese

Note a: Refer to Chapter 1, section 1.4.1 for the description of the abbreviations CM and CS.

Note b: The single entry in Appendix 1 至多(咪/唔係) *zi3do1(mai6/m4hai6)* is divided into separate entries 至多(咪) *zi3do1(mai6)* and 至多(唔係) *zi3do1(m4hai6)*, thus increasing the total number of adverbs (cf. Appendix 1) by one.

# Semantic Classification of Adverbs

## 4.1 INTRODUCTION: PROPOSALS FOR CLASSIFICATION IN THE LITERATURE

Several studies are devoted to adverbs in English as well as Mandarin Chinese, and in each study the adverbs are somehow classified using different criteria. The number of categories varies, and even more importantly, the names chosen for a category may also differ, so, to avoid confusion for those acquainted with the literature, some important previous classifications will be considered before presenting the one used here. The different proposals for both English and Mandarin Chinese will be discussed separately below.

### 4.1.1 English classification of adverbs

Previous studies of semantic classification of English adverbs include Greenbaum (1969), Jackendoff (1972), Thomason and Stalnaker (1973), Lehrer (1975a), Bellert (1977), McConnell-Ginet (1982), Erust (1984), Vendler (1984), Swan (1988), Nakamura (1997), Ramat and Ricca (1998), and Wyner (1998). In their semantic theory of adverbs, Thomason and Stalnaker (1973) have divided adverbs into two classes, namely sentence adverbs and predicate adverbs. However, as Bellert (1977) notes, not all the sentence adverbs can uniformly be described in such a way.

Jackendoff's method (semantic-paraphrase analyses) has much influence on



subsequent works<sup>10</sup> (Nakamura, 1997:249). It is therefore worthwhile to give a sketchy account of Jackendoff's classification. Jackendoff divides English adverbs into four classes, taking into consideration both the semantic and distributional properties of adverbs. The four classes are (1) manner adverbs, (2) subject-oriented adverbs, (3) speaker-oriented adverbs, and (4) the *merely* class.<sup>11</sup> He defines manner adverbs as occurring in auxiliary and final position, both subject-oriented adverbs and speaker-oriented adverbs as occurring in initial and auxiliary position, and the *merely* class as occurring only in auxiliary position. Each of these sub-classes has its own semantic paraphrase. Jackendoff paraphrases (1) – (4) as (5) – (8), respectively.

- (1) John dropped his cup of coffee *clumsily*.
- (2) *Cleverly*, John spilled the beans.
- (3) *Happily*, John won the game.<sup>12</sup>
- (4) *Frankly*, John lied to Bill.
- (5) The manner in which John dropped his cup of coffee is clumsy.
- (6) It was clever of John to spill the beans.
- (7) It is happy (to me) that John won the game.
- (8) \*It is frank (to me) that John lied to Bill.

Owing to the fact that sometimes the semantic-paraphrase is not compatible with the speaker-oriented adverb, like *frankly*, as illustrated in (8), Bellert justifies her attempt to refine Jackendoff's classification of adverbs and provides more accurate paraphrases of them. In particular, she further divides the speaker-oriented adverbs into the following five sub-classes (see Nakaruma, 1997:250-252; for description of Bellert's analyses).

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<sup>10</sup> Not only do Jackendoff's paraphrases of adverb subcategories have direct impact on later accounts of sub-classification of adverbs, but also indirectly form the basis to elucidate other linguistic phenomena, such as to show that the line between semantics and pragmatics is not at all clear-cut (Lehrer, 1975b) and to explain how sentences are related to the events they describe, possibly in two ways which arise from two distinct paraphrases for manner adverbials and speaker-oriented adverbials (Moore, 1993).

<sup>11</sup> Jackendoff does not give any semantic property of this *merely* class (e.g. *merely*, *utterly*, *virtually*, etc.).

<sup>12</sup> The example (3) is ambiguous, meaning either "it was happy of John to win the game" or (7) as given.

- A. Evaluative adverbs (*luckily, fortunately, happily, surprisingly, etc.*)
- B. Modal adverbs (*probably, possibly, certainly, surely, evidently, etc.*)
- C. Domain adverbs (*logically, mathematically, morally, aesthetically, etc.*)
- D. Conjunctive adverbs (*however, nevertheless, hence, therefore, firstly, finally, etc.*)
- E. Pragmatic adverbs (*frankly, sincerely, honestly, briefly, precisely, roughly, etc.*)

In short, in dealing with English adverbs, linguists tend to subdivide adverb classes on semantic grounds by providing paraphrases of them.

#### 4.1.2 Chinese classification of adverbs

In Chinese, different grammarians classify adverbs into smaller groups in accordance with different criteria. Generally speaking, previous literature classifies Chinese adverbs mainly in two ways, one of which is on the basis of grammatical meanings expressed by adverbs, and the other of which is based on position of adverb in a clause or sentence. Grammarians like Wang Li (1959:267-268), Chao Yuen Ren (1968:780-795) and Zhu Dexi (1982:195-201) adopt the former approach in dealing with classification of adverbs whereas Charles Li and Sandra Thompson (1989:319-339) adopt the latter.

Let me begin with the classification of adverbs by position. Li and Thompson (1989:320) divide adverbs into the following three sub-classes:

1. Movable Adverbs
2. Nonmovable Adverbs
3. Postverbal Adverbials

This classification is established on the basis of adverb placement.

Movable adverbs occur either before the subject or after it but before the verb. Semantically, they are further divided into time adverbs and attitude adverbs.

Nonmovable adverbs occur only after the subject but before the verb. They comprise manner adverbs and nonmanner adverbs according to semantic characteristics.

Functionally, movable adverbs modify the entire clause so they are also called sentential adverbs, whereas nonmovable adverbs modify the verb, adjective or adverb phrases in which they occur.

Postverbal adverbials occur after the verb and specify the duration or extent of the action expressed by the predicate. In fact, examples of this type do not involve adverbs at all; instead they are made up of noun phrases consisting of a number, a classifier (if one is required) and a noun. Hence, absolutely speaking, this type of "adverbs" must not be treated as a subdivision of adverbs. Here are some examples of each adverb subcategory given by Li and Thompson.

(9) Movable adverb of time

- a. 剛剛我不舒服，現在好多了。  
*gānggang wǒ bu shūfu xiànzài hǎo duō le*  
just-now I not comfortable now good much FP  
"Just now I didn't feel well but I feel better now."
- b. 我剛剛不舒服，現在好多了。  
*wǒ gānggang bu shūfu xiànzài hǎo duō le*  
I just-now not comfortable now good much FP  
"Just now I didn't feel well but I feel better now."

(10) Movable adverb of attitude

- a. 誠然張三不開心。  
*xiǎnrán zhāngsān bu gāoxing*  
obviously Zhangsan not happy  
"Obviously, Zhangsan is not happy."
- b. 張三誠然不開心。  
*Zhāngsān xiǎnrán bu gāoxing*  
Zhangsan obviously not happy  
"Obviously, Zhangsan is not happy."

(11) Nonmovable manner adverb

他快快地走。

*tā kuài-kuài-de zǒu*

he quickly walk

"He walked quickly."

(12) Nonmovable nonmanner adverb

他已經走了

*tā yǐjīng zǒu le*

he already leave FP

"He has already left."

	<i>Chinese Adverb Sub-classes</i>	<i>Wang (1959)</i>	<i>Chao (1968)</i>	<i>Zhu (1982)</i>
1	Adverb of Affirmation		✓	
2	Adverb of Contingency	✓	✓	
3	Adverb of Degree	✓	✓	✓
4	Adverb of Evaluation		✓	
5	Interrogative Adverb		✓	
6	Modal Adverb	✓		
7	Linking Adverb	✓		
8	Adverb of Manner	✓	✓	
9	Adverb of Negation	✓	✓	✓
10	Adverb of Place		✓	
11	Adverb of Possibility	✓		
12	Adverb of Quantity		✓	
13	Adverb of Scope	✓	✓	✓
14	Adverb of Time	✓	✓	✓

**Table 2:** *The classification of adverbs in the Chinese literature*

Table (2) illustrates different labels used by different grammarians in classifying adverbs according to their grammatical meanings. This table demonstrates two major problems in such kind of classification. Firstly, names of sub-classes have not been standardized. There has not been any consensus in naming sub-classes of adverbs; linguists use their own terminology in doing so. In fact, despite different names used, they tend to denote more or less the same grammatical meaning. Secondly, the total number of sub-classes is different. Chao gives as many as

eleven sub-classes of adverbs whereas Zhu gives as few as four. To make matters worse, as Zhang Yisheng (2000:17) notes, the same adverb is subsumed under one class by one grammarian but under another class by another grammarian!

There can be infinite number of names coined by linguists. However, it should be borne in mind that a word can be classified as an adverb even without knowing its sub-class so long as it exhibits all the syntactic properties an adverb proper should have. Subsuming it under a particular class is merely a means to highlight the common properties shared by members of this sub-class. The name or label of this sub-class is therefore vital in the discussion of shared semantic and syntactic properties. In dealing with Cantonese adverbs, I assume the following taxonomy in which Cantonese adverbs are divided into **seven sub-classes** according to grammatical meaning.

## 4.2 CONJUNCTIVE ADVERB (C)

Conjunctive adverbs serve a linking function amongst verb/adjective phrases and amongst clauses. They are distinguished from conjunctions as they have to be put only after the subject (conjunctions can be put either before the subject or after it). A conjunctive adverb can function alone like 咪 *mai6* "then", 先(至) *sin1(zì3)* "then", 就 *zau6* "then", etc., or function in concert with the same adverb or another adverb, for example, 又...又..., *jau6...jau6...* "at the same time", 固然之...只不過... *gu3jin4zi1...zi2bat1gwo3...* "no doubt ...only...", 一...就... *jat1...zau6...* "as soon as...then...", 一旦...就... *jat1daan6...zau6...* "once ... then...", etc.

(13) 著多啲衫，你咪唔凍囉。

*zoek3 do1 di1 saam1 nei5 mai6 m4 dung3 lo1*

wear many PL clothes you then not cold FP

"Wear more clothes and you don't feel cold."



(14) 噏得出就噏。

*ap1-dak1-ceot1 zau6 ap1*  
say-COMP-out as-soon-as say  
"You just say what you can say."

(15) 佢做嘢又快又好。

*keoi5 zou6je5 jau6 faai3 jau6 hou2*  
s/he work also fast also good  
"He works efficiently and effectively."

(16) 噏做固然之好，只不過係怕佢唔鍾意啫。

*gam2 zou6 gu3jin4zi1 hou2 zi2bat1gwo3 hai6 paa3 keoi5 m4 zung1ji3 ze1*  
in-such-way do no-doubt good only be fear s/he not like FP  
"No doubt, it is good to do it this way. However, we are only afraid of making him unhappy."

### 4.3 DEGREE ADVERB

Degree adverbs can form a scale of degree. As Klein (1998) persuasively puts it when discussing adverbs of degree in general,

[t]he specification of an adverb of degree . . . indicates a range on the scale of the appropriate dimension in which the quality concerned can be placed. We may try to order the adverbs along the scale, but it is evident that groups of adverbs point to roughly the same range of the scale. *Terribly, highly, fantastically* and *awfully* all indicate a very high degree, and although differences with other adverbs, such as *rather* or *very*, can be stated, the internal ordering of the former group cannot easily be decided upon.

(Klein, 1998:14)

Klein's viewpoints will be used as a reference throughout this section.

Cantonese degree adverbs can be graded in the scale according to, roughly, the highest degree such as 至 *zi3* "most", an absolutely high degree such as 咁(鬼) *gam3(gwai2)* "very", a relatively high degree such as 嘅 *ngang3* "even more", an absolutely intermediate degree such as 算 *syun3* "fairly", a relatively intermediate

degree such as 比較(上) *bei2gaau3(soeng6)* "rather", an absolutely low degree such as 有啲 *jau5di1* "a little bit", or a relatively low degree such as 輕輕 *heng6heng1* "slightly". Diagrammatically, the scale of degree and degree adverbs ascribed to the scale is illustrated in Figure (2).

In fact, the notions of absolute and relative adverbs of degree exist in both Mandarin Chinese and English. Wang Li (1959:268-276) has divided Mandarin Chinese adverbs of degree into these two groups. Lu Jianming and Ma Zhen (1999), and Han Rongzhu (2000) further rationalise such division by pointing out the distribution of absolute and relative degree adverbs in different sentence types, and their pragmatic differences with respect to modality and presupposition respectively; that is, semantic categorisation is justified both syntactically and pragmatically. Though the *Longman Grammar of Spoken and Written English* (1999) does not clearly state the terms "absolute" and "relative", it gives the definition of degree adverbs in absolute and relative senses:

They [adverbs of degree] can be used to mark that the extent or degree is either greater or less than usual [absolute sense] or than that of something else in the neighbouring discourse [relative sense]. (1999:554)

Absolute		Scale of Degree		Relative
—	←	----- HIGHEST -----	→	至 <i>zi3</i> "most"
咁(鬼) <i>gam3(gwai2)</i> "so"	←	----- HIGH -----	→	哽 <i>ngang3</i> "even more"
相當(之) <i>soeng1dong1(zi1)</i> "considerably"	←	HIGH-INTERMEDIATE	→	靈舍 <i>ling4se3</i> "particularly"
算 <i>syun3</i> "fairly"	←	--- INTERMEDIATE ---	→	比較(上) <i>bei2gaau3(soeng6)</i> "rather"
有啲 <i>jau5di1</i> "a little bit"	←	----- LOW -----	→	輕輕 <i>heng6heng1</i> "slightly"

Figure 2: Degree adverbs and degree scale

Some Chinese linguists tend to emphasise the role of degree adverbs as a whole in modifying other elements (Chao Yuen Ren, 1968; Zhu Dexi, 1982; He Yang, 1994; Yang Yun, 1999; among others). On the other hand, some linguists tend to focus on a particular adverb of degree and its use (Luo Qingsong, 1995; Zhao Lijiang, 1998; Liu Yuanman, 1999; among others). This sort of discussion on the use of particular adverbs is important as it reveals that Mandarin Chinese degree adverbs differ from Cantonese ones with respect to the **same** individual one.

It is generally agreed that the adverb of degree 太 *tài* "too" in Mandarin Chinese expresses two grammatical meanings: (1) high degree, used in admiration; (2) excessive degree, used in indicating unfortunate or undesirable events.<sup>13</sup> Cantonese adopts the same adverb from Mandarin Chinese but uses it differently in two respects: (1) the degree adverb 太 *taai3* is optionally accompanied by 過 *gwo3* to form 太(過) *taai3(gwo3)*; (2) the degree adverb 太(過) *taai3(gwo3)* is mainly used for excessive degree. In other words, the same adverb in Cantonese differs from that in Mandarin Chinese in both form and meaning. In indicating a high degree, Cantonese tends to use 好 *hou2*, 幾咁/幾鬼 *gei2gam3/gei2gwai2*, etc. rather than 太(過) *taai3(gwo3)*.

### High Degree

- (17) 啲湯幾咁好味啊！  
*di1 tong1 gei2gam3 hou2mei6 aa3*  
 PL soup very delicious FP  
 "The soup is so delicious."

<sup>13</sup> Lü Shuxiang 呂叔湘 (1999) 《現代漢語八百詞》 "太[副]1.表示程度過頭，多用於不如意的事情。句末常帶了'。2.表示程度高。多用於讚歎。" p.526; Zhonggwo Shewui Kexue Yuyan Yanjiusuo Cidian Bianjishi (1999) 《現代漢語詞典》 "太[副]a.表示程度過分；b.表示程度極高(用於讚歎)。" p.1219.

(18) 啲湯太(過)好味啊! (Note: The sentence is still acceptable but rare.)

*di1 tong1 **taai3(gwo3)** hou2mei6 aa3*

PL soup very delicious FP

"The soup is so delicious."

Cf. (19) 這個湯的味道味太美了。

*zhèi gè tāng de wèidào **tài** měi le*

this M soup POSS taste very beautiful FP

"This soup is so delicious."

### Excessive Degree

(20) 哩條題目太難囉!

*ni1 tiu4 tai4muk6 **taai3** naan4 laa3*

this M question too difficult FP

"This question is too difficult."

Cf. (21) 這道題太難了。

*zhè dào tí **tài** nán le*

this M question too difficult FP

"This question is too difficult."

Similarly, though the degree adverb 夠 *gòu* in Mandarin Chinese is used to indicate that an element it modifies sufficiently satisfies speaker's demand on its level or indicate a high degree<sup>14</sup>, Cantonese 夠 *gau3* is not a degree adverb at all; rather, it is a modal adverb carrying strong emotional colouring.

(22) 佢怨我? 我夠怨佢咯!

*keoi5 jyun3 ngo5 ngo5 **gau3** jyun3 keoi5 lok3*

s/he blame me I also blame him/her FP

"She blames me? But I blame her too!"

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<sup>14</sup> Lü Shuxiang 呂叔湘 (1999) 《現代漢語八百詞》 "夠[副]1.修飾形容詞，表示達到一定標準。形容詞只能是積極意義的，不能是相應的反義詞。2.修飾形容詞，表示程度很高。形容詞可以是積極意義的。句尾多加的'或了'。" p.235.

## 4.4 MANNER ADVERB (M)

Manner adverbs characterise the action indicated by the verb. It is worth noting that about 10 manner adverbs are subsumed under a smaller category named "repetition". These manner adverbs are typically used to indicate a repetitive action or event. They do not form a separate class of their own, being distinct from manner adverbs because they are like manner adverbs in that they specify how an action is done: an action is done once again.

(23) 佢又試食零食。

*keoi5 jau6si3 sik6 ling4sik6*

s/he again eat snacks

"She eats snacks again."

(24) 佢三番四次唔聽人勸。

*keoi5 saam1faan1sei3ci3 m4 teng1 jan4 hyun3*

s/he again-and-again not listen-to people persuade

"She did not listen to us again and again."

The majority of manner adverbs suggests a variety of ways of undergoing an action. For instance, an action can occur at a fast pace as described by the adverb 擒擒青 *kam4kam2ceng1* "quickly". An interesting observation is that for those manner adverbs specifying how fast an action is taken place, they might consist of the morphemes 聲 *seng1* "sound" and 腳 *goek3* "leg" as in 嘍嘍聲 *baang4baang2seng1* "very quickly", 嚟嚟聲 *laa4laa2seng1* "very quickly", 急急腳 *gap1gap1goek3* "at a fast pace", 雞噉腳 *gailgam2goek3* "very quickly", etc.

(25) 仲唔嘍嘍聲出去搵佢？

*zung6 m4 baang4baang2seng1 ceot1heoi3 wan2 keoi5*

still not very-quickly go-out look-for him/her

"Why don't you go out and look for him at once?"

(26) 我哋<sup>ㄉㄞ</sup>咁<sup>ㄤ</sup>聲<sup>ㄥ</sup>做埋<sup>ㄉㄞ</sup>嘢<sup>ㄟ</sup>喇<sup>ㄌㄚ</sup>。  
*ngo5dei6 laa4laa2seng1 zou6-maa4 di1 je5 laa1*  
we very-quickly do-COMP PL thing FP  
"Let's finish the work quickly."

(27) 佢<sup>ㄍㄞ</sup>急急<sup>ㄍㄞ</sup>腳<sup>ㄍㄞ</sup>走過<sup>ㄍㄞ</sup>嚟<sup>ㄌㄚ</sup>。  
*keoi5 gap1gap1goek3 zau2 gwo3 lai4*  
s/he in-a-fast-pace walk across come  
"He came here quickly."

(28) 你做<sup>ㄉㄞ</sup>乜<sup>ㄟ</sup>雞<sup>ㄍㄞ</sup>噉<sup>ㄍㄞ</sup>腳<sup>ㄍㄞ</sup>走過<sup>ㄍㄞ</sup>嚟<sup>ㄌㄚ</sup>?  
*nei5 zou6mat1 gai1gam2goek3 zau2 gwo3 lai4*  
you why very-quickly walk across come  
"Why did you come here so quickly?"

There are also adverbial characterizations having to do with the volition and intent of the agent in respect of the execution of the action, as depicted by the adverbs 專登 *zyun1dang1* and 夾硬 *gaap3ngaang2*. Furthermore, an action may occur in succession as shown by 連氣 *lin4hei3*, or in a random manner by 笠亂 *lap6lyun2*, or in secret by 偷偷地 *taultau1dei2*.

(29) 我<sup>ㄍㄞ</sup>專登<sup>ㄍㄞ</sup>嚟<sup>ㄌㄚ</sup>探<sup>ㄉㄞ</sup>你<sup>ㄉㄞ</sup>嘢<sup>ㄟ</sup>。  
*ngo5 zyun1dang1 lai4 taam3 nei5 gaa3*  
I deliberately come visit you FP  
"I come to see you deliberately."

(30) 夾硬<sup>ㄍㄞ</sup>迫<sup>ㄍㄞ</sup>人去<sup>ㄌㄚ</sup>。  
*gaap3ngaang2 bik1 jan4 heoi3*  
unyieldingly force people go  
"People are forced to come not willingly."

(31) 佢<sup>ㄍㄞ</sup>連氣<sup>ㄍㄞ</sup>食<sup>ㄍㄞ</sup>咗<sup>ㄍㄞ</sup>三大碗<sup>ㄍㄞ</sup>麵<sup>ㄌㄚ</sup>。  
*keoi5 lin4hei3 sik6-zo2 saam1 daai6 wun2 min6*  
s/he in-succession eat-ASP three big M noodles  
"He ate three big bowls of noodles successively."

(32) 哩啲說話唔好笠亂講。

*ni1 di1 syut3waa6 m4hou2 lap6lyun2 gong2*  
that PL words do-not casually say  
"Don't say something thoughtlessly."

(33) 佢偷偷哋出咗街。

*keoi5 tau1tau1dei2 ceot1-zo2 gaai1*  
s/he secretly go-out-ASP street  
"She went out secretly."

There are a few manner adverbs in Cantonese that have the structure "— *jat1* 'one' (+ measure word) + noun", for example, 一口氣 *jat1hau2hei3* "without a break", 一輪嘴 *jat1leon2zeoi2* "without a break", 一眼 *jat1ngaan5* "in a glimpse", 一心 *jat1sam1* "wholeheartedly", 一手 *jat1sau2* "single-handed", 一手一腳 *jat1sau2jat1goek3* "by oneself", etc. Apparently, they look like noun phrases functioning as adverbials. However, it is argued that they are genuine adverbs. If they were noun phrases, they would mean what their components literally mean. In fact, they mean quite differently from their literal meanings as in the following examples. Note that their literal meanings are given in the gloss.

(34) 佢發起嚟一口氣唱咗十幾隻歌。

*keoi5 hing3-hei2lai4 jat1hau2hei3 coeng3zo2 sap6-gei2 zek3 gol*  
s/he excited-COMP without-a-break sing-ASP ten-something M songs  
"He was so excited that he sang about ten songs without a break."

(35) 佢一輪嘴講晒啲嘢出嚟。

*keoi5 jat1leon2zeoi2 gong2-sai3 di1 je5 ceot1lai4*  
s/he by-one-mouth say-COMP PL thing go-out  
"She spoke all the things without a break."

(36) 佢一眼認出我。

*keoi5 jat1ngaan5 jing6ceot1 ngo5*  
s/he by-one-eye recognise me  
"She recognized me in a glimpse."

- (37) 我<sup>1</sup>心<sup>1</sup>想教書。  
*ngo5 jat1sam1 soeng2 gaau3syu1*  
 I by-one-heart want-to teach  
 "I want to be a teacher wholeheartedly."
- (38) 佢<sup>1</sup>手<sup>1</sup>就捻起張櫈。  
*keoi5 jat1sau2 zau6 ling1hei2 zoeng1 dang3*  
 s/he in-one-hand EMPH pick-up M chair  
 "He picked up the chair single-handedly."
- (39) 個蛋糕我<sup>1</sup>手<sup>1</sup>腳做嘅。  
*go3 daan6gou1 ngo5 jat1sau2jat1goek3 zou6 ge3*  
 M cake I in-one-hand-one-leg do FP  
 "I made the cake by myself."

It does not make sense to sing ten songs in one breath as in (34), to recognise a person in one eye as in (36), and to make a cake in one hand and one leg as in (39). Further, though it is true that a person has one mouth, i.e. 一輪嘴 *jat1leon2zeoi2*, and one heart, i.e. 一心 *jat1sam1*, these literal meanings of their components differ dramatically from the actual meanings as in (35) and (37), respectively. Even if the literal meaning seems close to the actual meaning as in (38), 一手 *jat1sau2* is not a grammatical noun phrase. The structure of a noun phrase in both Mandarin Chinese and Cantonese requires a measure word to be inserted between the numeral and the head noun (whereas English does not).

- (40) 一隻手  
*jat1 zek3 sau2*  
 one M hand  
 "one hand"

Hence, as shown in the above, 一隻手 *jat1 zek3 sau2* "one hand" is a grammatical noun phrase whereas 一手 *jat1sau2* is not; 一手 *jat1sau2* is an adverb instead.



## 4.5 MODAL ADVERB (ML, MA, MV)

Modal adverbs refer to those adverbs that project speaker's judgement, evaluation and strong emotions on a situation described by the predicate. Not every linguist uses exactly the term "modal adverb" in referring to the same group of adverbs. Chao Yuen Ren (1968:781-786), for instance, uses the terms "adverb of evaluation" and "adverb of contingency". In fact, what he means by "adverb of evaluation" is the second kind of modal adverbs to be described in the following, and what he means by "adverb of contingency" is the first kind.

Modal adverbs can be further divided into three categories. Firstly, a group of modal adverbs (ML) might express "evidentiality" (Chafe, 1986), that is, possibility, likelihood or certainty on the situation. The level of doubt or certainty is signified by the use of different adverbs; to put another way, these epistemic adverbs form a scale of probability (Hoffner, Cantor, and Badzinski, 1990:220), where adverbs of high certainty have the probability of one and adverbs of lower certainty have the probability less than one.

Some modal adverbs tend to indicate a very high level of certainty such as 絕對 *zyut6deoi3*, 十成十 *sap6sing4sap6*, 實行 *sat6hang4* etc. A less certain (but still highly certain) situation is expressed by adverbs like 九成 *gau2sing4*, 多數 *do1sou3*, 唔見得 *m4gin3dak1*, etc. A situation which is partly certain and partly doubtful is expressed by adverbs like 唔多唔少 *m4do1m4siu2*, 少不免 *siu2bat1min5*, 未必 *mei6bit1* etc. A more doubtful situation is expressed by adverbs such as 怕(且) *paa3(ce2)*, 玩吓手 *waan2haa5sau2*, 或者 *waak6ze2*, etc.

(41) 佢嘅嘅樣，十成十輸咗喇。

*keoi5 gam2 ge3 joeng2 sap6sing4sap6 syu1-zo2 laa1*

s/he such-way GE look surely lose-ASP FP

"He looks so frustrated. Surely, he lost the game."

- (42) 佢今晚怕(且)唔嚟得嘅。  
*keoi5 gam1maan1 paa3(ce2) m4 lai4-dak1 laa3*  
 s/he tonight perhaps not come-COMP FP  
 "Perhaps, she couldn't come tonight."

It is interesting to note that the modal adverb 包 *baau1* "certainly" seems to be derived from its verbal counterpart of the same homonymous form meaning "guarantee". In other words, as Traugott and König (1991. Cited in Kryk-Kastovsky, 1997:320) puts in one of the semantic-pragmatic tendencies proposed by them, "meanings tend to become increasingly situated in the speaker's subjective belief/state/attitude toward the situation". In their study of sentence adverbs in the languages of Europe, Ramat and Ricca (1998:243-244) also impressively points out that "[t]he semantic development usually goes from the world being talked about to the views on that world uttered by the speaker in her/his act of speaking", and called this process of "a change towards more abstract meanings" **subjectification** (see also Powell, 1992; Peters, 1994).

For some evidence to this claim, Conradie (1993:93-95) has reported that the modal adverb *glo* "allegedly" in Afrikaans is derived from the verb *glo* "believe", and thus convincingly demonstrated that subjectification refers to "any process causing a lexical item to develop a subjective meaning or extending the membership of modals in the lexicon". I can observe this shift of meaning from a more concrete one as expressed by a verb to a more abstract one as expressed by an adverb in sentences like (43) and (44), respectively:

- (43) Verb 包 *baau1* "guarantee"  
 包你滿意。  
*baau1 nei5 bun5ji3*  
 guarantee you satisfy  
 "(I) guarantee that you must be satisfied (with it)."

(44) Adverb 包 *baau1* "certainly"

今日包落雨。

*gam1jat6 baau1 lok6jyu5*

today certainly rain

"It certainly rains today."

Secondly, a group of modal adverbs (MA) on the other hand reflects speaker's attitude towards the content independent of its epistemological status. Some attitudinal adverbs appear to show speaker's surprise on the content, for instance, 點(不)知 *dim2(bat1)zi1*, 竟然 *ging2jin4*, 居然 *geoi1jin4*, etc. Other adverbs express speaker's determination in taking on an action, for example, 一於 *jat1jyu1*, 有理無理 *jau5lei5mou5lei5*, 幾大 *gei2daai2*, etc.

(45) 佢點(不)知唔嚟得喇。 (surprise)

*keoi5 dim2(bat1)zi1 m4 lai4-dak1 wo4*

s/he unexpectedly not come-COMP FP

"Unexpectedly, she couldn't come."

(46) 幾大都要去。 (determination)

*gei2daai2 dou1 jiu3 heoi3*

no-matter-what EMPH want-to go

"No matter what happens, I need to go."

Cantonese has some modal adverbs which signal expectations of some kind. They range from 都係 *dou1hai6*, 情願 *cing4jyun2*, etc., which show a particular expectation a speaker holds to 硬係 *ngaang2hai6*, 偏偏 *pin1pin1*, etc., which indicates a conflict, suggesting that a fact goes beyond what one might have expected.

(47) 諗諗吓，都係唔去好啲嘞。 (expectation)

*nam2-nam2-haa2 dou1hai6 m4 heoi3 hou2di1 wo3*

think-think-ASP had-better not go better FP

"On second thought, I had better not to go there."

- (48) 本書硬係買唔到。 (contrary to expectation)

*bun2 syu1 ngaang2hai6 maai5m4dou2*

M book contrary-to-expectations buy-not-COMP

"Unfortunately, the book is difficult to find."

Furthermore, some of these modal adverbs express a concession like 話晒 *waa6saai3*, 好好醜醜 *hou2hou2cau2cau2*, etc. whereas others express speaker's strong emotions or emphasis like 直情 *zik6cing4*, 先(至) *sin1(zi3)*, etc. Some modal adverbs express speaker's suggestion/persuasion such as 千祈 *cin1kei4*, 何苦 *ho4fu2*, 最好 *zeoi3hou2*, etc. Some modal adverbs express a contrary fact such as 反為 *faan2wai4*, 又 *jau6*, 實則 *sat6zak1*, etc. Some modal adverbs express speaker's instantaneous understanding of the situation such as 唔怪(之)得 *m4gwaai3(zi1)dak1*, 原來 *jyun4loi4*, 難怪 *naan4gwaai3*, etc.

- (49) 你幫吓佢喇，佢話晒都係你細佬。 (concession)

*nei5 bong2-haa5 keoi5 laa1 keoi5 waa6saai3 dou1 hai6 nei5 sai3lou2*

you help-ASP him/her FP s/he after-all rather be your brother

"After all, he is your brother so you should help him."

- (50) 你先(至)係，我唔係！ (emphasis)

*nei5 sin1(zi3) hai6 ngo5 m4 hai6*

you EMPH be I not be

"It is you. Not me!"

- (51) 千祈唔好講俾人知。 (suggestion)

*cin1kei4 m4hou2 gong2 bei2 jan4 zi1*

for-heaven's-sake do-not say to people know

"For heaven's sake, don't tell others."

- (52) 佢實則唔係咁懶。 (contrary fact)

*keoi5 sat6zak1 m4 hai6 gam3 laan5 ge2*

s/he actually not be so lazy FP

"Actually, she is not as lazy as you thought."

- (53) 唔怪(之)得佢唔去喇，原來佢有事。 (understanding)  
*m4gwaai3(zi1)dak1 keoi5 m4 heoi3 laa1 jyun4loi4 keoi5 jau5si6*  
 that-is-why s/he not come FP originally s/he have-something-to-do  
 "That's why he doesn't come. He has got something to do."

Both epistemic and attitudinal adverbs are generally loosely attached to the sentences. They are used to orient the hearer towards the statement in which they occur and explain to the hearer how the statement is to be taken. One of the characteristics of these adverbs is that they can be positioned quite freely in a sentence without changing their meaning (Huang, 1975:26).

Thirdly, a few modal adverbs (MV) appear to present the point of view of the speaker, for instance, 揸埋 *laa2maai4* "generally speaking", 計正 *gai3zeng3* "as a rule", 聽講(話) *teng1gong2(waa6)* "by hearsay", etc., expressing a vague viewpoint or hearsay. Other members of this sub-class might also suggest that the source of knowledge does not lie in the speaker alone but all the external, objective facts being taken together, as in 大體上 *daai6tai2soeng6* "on the whole" and 總算 *zung2syun3* "all things considered".

- (54) 哩隊籃球隊嘅球員個個揸埋都有兩米以上。  
*ni1 deoi6 laam4kau4deoi2 ge3 kau4jyun4 go3go3 laa2maai4 dou1 jau5 loeng5mai1*  
*ji5soeng6*  
 this M basketball-team GE player everyone generally-speaking all have two-metre  
 above  
 "Generally speaking, each player of this basketball team is over two-metre tall."

## 4.6 NEGATION ADVERB (N)

Though negation adverbs, as their name suggests, are used to negate the existence of an action or state named by the predicate, each of them negates in a slightly different way. For example, 未嘗 *mei6soeng4* is used in negative sentence only.

(55) 佢未嘗唔係一個好人。

*keoi5 mei6soeng4 m4 hai6 jat1 go3 hou2 jan4*

s/he not not be one M good person

"He is a good person after all."

(56) 噉對佢嚟講，未嘗唔係一件好事吖。

*gam2 deoi3 keoi5 lai4 gong2 mei6soeng4 m4 hai6 jat1 gin6 hou2 si6 aal*

in-such-way to him/her come say not not be one M good matter FP

"To her, it's not a bad thing."

It is worth noting that I consider 唔多 *m4do1*, 唔使 *m4sai2*, 唔慌 *m4fong1* and 唔好 *m4hou2* as one single unit, though others might argue that they should be two separate words i.e. negation adverb + verb/adjective rather than one word. I suspect that 多 *do1* "very much" and 使 *sai2* "need" as in 唔多 *m4do1* and 唔使 *m4sai2*, respectively, have been obsolete. They are replaced by another words 好 *hou2* "very" and 要 *jiu3* "need" nowadays.

(57) 佢好靚。

*keoi5 hou2 leng3*

s/he very beautiful

"She is very beautiful."

(58) \*佢多靚。

(59) 佢要去。

*keoi5 jiu3 heoi3*

s/he need-to go

"She needs to go."

(60) \*佢使去。

Hence, I do not consider 多 *do1* and 使 *sai2* words at all but bound morphemes only. Furthermore, though 慌 *fong1* "worry" and 好 *hou2* "very" are undoubtedly words in Cantonese, their meanings are changed in combination with 唔 *m4*.<sup>15</sup>

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<sup>15</sup> See Chao and Mui (1999) for a somewhat different approach in arguing that 唔好 *m4hou2* is a single form.

(61) 佢唔慌係好人。

*keoi5 m4fong1 hai6 hou2 jan4*

s/he absolutely-not be good person

"He is absolutely not a good person."

Cf. (62) 我唔慌佢唔嚟。

*ngo5 m4fong1 keoi5 ng4 lai4*

I not worry s/he not come

"I don't worry that he doesn't come."

(63) 你唔好喊喇。

*nei5 m4hou2 haam3 laa1*

you don't cry FP

"Please don't cry."

Cf. (64) 中史都唔好讀嘅。

*zung1si2 dou1 m4 hou2 duk6 ge2*

Chinese-history EMPH not good study FP

"Chinese History is not easy to study."

## 4.7 SCOPE ADVERB (S)

Scope adverbs specify the scope in which an action named by the predicate takes effect. The scope can be further classified into nine kinds in Cantonese. The first sort of scope involves all the things or people affected by the action, as expressed by, for example, 𠵼𠵼𠵼 *ham6baang6laang6*, 一律 *jat1leot6*, 通通 *tung1tung1*, etc. The second kind of scope expresses the fact that part, but not all, of the things or people are affected by the action, as in 淨係 *zing6hai6*, 偏偏 *pin1pin1*, etc.

(65) 𠵼𠵼我𠵼𠵼𠵼𠵼𠵼返屋企。

*di1 je5 ngo5 ham6baang6laang6 ling1-sai3 faan1 uk1kei2*

PL thing I all bring-COMP return home

"I take all the things and bring them home."

- (66) 屋企淨係得我一個人。  
*uk1kei2 zing6hai6 dak1 ngo5 jat1 go3 jan4*  
 home only have I one M person  
 "Only I am at home, no one else."

Apart from giving the "whole-or-part" distinction, some scope adverbs signal the limit or extent that things or people are affected by the action. Hence, the third kind of scope refers to the upper limit or the largest extent as in 頂多 *ding4do1*, 極其量 *gik6kei4loeng6*, etc. whereas the fourth kind of scope refers to the lower limit or the least extent as in 起碼 *hei2maa5*, 點止 *dim2zi2*, 座底 *zo6dai2*, etc. The fifth kind of scope refers to an addition on things or people involved in the action, as expressed by 亦(都) *jik6(dou1)*, 又 *jau6*, etc.

- (67) 佢頂多十五歲。  
*keoi5 ding2do1 sap6m5 sei3*  
 s/he at-most fifteen years-old  
 "He is at most fifteen."
- (68) 哩度座底三百人。  
*ni1dou6 zo6dai2 saam1baak3 jan4*  
 here at-least three-hundred people  
 "There are at least three hundred people."
- (69) 佢主要讀經濟，會計亦(都)識啲嘢。  
*keoi5 zyu2jiu3 duk6 ging1zai3 wui6gai3 jik6(dou1) sik1 di1 gaa3*  
 s/he mainly study economics accounting also know PL FP  
 "He majors in Economics but he also knows some accounting."

Other devices of expressing scope signal the quantity of entities affected in the action or state. Thus, the sixth kind of scope indicates the total number of things or people affected by the action as in 成 *seng4*, 足足 *zuk1zuk1*, 加加埋埋 *gaa1gaa1maai4maai4*, etc. whereas the seventh kind of scope indicates an approximation as in 約莫 *joek3mok2*, 大大話話 *daai6daai6waa6waa6*, etc.



(70) 哩本書成三百蚊嘍。

*ni1 bun2 syul seng4 saam1baak3 man1 gaa3*

this M book as-much-as three-hundred dollars FP

"This book is as much as three hundred dollars."

(71) 佢約莫三十歲。

*keoi5 joek3mok2 saam1sap6 sei3*

s/he approximately thirty years-old

"He is about thirty something."

The eighth kind of scope expresses the fact that things or people are almost affected by the action as in 差啲 *caa1di1*, 幾乎 *gei1fu4*, 咁滯 *gam3zai6*, etc. The ninth kind of scope indicates the spatial scope; there are altogether three scope adverbs in this category, namely 隨處 *ceoi4cyu3*, 隨地 *ceoi4dei6* and 到處 *dou3cyu3*.

(72) 我差啲認唔到佢。

*ngo5 caa1di1 jing6-m4-dou2 keoi5*

I almost recognise-not-COMP him/her

"I almost cannot recognise him."

(73) 你唔好將啲嘢隨處掉喇！

*nei5 m4hou2 zoeng1 di1 je5 ceoi4cyu3 deu6 laa1*

you do-not PREP PL thing everywhere put FP

"Don't put the things everywhere."

Previous studies on scope adverbs in Mandarin Chinese put much emphasis on 都 *dōu*. This is because this adverb causes ambiguity when two or more elements come before or after it and can be modified by it, and it will thus be difficult to determine which element the scope adverb 都 *dōu* is in fact modifying (Chao Yuen Ren, 1968:780. See also Zhu Dexi, 1982:195-196).

Recent research reveals that besides being used as a scope adverb, 都 *dōu* can also be a modal adverb (see Shi Xiyao, 1990; Chen Zhijiao, 1996; Guo Chungui,

1997; Yang Mansheng, 1998; Jiang Yan, 1998; Wang Hong, 1999; among others for discussion). Wang (1999) demonstrates three common sentence structures in which this modal adverb 都 *dōu* occurs while Guo (1997) identifies that it expresses three emotional colourings: dissatisfaction, persuasion and regret.

Cantonese adopts the same adverb 都 *dou1* from Mandarin Chinese with some changes in meaning; there is one particular meaning of this Cantonese adverb that is missing in its Mandarin Chinese counterpart. As a scope adverb, it means the first kind, "all", and the fifth kind of scope, "also".

(74) 人都走晒咯，做鬼做馬咩！

*jan4 dou1 zau2-saai3 lok3 zou6gwai2zou6maa5 me1*

people all gone-COMP FP no-point-in-working FP

"People have all left. There is no point in working any more."

(75) 你去咩？我都去喎。

*nei5 heoi3 me1 ngo5 dou1 heoi3 wo3*

you come FP I also come FP

"You will come there? Me too!"

As a modal adverb, sometimes it expresses speaker's reservations in admitting something. This particular use of the Cantonese adverb 都 *dou1* is missing in Mandarin Chinese, where another adverb 還 *hái* is used instead. In most of the cases, the modal adverb 都 *dou1* is simply used to express emphasis.

(76) 哩條裙都唔錯。

*ni1 tiu4 kwan4 dou1 m4co3*

this M skirt after-all nice

"This skirt is nice after all."

Cf. (77) 這條裙子還不錯。

*zhèi tiáo qúnzi hái bùcuò*

this M skirt after-all nice

"This skirt is nice after all."

(78) 我都話唔得閒咯！

*ngo5 dou1 waa6 m4 daak1haan4 lok3*

I EMPH say not available FP

"I have told you that I was not available."

## 4.8 TIME ADVERB (T)

Time adverbs are those adverbs referring to the time or frequency or period of time which the sentence specifies. They can express different temporal meanings, according to Wang Li (1959:274-280), who divides time adverbs into eight distinct temporal senses. Lu Jianming and Ma Zhen (1999), on the other hand, divide time adverbs into two major groups of definite and non-definite temporal specification on the grounds that very few time adverbs are fixed in referring to a definite time in the past, present or future. They note that approximately 80% time adverbs are not fixed in this way.

Cantonese time adverbs behave exactly like their Mandarin Chinese counterparts in this regard. Time adverbs like 跟手 *gan1sau2* "next" and 即刻 *zik1haak1* "immediately" can be used to denote both future and past, and both present and past, respectively.

(79) 你行先，我跟手嚟駕嘍。

*nei5 haang4 sin1 ngo5 gan1sau2 lai4 gaa3 laa3*

you walk first I next come FP FP

"You set out first. I will follow in a minute."

(80) 嗰晚佢食完飯，跟手就搭車返咗廣州。

*go2 maan1 keoi5 sik6-jyun4 faan6 gan1sau2 zau6 daap3 cel faan1-zo2 gwong2zau1*

that night s/he eat-COMP rice next as-soon-as take-a-ride-on car return-ASP

Guangzhou

"That night, after he had the meal, he took a ride on a bus and returned Guangzhou."

(81) 你等我，我而家即刻嚟。

*nei5 dang2 ngo5 ngo5 ji4gaal zik1haak1 lai4*

you wait-for I I now immediately come

"Just wait for me for a while. I come at once."

(82) 佢尋日俾人打劫，即刻報咗警。

*keoi5 cam4jat6 bei2 jan4 daa2gip3 zik1haak1 bou3-zo2 ging2*

s/he yesterday by people rob immediately reported-ASP police

"As soon as he was robbed, he called the police."

However, time adverbs such as 試過 *si3gwo3* "once" and 第二時 *dai6ji6si4* "later" are used to denote, respectively, past and future only.

(83) 我試過驚到唔識出聲。

*ngo5 si3gwo3 geng1-dou3 m4 sik1 ceot1seng1*

I before frightened-COMP not know speak

"Once I was so frightened that I did not know how to respond."

(84) 我哋第二時再傾喇。

*ngo5dei6 dai6ji6si4 zoi3 king1 laal*

we later again talk FP

"We can talk to each other later."

In the present study, Cantonese adverbs are therefore further divided into three types: past/present/future time adverbs, frequency time adverbs and duration time adverbs. Past/present/future time adverbs are not distinguished separately but grouped as a whole so as to avoid implying that an adverb should refer to a definite time. Frequency time adverbs refer to the frequency at which an action occurs, for example, 郁的 *juk1di1* "frequently", 無幾何 *mou5gei2ho2* "rarely", etc.

(85) 佢郁的就鬧人。

*keoi5 yuk1di1 zau6 naau6 jan4*

s/he frequently as-early-as scold people

"She scolded others frequently."

- (86) 你無幾何嚟探我。  
*nei5 mou5gei2ho2 lai4 taam3 ngo5*  
 you rarely come visit I  
 "You seldom come to see me."

Duration time adverbs refer to the duration for which an action lasts, for instance, 枕長 *zam2coeng4* "for a long time", 轉吓眼 *zyun2haa5ngaan5* "in an instant", etc.

- (87) 我枕長住喺醫院。  
*ngo5 zam2coeng4 zyu6 hai2 ji1jyun2*  
 I for-a-long-time live at hospital  
 "I have been living in hospital for a long time."

- (88) 佢轉吓眼唔見咗人。  
*keoi5 zyun2haa5ngaan5 m4-gin3-zo2 jan4*  
 s/he in-an-instant not-see-ASP people  
 "He just disappeared in an instant."

## 4.9 FINAL REMARKS

The above classification of adverbs into sub-categories is largely based on meanings. This way of classifying adverbs has been adopted by previous studies as mentioned in the introductory section of this chapter. It is not without its own shortcoming though. Nakaruma (1997:252) has pointed out that it is difficult to explain why semantic paraphrases hold. Moreover, the fact that an adverb expresses more than one grammatical meaning<sup>16</sup> makes the borderline among different sub-types of adverbs blurred; hence, subcategorisation based on meanings is not at all robust and has to be critically reconsidered (Ramat and Ricca 1998:247).

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<sup>16</sup> For some evidence on the polysemous nature of adverbs, see, for example, Tao Hongyin (2000) who states that a class of adverbs (*conglai* 從來, *shizhong* 始終, *xianglai* 向來, *yixiang* 一向, *quanran* 全然, *genben* 根本, *benlai* 本來, and *yizhi* 一直) in Chinese have two kinds of grammatical meanings, time and assertiveness where the latter, subjective meaning is evoked by the former, objective meaning.

As Yang Rongxiang (2000:53) notes, "it is suggested that the further classification of adverbs into sub-categories should observe not only the standard of semantic features but also that of combining functions. The two standards should permeate each other and prove each other." In other words, Yang emphasises that any meaning-based classification of adverbs into smaller groups has to be syntactically substantiated.<sup>17</sup>

One of the "combining functions" Yang mentions refers to the fact that different adverb sub-classes tend to modify different elements, for instance, verb phrase, adjective phrase, even the whole clause. This will be discussed in the next chapter. It will be shown that the sub-classes of adverbs do have different choices in modifying other elements; thus this further classification of adverbs is justified syntactically (see Chapter 5, section 4).

<i>Adverb Subclasses</i>	<i>Grammatical Meanings (if any)</i>	<i>Examples</i>
<b>Conjunctive Adverb</b>	Linking	就，咪
<b>Degree Adverb</b>	Highest	至
	High	咁(鬼)，哽
	High-intermediate	相當(之)，靈舍
	Intermediate	算，比較(上)
	Low	有啲，輕輕
<b>Manner Adverb</b>	Repetitive action	又試，三番四次
	Pace of action	擒擒青，嗶嗶聲
	Action in deliberation	專程，特登
	Action in succession	連氣，連隨
	Action in randomness	笠亂，亂(咁)
	Involuntary action	夾硬，監粗
<b>Modal Adverb</b>	Action in secret	偷偷地，靜雞雞
	Level of Certainty/Doubt	
	◇ <i>Highly Certain</i>	認真，十成十
	◇ <i>Less Certain</i>	九成，多數
	◇ <i>Partly certain and partly doubtful</i>	唔多唔少，少不免

<sup>17</sup> "劃分副詞次類，在沒有找到單純依據語法功能特徵作為分類標準的條件下，可以根據語義特徵來分類，但是，這樣分出的次類，一定要能從功能方面得到驗證，即每個次類都要有自己內部大致一致的語法功能特徵。" p.57

	◇ <i>Doubtful</i>	
	Speaker's Attitude	玩吓手，或者
	◇ <i>Surprise</i>	
	◇ <i>Determination</i>	點(不)知，竟然
	◇ <i>Speaker's expectations</i>	一於，幾大
	◇ <i>Opposed speaker's expectations</i>	都係，情願
	◇ <i>Concession</i>	硬係，偏偏
	◇ <i>Strong emotions or emphasis</i>	話晒，好好醜醜
	◇ <i>Suggestion or persuasion</i>	直情，先(至)
	◇ <i>Contrary fact</i>	千祈，何苦
	◇ <i>Understanding</i>	反為，實則
	Speaker's Viewpoint	原來，唔怪(之)得 計正，聽講(話)
<b>Negation Adverb</b>	"not"	唔，無
<b>Scope Adverb</b>	"All" are affected	𠵼𠵼𠵼，通通
	"Part" are affected	淨係，偏偏
	Upper limit	頂多，極其量
	Lower limit	起碼，座底
	Addition	亦(都)，又
	Total number	足足，加加埋埋
	Approximate number	約莫，大大話話
	"Almost"	差啲，幾乎
	Spatial scope	隨地，到處
<b>Time Adverb</b>	Past/present/future time reference	試過，第二時
	Frequency	郁啲，無幾何
	Duration	枕長，轉吓眼

*Table 3: Subclassification of adverbs in Cantonese and their grammatical meanings*

All the examples of these seven types of adverbs are given in Appendix 2. Note that distinct senses of an adverb are represented by subscripted small letters, a, b, c, etc. Manner adverbs, among all, take up the largest proportion. This fact perhaps reflects that adverbs are mainly used for describing the manner in which an action is taken place.

# 5 Syntactic Functions of Adverbs

## 5.1 INTRODUCTION

When a word class is defined, the main emphasis is given to its members: which word should be included and which should not. Even if it might be possible to list out all the members of a word class, it is not of great importance in the study of grammar, which aims at establishing rules for descriptively or prescriptively correct use of language. As Chao Yuen Ren (1968:497) points out, "while it is logically sufficient to define classes by enumeration, it may not seem satisfactory from the point of grammar, and we shall try to state whatever common property the class may have".

Another means of classifying words is by morphological characteristics; in English, it is not difficult to find that nearly most of the adverbs are morphologically marked by the derivational suffix *-ly* as in *obviously* (Kjellmer, 1984:1; Burton-Roberts, 1991:165). Other adverbs with no such common property should be marked as exceptional. Nevertheless, Cantonese adverbs, like Mandarin Chinese counterparts, are not overtly marked by any morphological characteristics. Therefore, we should, again, find another means to determine the common property of adverbs. Chao suggests, "most words, however, belong to one part of speech or another by virtue of their positions in functional frames" (p.501), in addition to what he notes earlier that "the majority of Chinese words should have limited functions" (p.498). In other words, the common property of a class of words should be determined by their positions in a functional frame, or simply, by their functions.



According to Chao Yuen Ren (1968:767), "adverbs are attributes or modifiers, of verbs, including adjectives, and of other adverbs, as in 先走 *xiān zǒu* 'go first', 最美 *zuì měi* 'most beautiful', 不一定 *bù yīdìng* 'not necessarily'". English adverbs more or less function in the same way. Quirk and Greenbaum (1973:125) states that "there are two types of syntactic function that characterise adverbs, but an adverb need have only one of these:

- (1) Adverbial
- (2) Modifier of adjective and adverb".

They do not exactly point out as Chao does that adverbs are modifiers of verbs. However, they further classify adverbial as mentioned in (1) above into three types, semantically. They are called adjuncts, disjuncts and conjuncts, which are named differently as circumstance adverbials, stance adverbials and linking adverbials, respectively, in the *Longman Grammar of the Spoken and Written English* (1999).

As Hoyer (1997:24) points out, this classification of adverbs suggests that adverbs may function intrasententially (where they are relatively integrated within clause structure), sententially (where they are relatively peripheral to clause structure) or intersententially (where they have a linking function and conjoin clauses). Similarly, Jin Conggao (2000) divides adverbs into two major groups, word-modifying adverbs and sentence-modifying adverbs solely on the basis of their syntactic functions. These two studies both serve as a good testimony of the contention given by Greenbaum (1969:15) that "there is a gradient of integration of adverbs in the clause and not a sharp break between the integrated and the unintegrated".

More specifically, adjuncts or circumstance adverbials provide information about the action or state described in the clause by specifying time, place or manner. In other words, they modify the verb with respect to three domains, namely time, place and manner. Hence, although Quirk and Greenbaum do not clearly state that

adverbs are modifiers of verbs, they do mention that adverbs syntactically function as adjuncts which "are integrated within the structure of the clause to at least some extent".

On the other hand, Chao's explanation on functions of adverbs is not without its own shortcoming. Some adverbs are not necessarily modifiers of verbs (Tao Hongyin, 2000), adjectives, and other adverbs. Chao divides adverbs into several sub-classes, among which, he proposes adverbs of evaluation and adverbs of contingency. He does not explain explicitly what these two sub-classes of adverbs mean semantically. However, as their names suggest and as inferred from the examples given, these adverbs provide information about speaker's judgment or evaluation on the situation described in the clause as in the former, and epistemic condition on the clause as in the latter. These two sub-classes of adverbs are not restricted to modify verbs or verb phrases but modify the clause as adverbial. It is therefore not sufficient to claim that adverbs function primarily as modifiers of verbs only (Schank, 1974:66; cf. Yang Defeng, 1999).

To my knowledge, the *Longman Grammar of the Spoken and Written English* (1999) gives the simplest but insightful remarks on functions of adverbs that adverbs function as an element of the clause [as adverbial] or they are integrated into an element of the clause [as modifier]. By the same token, adverbs in Cantonese serve two major functions: firstly, by **functioning in a phrase**, an adverb may be a modifier of verb phrase, adjective phrase and noun phrase; secondly, by **functioning in a clause**, an adverb serves as an adverbial.

## 5.2 FUNCTIONS IN A PHRASE

### 5.2.1 Modifier of Verb Phrase

After careful examination of the corpus, it was found that manner, degree, scope and negation adverbs modify verb phrases.

**Manner adverbs** modify verb phrases by being put as close to the verb phrases as possible. This fact is reflected by the observation that when the verb phrase consists of both an auxiliary verb and a main verb, the manner adverb tends to be placed after the auxiliary verb rather than before it, so as to be nearer to the verb phrase it modifies (Wong, 2001a; 2001b). As shown in the following examples, manner adverbs follow auxiliary verbs such as 會 *wui5* "could", 可以 *ho2ji5* "can" and 想 *soeng2* "wish to" and immediately precede main verbs.

- (1) 我諗佢唔會特登撞我啱。

*ngo5 nam2 keoi5 m4 wui5 dak6dang1 zong6 ngo5 gwaa3*

I think he not could intentionally hit me FP

"I didn't think he intentionally hit me."

- (2) 即係諗住盡量唔好問呢，噉變咗的人呢就可以快啲的完結嗰個。

*zik1hai6 nam2-zyu6 zeon6loeng6 m4hou2 man6 nel gam2 bin3-zo2 dil jan4 nel zau6 ho2ji5 faai3dil jyun4git3 go2 go3*

that-is think-ASP as-much-as-possible do-not ask MP such-that turn-out-ASP PL people MP then can quickly finish that M

"That is I've tried not to ask, then people can finish (the discussion) earlier."

- (3) 我又唔想特登搬入嚟住喎。

*ngo5 jau6 m4 soeng2 dak6dang1 bun1 jap6lai4 zyu6 wo3*

I but not want intentionally move come-in live FP

"But I don't want to move in for this purpose."

Without auxiliary verbs, manner adverbs come immediately before the whole verb phrase.

- (4) 嗰的車呢亂咁查駕直情。

*go2 dil cel nel lyun2gam3 zaal gaa3 zik6cing4*

that PL car MP disorderly drive FP simply

"Those cars simply drove disorderly."

(5) 又一樣，哩件事照樣發生。  
*jau6 jat1 joeng6 nil gin6 si6 ziu3 joeng2 faat3 sang1*  
also same this M thing as-usual happen  
"The same thing happened."

(6) 點解佢猛咁撞呢？  
*dim2 gaai2 keoi5 maang5 gam3 zong6 nei1*  
why s/he desperately hit FP  
"Why did he hit you desperately?"

**Degree adverbs** and **scope adverbs**, like manner adverbs, are placed before the verb phrase. It is interesting to point out that in example (7) the degree adverb 好 *hou2* "very" is modifying the verb phrase made up of a psychological verb 怕 *paa3* "fear".<sup>18</sup> English degree adverbs, on the contrary, do not modify psychological verbs as in \**very like*<sup>19</sup> as well as \**very detest*<sup>20</sup>. This is one of the major differences between English and Chinese adverbs on modifying verb phrases.

(7) 我好怕嗰啲嘢。  
*ngo5 hou2 paa3 go2 di1 je5*  
I very fear that PL thing  
"I am scared of that thing."

(8) 完全無晒規律啊，我覺得，一放假。  
*gyun4 cyun4 mou5-saai3 kwai1 leot6 aa3 ngo5 gok3 dak1 jat1 fong3 gaa3*  
totally have-not-COMP order MP I think once have-holiday  
"Totally without any order, I think, once it's holiday."

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<sup>18</sup> See Yuan Mingjun (1999) for the types of verbs (other than psychological verbs) being modified by degree adverbs in Mandarin Chinese.

<sup>19</sup> C.f. Cantonese 好鍾意 *hou2 zung1 ji3* "like (it) very much"; Mandarin 很喜歡 *hěn xǐhuān* "like (it) very much"

<sup>20</sup> C.f. Cantonese 好憎 *hou2 zang1* "hate (it) very much"; Mandarin 很厭惡 *hěn yànwù* "hate (it) very much"

- (9) 佢淨係話呢，如果唔搭內陸機仲好喇。

*keoi5 zing6hai6 waa6 nei1 jyu4gwo2 m4 daap6 noi6luk6kei1 zung6 hou2 laa1*

s/he only say MP if not ride inland-plane even good FP

"He only said that it was even better not to take the inland-plane."

- (10) 但係亦都有嘅嘅可能佢瞓着咗呢。

*daan6hai6 jik6dou1 jau5 gam2 ge3 ho2nang4 keoi5 fan3zoek6-zo2 nei1*

but also have like-that GE possibility s/he fall-asleep-ASP FP

"But there was a possibility that he had fallen asleep."

When **negation adverbs** modify verb phrases, their positioning is largely dependent on the scope of negation. If they come before the auxiliary verb (shadowed), they negate both the auxiliary verb and the main verb. As in the examples below, negation adverbs negate the possibility of doing an action.

- (11) 跟住個導遊就話佢哋峇里島政府呢就規定咗個的樓呢，唔可以起得高過峇里島最高個椰子樹嚟。

*gan1zyu6 go3 dou6jau4 zau6 waa6 keoi5dei6 Baa1lei5dou2-zing3fu2 nei1 zau6*

*kwai1ding6-zo2 go2 di1 lau2 nei1 m4 ho2ji5 hei2-dak1 gou1gwo3 Baa1lei5dou2 zeoi3*

*gou1 go2 pol je4zilsyu6 lol*

then M tour-guide then say their Bali-government MP EMPH stipulate-ASP that PL

building MP not can build-COMP higher Bali most high that M coconut-tree FP

"Then, the tour guide said it was stipulated by the Bali government that no buildings were built higher than the highest coconut tree in Bali."

- (12) 我諗佢唔會特登撞我啫。

*ngo5 nam2 keoi5 m4 wui5 dak6dang1 zong6 ngo5 gwaa3*

I think s/he not could intentionally hit me FP

"I didn't think he intentionally hit me."

On the other hand, when they come after the auxiliary verb, they negate only the main verb. If we move the negation adverbs from their original position to a new one i.e. after the auxiliary verb, the sentences would mean differently: they express the possibility of not doing an action, like the following fabricated examples with the negation adverb being transposed from its original location:

- (13) 跟住個導遊就話佢哋峇里島政府呢就規定咗嗰嘅樓呢，可以唔起得高過峇里島最高個棵椰子樹囉。

*gan1zyu6 go3 dou6jau4 zau6 waa6 keoi5dei6 Baa1lei5dou2-zing3fu2 nel zau6  
kwai1ding6-zo2 go2 di1 lau2 nel ho2ji5 m4 hei2-dak1 gou1gwo3 Baa1lei5dou2 zeoi3  
gou1 go2 po1 je4zilsyu6 lo1*

then M tour-guide then say their Bali-government MP EMPH stipulate-ASP that PL building MP can not build-COMP higher Bali most high that M coconut-tree FP

"Then, the tour guide said it was stipulated by the Bali government that buildings could be built not higher than the highest coconut tree in Bali."

- (14) 我諗佢會唔特登撞我掛。

*ngo5 nam2 keoi5 wui5 m4 dak6dang1 zong6 ngo5 gwaa3*

I think s/he could not intentionally hit me FP

"I thought he could not intentionally hit me."

Without auxiliary verbs, negation adverbs are normally put before verb phrases in modifying them.

- (15) 因為佢嗰陣時呢，我哋報名嘅時候，佢無講俾我哋聽囉。

*jan1wai6 keoi5 go2zan6si4 nel ngo5dei6 bou3meng2 ge3 si4hau6 keoi5 mou5 gong2  
bei2 ngo5dei6 teng1 gaa3*

because it by-that-time MP we enroll GE time s/he have-not tell to us listen FP

"By the time we enrolled in the tour, he didn't tell us about it."

- (16) 不過我平時無乜用囉。

*bat1gwo3 ngo5 ping4si4 mou5mat1 jung6 gaa3 wo3*

but I normally almost-not use FP FP

"But I don't use (it) very often."

## 5.2.2 Modifier of Adjective Phrase

In English, adverbs can either premodify or postmodify adjectives, as illustrated in the following examples.

- (17) He is a *very interesting* person.  
 (18) It is a *really beautiful* place.  
 (19) The box is not *large enough*.  
 (20) This seems *long ago*.

Similarly, in Cantonese, degree adverbs and negation adverbs are premodifiers of adjective phrases and some scope adverbs, for example, 咁滯 *gam3zai6* "almost" and 乜滯 *mat1zai6* "almost" postmodifiers.

- (21) 噉個餐就幾好囉我覺得。  
*gam2 go2 caan1 zau6 gei2 hou2 lo1 ngo5 gok3dak1*  
 IP that M EMPH quite good FP I think  
 "I thought that meal was quite good."
- (22) 係咪因為架車郁得太緊要啊？  
*hai6-mai6 jan1wai6 gaa3 ce1 juk1-dak1 taai3 gan2jiu3 aa3*  
 be-then because M car shake-COMP too serious FP  
 "Is it the case that the bus had been shaken too seriously?"
- (23) 唔靚嗰的唔會要囉。  
*m4 leng3 go2 di1 m4 wui5 jiu3 gaa3*  
 not pretty that PL not will need FP  
 "I won't buy those which are not good."
- (24) 佢無話咁絕情嘅。  
*keoi5 mou5waa6 gam3 zyut6cing4 ge3*  
 s/he never so cruel FP  
 "He is never so cruel."
- (25) 噉我已經暈咁滯喺坐喺裏便。  
*gam2 ngo5 ji5ging1 wan4 gam3zai6 laa3 co5 hai2 leoi5bin6*  
 IP I already faint almost FP sit at inside  
 "I almost fainted inside the bus."

(26) 啲橙好大個，又甜。

*di1 caang2 hou2 daai6 go3 jau6 tim4*

PL orange very big M also sweet

"The oranges are very big and they taste good."

### 5.2.3 Apparent Modifier of Prepositional Phrase

English adverbs premodify prepositions or prepositional phrases as in "The nail went *right* through the wall." given by Quirk and Greenbaum (1973:127). Chao Yuen Ren does not comment on the capability of Chinese adverbs as modifiers of prepositions or prepositional phrases. Ding Shengshu et al. (1979:7), however, point out that adverbs can be modifiers of prepositions in Mandarin Chinese.

(27) 只把這個問題提出來。

*zhǐ bǎ zhège wèntí tí chūlai*

only PREP this-M question put-forward come-out

"Only this question is put forward (for discussion)."

However, this example should not be regarded as an illustration of an adverb modifying a preposition or prepositional phrase. Semantically speaking, the adverb 只 *zhǐ* modifies the object of preposition, 這個問題 *zhège wèntí* "this question". In other words, the adverb is semantically modifying the object of preposition, which is a noun phrase, but not the preposition or prepositional phrase. On the other hand, syntactically speaking, the adverb is modifying both the prepositional phrase and the following verb. To put it another way, the adverb is not modifying the prepositional phrase alone. Hence, from both the semantic and syntactic perspectives, an adverb in Mandarin does not serve as a modifier of prepositional phrase.

Following on from this, the fact that an adverb comes immediately before a preposition or prepositional phrase does not necessarily imply that the former modifies the latter, as illustrated in the examples (28) and (29). In example (28), the degree adverb 好 *hou2* "very" is put before the prepositional phrase, highlighted with shadowing here, but it is actually modifying the **adjective phrase** 唔公平 *m4*



*gung1ping4*. Similarly, in example (29), the same degree adverb 好 is modifying the adjective 驚 *geng1* "frightened" that follows the prepositional phrase 戥佢 *dang6 keoi5*. The prepositional phrases in both sentences give us information about the target that the speakers want to comment on.

(28) 你唔覺得好對個廠商唔公平嘅咩？

*nei5 m4 gok3dak1 hou2 deoi3 go2 go3 cong2soeng1 m4 gung1ping4 ge3 me1*

you not think very to that M company not fair FP FP

"Do you think it's really very unfair to the company?"

(29) 真係好戥佢驚囑。

*zan1hai6 hou2 dang6 keoi5 geng1 gaa3*

really very for him/her fear FP

"I feel really very worried for him."

Other examples include adverbs modifying **verb phrases** that, again, follow prepositional phrases expressing the target, place and agent of action.

(30) 夾硬將自己呢隻腳呢紮住佢。

*gaap3ngaang2 zoeng1 zi6gei2 nel zek3 goek3 nel zaak3-zyu6 keoi5*

grudgingly PREP oneself MP M feet MP tie-COMP it

"She just grudgingly tied up her feet."

(31) 啱啱同我調轉。

*ngaam1ngaam1 tung4 ngo5 diu6zyun3*

exactly to me opposite

"(Yours) is exactly opposite to mine."

(32) 嗰佢實無係 Body Shop 幫我買嘢喇。

*o4 keoi5 sat6 mou5 hai2 body shop bong1 ngo5 maai5 je5 laa1*

IP s/he certainly have-not at body shop help me buy thing FP

"He certainly hadn't helped me buy something from Body Shop."

(33) 但係佢無俾人哋柴臺咩？

*daan6 hai6 keoi5 mou5 bei2 jan4 dei6 caai4 toi4 mei*

but s/he have-not by people boo-off FP

"But had he been booed off by others?"

## 5.2.4 Modifier of Noun Phrase

It has often been stated in the literature that English adverbs do not modify noun phrases; however, some of the adverbs that are premodifiers of an adjective display an orientation to a co-occurring noun subject (Valera, 1998). As in the following examples taken from Valera's study (1998:264), adverbs that are capable to acquire an implicit intensive relationship with the subject of a sentence are said to be subject-oriented.

(34) In the old days, she had been harsh and stiff; afraid of her husband and yet *arrogantly* proud that she had a husband strong and fierce enough to make her afraid.

(35) His women are *excitingly* depraved, but they aren't sick, they are anything but sick; they convey a terrific sense of well-being.

This subject-orientation of adverbials transfers the primary reference or characterisation of the adverbial from the adjective to the accompanying subject. Syntactically, the adverbs are still modifying the adjectives.

In Mandarin Chinese, Chao Yuen Ren (1968:767) is arguably the first to point out that adverbs can modify nouns to a certain extent: "[a]n adverb does not normally modify nouns. When it does, it really modifies the noun or the nominal expression as a predicate or, more questionably, as a subject". Until recently, Zhang Yisheng's (2000:153-179) study on this issue offers the most perceptive insights into the semantic properties of nouns that enable them to be modified by adverbs. His study, to the best of my knowledge, is the most comprehensive description of adverbs modifying nouns.

At first sight, Cantonese adverbs are like Mandarin Chinese ones in that they can be used to modify noun phrases as predicate and subject.

- (36) 而家先(至)一點鐘。(predicate)  
*ji4gaal sin1(zi3) jat1 dim2zung1*  
now just one o'clock  
"It's just one o'clock now."
- (37) 你直情傻瓜喇！(predicate)  
*nei5 zik6cing4 so4gwaa1 laa1*  
you simply a-fool FP  
"You are simply a fool!"
- (38) 但係個個人都會有啲關於去旅行嘅時候呢，嗰啲的鬼故囉。(subject)  
*daan6hai6 go3go3 jan4 dou1 wui5 jau5 di1 gwaan1jyu1 heoi3 lei5shang4 ge3 si4hau6*  
*nel go2 di1 gwai2gu2 gaa3*  
but every people all could have PL about go travelling GE time MP that PL ghost-story  
FP  
"But everyone could have got some ghost stories about their own travelling."
- (39) 係噏問埋晒啲的呢懶係呢即係淨係佢做嗰啲的先識嗰啲嘢呢。(subject)  
*hai6gam2 man6-maa4-saa3 di1 nel laan2 hai6 nel zik1hai6 zing6hai6 keoi5 zou6*  
*go2 di1 sin1 sik1 go2 di1 je5 nel*  
continuously ask-COMP-COMP PL MP pretended be MP that-is only s/he do that PL  
then know that PL stuff FP  
"They just kept asking stuff that seemed to be understood only by people in the  
industry."

Nevertheless, what is striking about Cantonese adverbs and makes it different from Mandarin Chinese adverbs is that they are not restricted to modify noun phrases functioning as predicate and subject only. They are relatively free in modifying noun phrases as **object**, as illustrated using **scope adverbs** in the following.

- (40) 但係哩個嚴重嘅情況即係唔係淨係今年個喎。(object)  
*daan6hai6 ni1 go3 jim4zung6 ge3 cing4fong3 zik1hai6 m4 hai6 zing6hai6 gam1nin2*  
*go3 wo3*  
 but this M serious GE situation that-is not be only this-year FP FP  
 "But this situation happens not only this year."
- (41) 我由個 lobby 呢行到去我間房要成十幾分鐘嘞。(object)  
*ngo5 jau4 go3 lobby ne1 haang4-dou3 heoi3 ngo5 gaan1 fong2 jiu3 seng4 sap6gei2*  
*fan1zung1 ge2*  
 I from M lobby MP walk-COMP to my M room have approximately ten-something  
 minutes FP  
 "It took almost more than ten minutes to walk back to my room from the lobby."
- (42) 跟住計起上嚟年薪過三十萬咁滯喇差唔多。(object)  
*gan1zyu6 gai3-hei2soeng5lai4 nin4san1 gwo3 saam1sap6 maan6 gam3zai6 laa1*  
*caa1m4do1*  
 then calculate-COMP yearly-salary over thirty ten-thousand almost FP almost  
 "The annual salary is almost over three hundred thousands."

In particular, **degree adverbs** are remarkably free in modifying noun phrases in both Cantonese and Mandarin Chinese. Many Chinese linguists have noticed that "Adverb of Degree + Noun" structure is growing more and more popular in both spoken and written language, and studied the syntactic, semantic and pragmatic aspects of this construction (Chu Zexiang and Liu Jiasheng, 1997; Xing Fuyi, 1997; Wang Xiaoxin and Zhang Ge, 1998; Lei Jiezhen, 1999; Xia Huimin, 1999; Ren, Zhijing, 2001). However, the use of degree adverbs in modifying noun phrases in Cantonese does not exhibit originality nor novelty as that in Mandarin Chinese. This is a commonplace in Cantonese conversational data. Some examples are given as follows.

- (43) 都係一啲好生活嘅一啲笑料嚟嘍。  
*dou1 hai6 jat1di1 hou2 sang1wut6 ge3 jat1di1 siu3liu2 lai4 gaa3*  
 all be one PL very daily-life GE one PL gag come FP  
 "They are all gags which are closely related to our daily life."

(44) 可能呢都會係講一啲的比較基層嘅市民。

*ngo2nang4 ne1 dou1 wui5 hai6 gong2 jat1 di1 bei2gaau3 gei1cang4 ge3 ci5man4*

perhaps MP after-all could be say one M relatively grass-roots GE citizens

"Perhaps, much has been said about people of relatively lower social class, the grass roots."

(45) 我覺得佢個樣好生意人啊。

*ngo5 gok3dak1 keoi5 go3 joeng2 hou2 saang1ji3jan4 aa3*

I feel his M appearance very businessman FP

"I think his appearance exactly looks like a businessman."

(46) 係啊，但係我今日我覺得諗住著白色又未到夏天喎，著咁夏天做乜嘢呀？

*hai6 aa3 daan6hai6 ngo5 gam1jat6 ngo5 gok3dak1 nam2-zyu6 zoek3 baak6sik1 jau6*

*mei6 dou3 haa6tin1 wo3 zoek3 gam3 haa6tin1 zou6 mat1je5 aal*

be FP but I today I feel think-ASP wear white-colour but not-yet come summer FP  
wear so summer do what FP

"Yes, actually today I am thinking about wearing white clothes but the summer has not come so why should I wear white colour, so summer-like?"

### 5.3 FUNCTION IN A CLAUSE – ADVERBIAL

On modifying clauses or sentences, time adverbs, modal adverbs and conjunctive adverbs are concerned. As Hoye (1997:145) points out, most grammars distinguish between adverbs which modify the sentences in which they occur, referred to as sentence-modifying adverbs, and those adverbs which modify a word or word-group within the sentence, traditionally known as word or word-group modifiers. It is clearer that modal adverbs and conjunctive adverbs modify on the sentence level than that time adverbs do as the former tend to be less closely related to the verb than the latter. Hence, it is not clear how the distinction between sentence modifiers and word-group modifiers should be made, as far as time adverbs are concerned.

Generally speaking, **time adverbs** specify the time, frequency and duration of, not only an action, but also the entire event. In particular, frequency time adverbs

specify how often the whole event recurs. We thus tentatively conclude that time adverbs are sentence adverbs and function in a sentence.

(47) 我嗰陣時呢，試過入去一間鋪頭呢，賣啲帽嘢。

*ngo5 go2zan6si4 nei si3gwo3 jap6heoi3 jat1 gaan1 pou3tau2 nei maai6 di1 mou2 gaa3*

I at-that-time MP once enter one M shop MP sell PL hat FP

"I once went to a shop selling hats."

(48) 佢不嬲都唔係喺廠度做文員。

*keoi5 bat1nau1 dou1 m4 hai6 hai2 cong2-dou6 zou6 man4jyun4*

s/he all-along EMPH not be at factory-LOC do clerk

"She wasn't working as a clerk at the factory at all."

**Modal adverbs** are mainly used to express speaker's attitude, certainty/doubt and point of view of the situation described in the clause. As they modify the whole sentence, they are not restricted to be placed as close to any sentence constituent as manner and degree adverbs are. They are mobile in their positioning in the sense that they can occur before the subject, after the subject, before the sentence boundary or after the sentence boundary (as marked by the final particles).

(49) 唔通你特登去問佢咩？

*m4tung1 nei5 dak6dang1 heoi3 man6 keoi5 mei*

rhetorical-question you deliberately go ask him/her FP

"You can't just ask her directly!"

(50) 唔係肥倫，肥倫我實認得喇。

*m4 hai5 Fei4leon4 Fei4leon4 ngo5 sat6 jing6-dak1 laa1*

not be Fat-Lun Fat-Lun I definitely recognise-COMP FP

"It's not Fat Lun, Fat Lun I could definitely recognise."

(51) 無乜去過乜嘢地方其實。

*mou5mat1 heoi3-gwo3 mat1je5 dei6fong1 kei4sat6*

almost-not go-ASP what place actually

"Actually, not many places had we visited."

- (52) 嗰啲車呢亂咁揸駕直情。  
*go2 di1 cel ne1 lyun2gam3 zaa1 gaa3 zik6cing4*  
 that PL car MP disorderly drive FP simply  
 "Those cars simply drove disorderly."

**Conjunctive adverbs** modify on the clause level as they typically connect two clauses.

- (53) 因為呢佢開咗冷氣就閉晒啲窗。  
*jan1wai6 ne1 keoi5 hoi1-zo2 laang5hei3 zau6 saan1-saai3 di1 coeng1*  
 because MP it open-ASP air-conditioning then close-COMP PL window  
 "Because all the windows were closed when air-conditioning was on."

- (54) 噉去到呢，佢就落車。  
*gam2 heoi3dou3 ne1 keoi5 zau6 lok6cel*  
 IP arrived MP s/he then get-off  
 "He got off when he arrived."

- (55) 搬入嚟架車咪擺擺喺哩邊囉。  
*bun1 jap6lai4 gaa3 cel mai6 baai2 baai2 hai2 nil bin1 lol*  
 move come-in M car then put put at this place FP  
 "If I move in, the car can be parked there."

## 5.4 SUBSTANTIATION OF SUB-CLASSIFICATION OF ADVERBS

As noted earlier, it is not objective enough to rely on meanings in sub-classification. It would be better if we can corroborate the sub-classification syntactically. In the present chapter, it was found that different sub-classes modify different elements, as illustrated in Table (4).

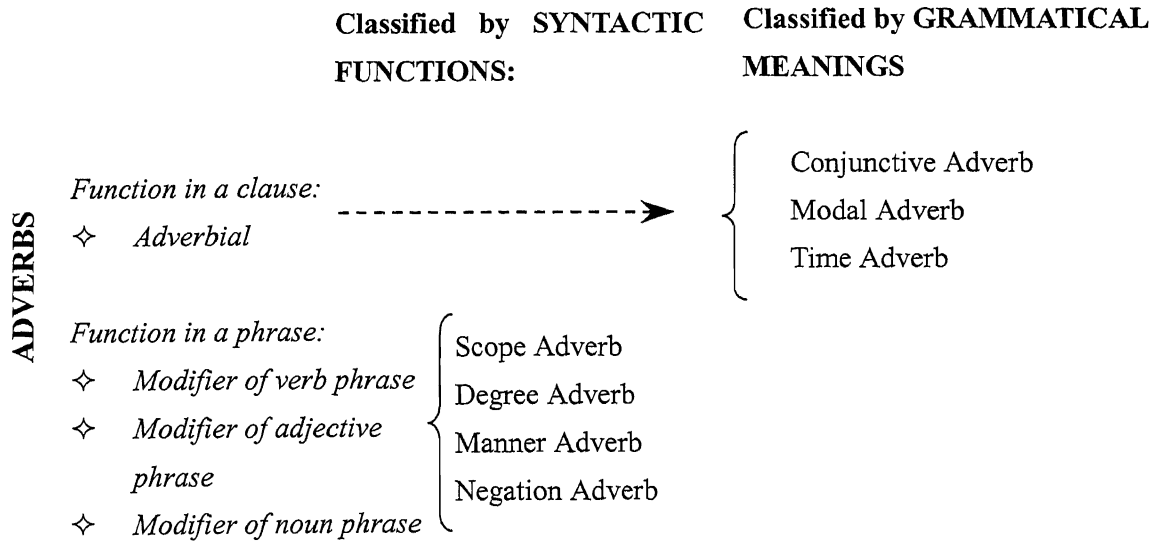
In this table, adverbs fall into two major divisions, one division in which its members function in a clause and the other division function in a phrase. The

former category differentiates between three adverb sub-classes, namely conjunctive adverbs, modal adverbs and time adverbs, according to their grammatical meanings. The latter category is taken up by the other adverb sub-classes, including scope adverbs, degree adverbs, manner adverbs and negation adverbs. They are distinguished from one another in modifying different elements syntactically.

<i>Adverb sub-classes</i>	<i>Modifier of Verb Phrase</i>	<i>Modifier of Adjective Phrase</i>	<i>Modifier of Noun Phrase</i>	<i>Modifier of a Clause</i>
Conjunctive Adverb				✓
Modal Adverb				✓
Time Adverb				✓
Scope Adverb	✓	✓	✓	
Degree Adverb	✓	✓	✓	
Manner Adverb	✓			
Negation Adverb	✓	✓		

**Table 4:** An illustration of different adverb sub-classes modifying different elements

Schematically, adverbs are subcategorised on both syntactic and semantic grounds as follows:



**Figure 3:** Syntactic and semantic subclassification of adverbs in Cantonese



## 5.5 SUMMARY

Cantonese adverbs can be modifiers of verb phrase, adjective phrase and noun phrase. Not every adverb is used in modifying these phrases. Manner, degree, scope and negation adverbs modify verb phrases. They are put as close to the verb phrases as possible, except negation adverbs whose positioning is governed by the scope of negation. Only degree, negation and scope adverbs are found to modify adjective phrases. Furthermore, degree adverbs and scope adverbs are used in modifying noun phrases. Adverbs do not modify prepositional phrases; rather, they modify the verb/adjective phrases that follow the prepositional phrases. Apart from functioning in a phrase as modifier, some adverbs can modify a clause or sentence as adverbial, namely time adverbs, modal adverbs and conjunctive adverbs.

### **A Contrastive Analysis of Cantonese, English and Mandarin Chinese on the Syntactic Functions of Adverbs:**

In the present study, Cantonese can be distinguished from English and Mandarin Chinese in the following ways (Wong, 2002).

#### Cantonese as distinguished from English:

- (1) English degree adverbs cannot modify psychological verbs but both Cantonese and Mandarin Chinese ones can do so.
- (2) English degree adverbs cannot function as modifier of noun phrase, in contrast to Cantonese and Mandarin Chinese ones.
- (3) English adverbs can premodify prepositions and prepositional phrases but both Cantonese and Mandarin Chinese ones cannot.

#### Cantonese as distinguished from Mandarin Chinese:

- (4) As modifiers of noun phrases, Cantonese adverbs exhibit their own peculiarities in that (i) scope adverbs can modify noun phrases as object, unlike their Mandarin counterparts; (ii) degree adverbs modifying nominal expressions is a commonplace in Cantonese whereas this is regarded as novelty in both spoken and written texts in Mandarin Chinese.

# 6 Conclusion and Further Research

This chapter concludes with the major findings of the present study. It also presents some suggestions on possible further research that could be conducted on Cantonese adverbs.

## 6.1 CONCLUSIONS

The present study gives a fairly comprehensive list of 544 Cantonese adverbs, as exemplified in Appendix 1. More than half of the adverbs are disyllabic, which are overwhelmingly cognates of Mandarin. By contrast, Cantonese-specific adverbs are predominantly trisyllabic and polysyllabic, suggesting that polysyllabicity is one of the characteristics of Cantonese-specific adverbs. Furthermore, at least 17 recurrent patternings are found to be typically associated with disyllabic, trisyllabic and polysyllabic adverbs, and reduplication, among these systematic patterns, is another characteristics of Cantonese-specific adverbs.

All the adverbs collected in this study are further classified into seven types in Appendix 2 to reflect their shared grammatical meanings such as manner, time, scope, etc. Not only are these adverb sub-classes distinct from one another semantically, they differ syntactically in modifying different elements in the clause. These syntactic properties evidently give support to the semantic classification of adverbs proposed in the present study.

Apart from offering some observations on the morphology and semantics of Cantonese adverbs, this study also examines their syntactic characteristics. Traditionally, an adverb is treated as a modifier of the verb/adjective. Chao Yuen Ren (1968:767) insightfully adds that an adverb can modify a noun phrase which functions as a predicate or subject of the sentence. Cantonese adverbs, as previously mentioned, do exhibit all these syntactic properties.

More importantly, adverbs in Cantonese are distinguished from their counterparts in English and Mandarin Chinese in modifying noun phrases. In contrast to English degree adverbs which do not normally modify a noun phrase, Cantonese degree adverbs do. Furthermore, Cantonese adverbs of scope modify noun phrases functioning as object in a clause, as opposed to those in Mandarin Chinese.

## 6.2 AREAS OF FUTURE RESEARCH

One thing is clear from the review of the observations that the current study made – Cantonese adverbs exhibit peculiar properties in different aspects of grammar. In this section, we would like to suggest research area where other interesting characteristics of adverbs are possibly found.

### 6.2.1 Productivity of Adverbs

There are about 50 monosyllabic adverbs found in the present study. These adverbs differ from one another in their productivity in that some of them are used with more verbs/adjectives, that is to say, more productive, than the others. These productive adverbs are 白 *baak6* "in vain", 重 *cung4* "again", 亂 *lyun2* "thoughtlessly", 最 *zeoi3* "the most", 專 *zyun1* "specially", 惡 *ngok3* "with difficulty", 實 *sat6* "certainly", 盡 *zeon6* "exhaustively", etc. Other adverbs are less productive, for example, 初 *col* "at first", 新 *san1* "newly", etc. Even less productive ones are mostly adverbs adopted from the Mandarin Chinese such as 半

*bun3* "half", 乾 *gon1* "in a dry manner", 力 *lik6* "make every effort", 漫 *maan6* "casually", 誤 *m6* "mistakenly", 互 *wu6* "each other", 直 *zik6* "straight; directly", etc. We can look more closely at the productivity of these monosyllabic adverbs in further research. We can also consider the productivity of disyllabic and polysyllabic adverbs likewise.

## 6.2.2 Distribution of Adverbs (with respect to sentence types)

Modal adverbs tend to differ with respect to their occurrence in different sentence types (see, for example, Duan Yehui, 1999). Some modal adverbs, for instance, 唔通 *m4tung1* "can it be that", 究竟 *gau3ging2* "actually" and 到底 *dou3dai2* "actually" are usually used in interrogative sentences. Other adverbs such as 夠 *gau3* "too" and 簡直 *gaan2zik6* "simply" are predominantly used in exclamatory sentences and adverbs like 何必 *ho4bit1* "why bother", 何苦 *ho4fu2* "why bother", 有幾何 *jau5gei2ho2* "seldom" and 唔通 *m4tung1* "expressing rhetorical question" in rhetorical questions. Furthermore, some adverbs must be used in negation sentences, namely 好日 *hou2jat6* "rarely; seldom", 乜滯 *mat1zai6* "not quite", 未嘗 *mei6soeng4* "not" and 無日 *mou5jat6* "all the time". The distribution of adverbs in different types of sentences could be subject to further research in order to gain better insight into the pragmatic functions of these adverbs.

## 6.3 FINAL REMARKS

The present study has shed new light on the morphological, semantic and syntactic characteristics of Cantonese adverbs. Most importantly, the identification of adverbs in Cantonese will perhaps make the classification system of words more comprehensive and ultimately, make the process of the part-of-speech tagging easier.

# Appendix 1: A List of Cantonese Adverbs

No.	Cantonese Adverbs	Romanisation	Type <sup>a</sup>	Meanings	Example Sentences
1	擺明	<i>baai2ming4</i>	CS	"clearly"	你擺明玩我啫？
2	百般	<i>baak3bun1</i>	CM	"by every means"	佢簡直係百般刁難我喇。
3	白	<i>baak6</i>	CM	"in vain; for nothing"	呢次真係白做。
4	白白	<i>baak6baak6</i>	CM	"in vain; to no purpose"	我今次真係白白晒嘅錢。
5	嘅嘅聲	<i>baang4baang2seng1</i>	CS	"very quickly; at once"	仲唔嘅嘅聲出去搵佢？
6	包	<i>baau1</i>	CS	"certainly"	今日包佢落雨。
7	弊在	<i>bai6zoi6</i>	CS	"unfortunately"	佢弊在唔嚟得呢。
8	不特止	<i>bat1dak6zi2</i>	CS	"not only"	佢逃學不特止，仲偷野嘍。
9	不斷	<i>bat1dyun6</i>	CM	"continuously"	佢不斷炭頭。
10	不妨	<i>bat1fong4</i>	CM	"there is no harm in; might as well"	唔開心不妨搵個朋友出嚟傾吓。
11	不如	<i>bat1jyu4</i>	CM	"it would be better to"	啲嘢都做完晒，不如早啲走好過。
12	不期然	<i>bat1kei4jin4</i>	CS	"unexpectedly"	我不期然諗起一件事。
13	不愧	<i>bat1kwai5</i>	CM	"be worthy of"	你不愧係佢個好朋友。
14	不辮	<i>bat1lau1</i>	CS	"consistently; all along"	我不辮都係住嚟香港咯。
15	不知	<i>bat1zil</i>	CS	"to speaker's/hearer's surprise"	霆鋒個演唱會不知幾好啊。
16	比較(上)	<i>bei2gaau3(soeng6)</i>	CM	"fairly; rather"	哩種病比較難斷尾。
17	本來	<i>bun2loi4</i>	CM	"originally"	佢本來係個好人。
18	半	<i>bun3</i>	CM	"half"	半生熟；半新舊
19	差啲	<i>caal1dil</i>	CS	"almost"	我差啲認唔到佢。
20	查實	<i>caa4sat6</i>	CS	"in fact; actually"	查實，使唔使做呢？
21	齊齊	<i>cai4cai4</i>	CS	"together"	我哋齊齊去玩。
22	親口	<i>can1hau2</i>	CM	"(speak) personally"	佢親口同我講嘅。
23	親耳	<i>can1ji5</i>	CM	"(hear) personally"	我親耳聽到嘍。
24	親眼	<i>can1ngaan5</i>	CM	"(see) personally"	我親眼睇到嘍。
25	親手	<i>can1sau2</i>	CM	"with one's own hands"	你親手做嘍？
26	親自	<i>can1zi6</i>	CM	"in person"	麻煩你親自嚟攞番張信用咭嘍。
27	趁早	<i>can3zou2</i>	CM	"as early as possible"	你趁早報名咪驚無位囉。
28	曾經	<i>cang4ging1</i>	CM	"ever"	佢曾經坐過監。
29	脆脆哋	<i>ceoi3ceoi2dei2</i>	CS	"reluctantly; grudgingly"	你咪脆脆哋收咗份禮物佢囉。

30	隨處	ceoi4cyu3	CM	"everywhere"	你唔好將啲嘢隨處掉喇！
31	隨地	ceoi4dei6	CM	"anywhere"	佢隨地搵搵搵。
32	隨口	ceoi4hau2	CM	"(speak) thoughtlessly"	你咪隨口噏喎！
33	隨手	ceoi4sau2	CM	"conveniently"	佢隨手攞起把遮就走咗。
34	隨時	ceoi4si4	CM	"at all times"	老人家隨時有病痛。
35	始終	ci2zung1	CM	"after all"	佢始終都無嚟。
36	次次	ci3ci3	CS	"every time"	次次都遲成個鐘，係人都燂喇。
37	遲啲(再)	ci4dil(zoi3)	CS	"later"	我遲啲(再)還番啲錢俾你。
38	遲早	ci4zou2	CM	"some time in the future; some day"	間公司噉搞法，遲早要執笠。
39	似乎	ci5fu4	CM	"seemingly"	佢似乎唔信喎。
40	千祈	cin1kei4	CS	"for heaven's sake"	千祈唔好講俾人知。
41	前後	cin4hau6	CM	"altogether"	我前後去咗三次。
42	情願	cing4jyun2	CM	"would rather"	我情願行路都唔願坐車。
43	超	ciu1	CS	"super"	佢行得超快啊。
44	初	col	CM	"at first"	初學；初嚟
45	初初	colcol	CS	"at first"	佢初初唔制，卒之應承咗。
46	初頭	coltau4	CS	"at the beginning"	我初頭諗極都諗唔到點做。
47	長	coeng4	CS	"for a long time"	隻新股可以短炒，不宜長揸。
48	速速	cuk1cuk1	CS	"very quickly; at once"	發生車禍就速速報警喇。
49	重	cung4	CM	"again; once more"	你份功課要重做呀？
50	從來	cung4loi4	CM	"always; at all times"	哩個人好生面口，從來未見過。
51	重新	cung4san1	CM	"again; anew"	吓？又要重新做過呀？
52	從頭	cung4tau4	CM	"anew; once again"	你從頭背一次咗！
53	從中	cung4zung1	CM	"from among"	係唔係你响度從中搵鬼？
54	打掂	daa2dim6	CS	"vertically"	張牀打橫放唔落，打掂就得。
55	打戙	daa2dung6	CS	"vertically"	啲木料應該打戙放。
56	打孖	daa2maa1	CS	"in pair"	四支啤酒，同我打孖綁咗。
57	打橫	daa2waang4	CS	"horizontally"	張枱打橫放。
58	大大	daai6daai6	CM	"greatly; enormously"	無見兩年，佢大大唔同咗。
59	大大步	daai6daai6bou6	CS	"with wide steps"	佢大大步追上去。
60	大大啖	daai6daai6daam6	CS	"at a big mouthful"	佢大大啖吞落肚。
61	大大力	daai6daai6lik6	CS	"with a strong force"	個細路仔大大力推開度門。
62	大大聲	daai6daai6seng1	CS	"very loudly"	佢大大聲噏我個名。
63	大大話話	daai6daai6waa6waa6	CS	"approximately"	哩度大大話話都有成千人。
64	大啖大啖	daai6daam6daai6daam6	CS	"at a big mouthful"	個啤啤好鍾意牛奶，大啖大啖飲。
65	大約	daai6joek3	CM	"approximately"	哩班大約二十人。
66	大嚟嚟	daai6laa4laa4	CS	"as much as"	大嚟嚟幾萬蚊，我去邊度搵啊？
67	大力	daai6lik6	CM	"vigorously"	間公司大力推銷呢隻牌紙。
68	大略	daai6loek2	CM	"roughly"	你大略講吓你個構思喇。
69	大體(上)	daai6tai2(soeng6)	CM	"on the whole"	我大體上贊成你個講法。

70	大致(上)	daai6zi3(soeng6)	CM	"roughly; approximately; more or less"	間學校大致上無咩改變。
71	大早	daai6zou2	CS	"some time ago"	你大早又唔講?
72	單獨	daan1duk6	CM	"alone"	佢單獨留响屋企度。
73	單係	daan1hai6	CS	"only"	我單係買衫都買咗成千蚊。
74	第(二)日	dai6(ji6)jat6	CS	"later"	我哋第(二)日再傾喇。
75	第(二)時	dai6(ji6)si4	CS	"later; next time"	呢次比賽輸咗, 第(二)時再試過。
76	第一時間	dai6jat1si4gaan3	CS	"immediately"	佢一入門口, 就第一時間衝咗入廁所。
77	得滯	dak1zai6	CS	"too"	個 present 悶得滯, 啲人咪走晒囉。
78	特別	dak6bit6	CM	"particularly"	我今日特別好胃口。
79	特登	dak6dang1	CS	"for a special purpose; specially"	你特登噉做啲!
80	团团圍住	dam4dam4kwaak1	CS	"in a circle"	啲警察团团圍住班劫匪。
81	突然(之)間	dat6jin4(zi1)gaan1	CS	"suddenly"	我尋晚嗒嗒嗒突然(之)間紫醒咗。
82	的(而且)確	dik1(ji4ce2)kok3	CM	"indeed; really"	佢的確唔喺度住。
83	點(不)知	dim2(bat1)zil	CS	"unexpectedly"	佢點(不)知唔黎得喇。
84	點止	dim2zi2	CS	"not only"	去開會嘅人點止十幾人啊。
85	頂多	ding2do1	CM	"at the most"	佢頂多十五歲。
86	頂籠	ding2lung2	CS	"at the most"	呢度頂籠坐三十人。
87	疊埋心水	dip6maai4sam1seoi2	CS	"wholeheartedly; attentively"	佢疊埋心水讀書。
88	多多少少	dol1dol1siu2siu2	CS	"to a certain extent"	佢多多少少都知道自己唔啱。
89	多數	dol1sou3	CS	"probably; most likely"	雨咁大, 佢多數黎唔到喇。
90	當初	dong1co1	CM	"originally"	佢當初點同你講嘢?
91	當然	dong1jin4	CM	"of course"	佢當然唔黎喇, 佢去咗美國咁嗎。
92	當面	dong1min2	CM	"in somebody's presence"	大家當面講清楚至好。
93	當堂	dong1tong4	CS	"immediately"	佢當堂唔敢出聲。
94	當眾	dong1zung3	CM	"in the presence of all"	佢當眾鬧佢個女。
95	都	dou1	CM	"after all; rather" "also; as well" "expressing emphasis; already" "all"	件衫都唔錯。 我都去。 我都話唔得閒咯。 人都走晒咯, 做鬼做馬咩!
96	都係	dou1hai6	CS	"had better"	計我話都係留喺度好。
97	到處	dou3cyu3	CM	"everywhere"	佢到處話自己幾叻幾叻, 真係無聊!
98	到底	dou3dai2	CM	"actually; exactly"	你到底係咩意思?
99	到時	dou3si4	CS	"at that time"	時間預鬆啲, 到時至唔會咁

					趕。
100	到頭嚟	<i>dou3tau4lai4</i>	CS	"in the end; finally"	佢到頭嚟輸晒啲錢。
101	動不動	<i>dung6bat1dung6</i>	CM	"frequently"	佢動不動就發脾氣。
102	斷(斷)	<i>dyun6(dyun6)</i>	CS	"absolutely"	呢件事搵佢幫手, 佢斷(斷)唔會托手睇嘅。
103	快啲	<i>faai3di1</i>	CS	"quickly"	仲唔快啲撇?
104	快快脆脆	<i>faai3faai3ceoi3ceoi3</i>	CS	"quickly"	你一於快快脆脆食埋飯至去。
105	快手快腳	<i>faai3sau2faai3goek3</i>	CS	"quickly"	佢快手快腳執埋啲嘢。
106	反複	<i>faan2fuk1</i>	CM	"repeatedly"	你反複諗吓將個樣嘢擺喺响邊?
107	反而	<i>faan2ji4</i>	CM	"on the contrary"	佢叫我約人, 自己反而唔嚟。
108	反為	<i>faan2wai4</i>	CM	"on the contrary; instead"	我反為鍾意睇卡通片。
109	反正	<i>faan2zing3</i>	CM	"anyway"	我幫你咁, 反正我又無嘢做。
110	凡親	<i>faan4can1</i>	CS	"whenever"	佢凡親出街, 都帶埋隻狗。
111	分分鐘	<i>fan1fan1zung1</i>	CS	"at any time"	佢分分鐘會嚟搵你。
112	分明	<i>fan1ming4</i>	CM	"clearly; plainly; evidently"	佢日日遲到, 分明搏炒啫。
113	分頭	<i>fan1tau4</i>	CM	"separately"	我哋分頭去嘍。
114	分外	<i>fan6ngoi6</i>	CM	"particularly"	佢今日分外客氣。
115	忽然(之)間	<i>fat1jin4(zil)gaan1</i>	CS	"suddenly"	隻狗忽然(之)間亂咁吠。
116	非常(之)	<i>fei1soeng4(zil)</i>	CM	"very"	我非常(之)多謝佢!
117	逢(親)	<i>fung4(can1)</i>	CS	"whenever"	叔叔逢(親)食飯, 都要飲啤酒。
118	奉旨	<i>fung6zi2</i>	CS	"as a rule"	佢好孤寒, 哩啲嘢奉旨唔買。
119	加加埋埋	<i>gaa1gaa1maai4maai4</i>	CS	"altogether"	我由屋企到哩度加加埋埋用咗成個鐘。
120	假假哋	<i>gaa2gaa2dei2</i>	CS	"in any case; anyhow"	佢假假哋都係公司做咗咁耐。
121	監粗	<i>gaam3cou1</i>	CS	"unyieldingly"	監粗塞晒啲嘢入櫃桶度。
122	監生	<i>gaam3saang1</i>	CS	"while still alive"	佢監生燒死咗。
123	簡直	<i>gaan2zik6</i>	CM	"simply"	哩間飯店簡直搶錢。
124	間(唔)中	<i>gaan3(m4)zung1</i>	CS	"occasionally"	我間(唔)中搭吓巴士。
125	夾硬	<i>gaap3ngaang2</i>	CS	"unyieldingly"	夾硬迫人去。
126	夾手夾腳	<i>gaap3sau2gaap3goek3</i>	CS	"jointly"	大家夾手夾腳將啲行李搬上車。
127	較為	<i>gaau3wai4</i>	CM	"relatively"	見到生保人, 佢較為靜。
128	雞噉腳	<i>gai1gam2goek3</i>	CS	"very quickly"	佢一見到經理嚟就雞噉腳走嘞。
129	計正	<i>gai3zeng3</i>	CS	"under normal circumstances; as a rule"	計正搭車應該快過行路。
130	咁(鬼)	<i>gam3(gwai2)</i>	CS	"very"	你跑得咁(鬼)快, 我追唔到你。
131	咁啱	<i>gam3ngaam1</i>	CS	"by chance"	我琴日行公司, 咁啱大減價。
132	咁滯	<i>gam3zai6</i>	CS	"almost (positive sentence)"	啲錢用晒咁滯。



133	根本(上)	gan1bun2(soeng6)	CM	"at all; simply"	佢根本諗都未諗過。
134	跟手	gan1sau2	CM	"next; then; after that"	一出咗西隧跟手就截的士去，嚟得切嘅。
135	跟住	gan1zyu6	CS	"afterwards; then"	你行先，我跟住嚟驚嚇。
136	近乎	gan6fu4	CM	"close to"	佢噉樣做近乎絕情。
137	梗(係)	gang2(hai6)	CS	"undoubtedly" "certainly"	你跑嗰，梗(係)快過我行咯！佢逢星期日梗(係)嚟哩度睇書嘅。
138	更加	gang3gaa1	CM	"even more"	佢英文更加唔明喇。
139	急急	gap1gap1	CS	"nearly at once"	佢急急打電話叫救傷車。
140	急急腳	gap1gap1goek3	CS	"at a fast pace"	佢急急腳走過嚟。
141	急急忙忙	gap1gap1mong4mong4	CS	"in a hurry; in a haste"	佢急急忙忙走咗出去。
142	急住	gap1zyu6	CS	"in a hurry; in a haste"	你急住走咩？坐耐啲的啖喇。
143	久唔久	gau2m4gau2	CS	"once in a while"	我久唔久去睇戲。
144	九成	gau2sing4	CS	"very likely"	我諗佢九成唔肯嚟。
145	夠	gau3	CS	"as well; too"	佢怨我？我夠怨佢咯！
146	究竟	gau3ging2	CM	"actually; exactly"	你究竟想點？
147	舊底	gau6dai2	CS	"in the past"	舊底你仲爭我五十蚊，而家仲想借？
148	基本上	gei1bun2soeng6	CM	"basically"	套戲基本上都唔錯。
149	幾乎	gei1fu4	CM	"almost"	我幾乎俾駕車車親。
150	幾	gei2	CS	"rather" "very"	個後生仔幾醒嗰。 佢今日心情幾靚啊！
151	幾大	gei2daai2	CS	"no matter (what; how; etc.)"	佢幾大都要去。
152	幾咁/幾鬼	gei2gam3/gei2gwai2	CS	"very"	你睇佢幾咁開心啊！
153	幾時得嚟	gei2si4dak1lai4	CS	"not within a period of time" "not (comparatively speaking)"	嗰層樓幾時得嚟起好咗。 同母親節比，父親節幾時得嚟咁巴閉啊。
154	居然	geoiljin4	CM	"unexpectedly"	佢居然食晒啲嘢嗰！
155	極	gik6	CS	"extremely (before adjective)" "extremely (after adjective)" "repeatedly (after action verb)"	極正；極好；極靚 佢啲字靚極都唔夠你寫得靚喇。 食極都食唔晒。
156	極其量	gik6kei4loeng6	CS	"at the most"	啲代表極其量得二百人。
157	極力	gik6lik6	CM	"do one's utmost"	佢極力勸我唔好買哩樣嘢。
158	極之	gik6zil	CS	"extremely"	哩齣戲極之好睇。
159	經已	ging1ji5	CS	"already"	佢經已有咗三個月身紀。
160	竟然	ging2jin4	CM	"unexpectedly"	你竟然唔出街，少有嗰！
161	勁	ging6	CS	"extremely"	啲魚蛋勁辣啊！
162	各自各	gok3zi6gok3	CS	"respectively"	我哋各自各返屋企。
163	乾	gon1	CM	"in a dry manner"	乾洗；乾炒
164	乾脆	gon1ceoi3	CS	"simply"	佢為求套現，乾脆賣咗間屋。

165	姑且	<i>gulce2</i>	CM	"for the time being"	我姑且信你一次。
166	固然之	<i>gu3jin4zi1</i>	CS	"no doubt"	噉做固然之好，只不過係怕佢唔鍾意啫。
167	公然	<i>gung1jin4</i>	CM	"openly"	佢公然破壞咗大家嘅協議。
168	鬼	<i>gwai2</i>	CS	"not"	我理鬼佢。
169	鬼咁	<i>gwai2gam3</i>	CS	"very"	佢鬼咁蠢。
170	滾水淥腳(噉)	<i>gwan2seoi2luk6goek3(gam2)</i>	CS	"in a hurry as if one were burnt by hot water on the leg"	佢滾水淥腳(噉)走咗。
171	果然	<i>gwo2jin4</i>	CM	"accordingly"	佢話唔走住，果然無走到。
172	過分	<i>gwo3fan6</i>	CM	"excessively"	咪過分緊張喇！
173	過後	<i>gwo3hau6</i>	CM	"afterwards; later"	佢而家話會做，過後又唔記得嘍嘍。
174	過頭	<i>gwo3tau4</i>	CS	"very; too"	哩度熱過頭。
175	閒閒哋	<i>haan4haan2dei2</i>	CS	"very easily"	佢咁有錢，閒閒哋擺幾百萬出嚟喇。
176	喺度喺處	<i>hai2dou6/hai2syu3</i>	CS	"in progress of"	佢喺度係噉食係噉食。
177	係都	<i>hai6dou1</i>	CS	"with insistence"	佢係都跟埋嚟。
178	係噉	<i>hai6gam2</i>	CS	"continuously"	佢淨係係噉笑。
179	係噉意	<i>hai6gam2ji2</i>	CS	"perfunctorily"	佢係噉意回番封信。
180	刻意	<i>hak1ji3</i>	CM	"painstakingly"	嗰個明星刻意表現到好自然。
181	冚躑呤	<i>ham6baang6laang6</i>	CS	"all"	我將嘅冚躑呤拎晒番屋企。
182	肯定	<i>hang2ding6</i>	CM	"surely"	佢聽日肯定嚟唔到。
183	口快快(噉)	<i>hau2faai3faai3(gam2)</i>	CS	"without hesitation"	點知佢口快快(噉)講咗出嚟。
184	口口聲聲	<i>hau2hau2seng1seng1</i>	CM	"(say) again and again"	佢口口聲聲話佢無做過。
185	後駮	<i>hau6mei1</i>	CS	"afterwards; later"	佢後駮竊咗線。
186	起初	<i>hei2col1</i>	CM	"originally"	哩間廠起初好細，點知越做越大。
187	起碼	<i>hei2maa5</i>	CM	"at least"	佢噉樣講我哋起碼安落嘅。
188	起勢	<i>hei2sai3</i>	CS	"desperately"	佢起勢掙枝筆落地下。
189	起先	<i>hei2sin1</i>	CS	"at the beginning"	佢起先話去，不過琴日病咗，唔去得嘍嘍。
190	輕輕	<i>heng6heng1</i>	CS	"slightly"	隻袖輕輕長番嘅就好嘍嘍。
191	輕易	<i>hing1ji6</i>	CM	"rashly"	佢唔輕易讚人嘍嘍！
192	可能	<i>ho2nang4</i>	CM	"probably"	聽日可能會落雨。
193	何必	<i>ho4bit1</i>	CM	"why bother"	輸贏何必咁認真？
194	何苦	<i>ho4fu2</i>	CM	"why bother"	你何苦同佢拗呢？
195	何止	<i>ho4zi2</i>	CS	"not only"	講真嘢，佢技術上何止勝你一皮，幾皮啊。
196	响度/响處	<i>hoeng2dou6/hoeng2syu3</i>	CS	"in progress of"	你睇個天响度猛咁閃電，就嚟落大雨嘍嘍。
197	向來	<i>hoeng3loi4</i>	CM	"always"	我向來唔飲酒。
198	開口埋口	<i>hoi1hau2maai4hau2</i>	CS	"always talking about the same thing"	佢開口埋口淨係識講錢。
199	好(鬼)	<i>hou2(gwai2)</i>	CS	"extremely"	我好(鬼)肚餓。

200	好似	hou2ci5	CM	"presumably"	哩枝筆好似唔係我個枝。
201	好多時	hou2dolsi4	CS	"very often"	佢好多時唔記得帶鎖匙。
202	好好(哋)	hou2hou2(dei2)	CS	"well"	你要好好(哋)對人啊。
203	好好醜醜	hou2hou2cau2cau2	CS	"in any case; whatever happens"	你好好醜醜都做晒至走咗。
204	好日	hou2jat6	CS	"rarely; seldom (negative sentence)"	我好日都唔運動。
205	好意思	hou2ji3si1	CS	"have the nerve"	你好意思唔應承佢咩？
206	好唔好都	hou2m4hou2dou1	CS	"in any case; whatever happens"	你好唔好都做住呢份工先喇。
207	好少	hou2siu2	CS	"rarely; seldom"	佢近排好少嚟探我哋。
208	好在	hou2zoi6	CM	"fortunately"	佢好在趕得切嚟啲。
209	一	jat1	CM	"as soon as"	佢一返嚟就鬧人。
210	一邊...一邊...	jat1bin1...jat1bin1...	CM	"at the same time"	佢一邊食飯一邊講嘢。
211	一便...一便...	jat1bin6...jat1bin6...	CS	"at the same time"	佢一便睇一便笑。
212	一步步	jat1bou2bou6	CS	"step by step; progressively"	我哋一步步改善緊教育質素嚟嘞。
213	一齊	jat1cai4	CM	"together" "along with all the others" "at a time"	你都一齊嚟喇。 有乜嘢一齊攞埋嚟咗！  我哋一齊啗，或者下面嘅人會聽到嘅。
214	一次又一次	jat1ci3jau6jat1ci3	CS	"time and again; repeatedly"	佢一次又一次呢我。
215	一旦	jat1daan6	CM	"once; in case"	哩件事一旦爆煲，就不得了。
216	一定	jat1ding6	CM	"certainly; surely"	每一個人都一定有好朋友嚟。
217	一度	jat1dou6	CM	"for a time"	佢一度停學咗成年。
218	一共	jat1gung6	CM	"altogether"	哩度一共四千蚊。
219	一口	jat1hau2	CM	"with certainty"	佢一口咬定係我做嘅。
220	一口價	jat1hau2gaa3	CS	"at a fixed price"	你有心買嘅話，我一口價十蚊賣俾你。
221	一口氣	jat1hau2hei3	CS	"in one breath; without a break"	佢癸起嚟一口氣唱咗十幾隻歌。
222	一向	jat1hoeng3	CM	"consistently; all along"	你一向鍾意食辣。
223	一一	jat1jat1	CM	"one by one"	我哋一一自我介紹。
224	一日	jat1jat6	CS	"in the final analysis; at bottom"	哩件事一日都係你唔啱。
225	一日到黑	jat1jat6dou3hak1	CS	"from morning till night; all day long" "always"	一日到黑睇住間鋪。  佢一日到黑話人呢佢。
226	一於	jat1jyu1	CS	"regardless of the consequences" "simply; just; altogether" "expressing decision"	我哋一於唔去，睇佢點。  啲嘢爛咗，一於唔好買啲。  一於噉話。
227	一概	jat1koi3	CM	"without exception;	哩嘢佢一概唔答。

				totally"	
228	一輪嘴	<i>jat1leon2zeoi2</i>	CS	"without a break"	佢將嘢事實一輪嘴講晒出嚟。
229	一律	<i>jat1leot6</i>	CM	"without exception"	大人細路一律二十蚊入場費。
230	一連	<i>jat1lin4</i>	CM	"in succession"	一連三日落大雨。
231	一路	<i>jat1lou6</i>	CM	"continuously; always; all along; all the way" "at the same time; simultaneously"	我哋一路都係噉做嘢嘢嘢喇。 我哋一路飲一路傾。
232	一味	<i>jat1mei2</i>	CM	"blindly; endlessly"	你一味掛住玩。
233	一面...一面...	<i>jat1min6...jat1min6...</i>	CM	"at the same time"	佢一面笑一面講。
234	一眼	<i>jat1ngaan5</i>	CM	"in a glimpse"	佢一眼認出我。
235	一心	<i>jat1sam1</i>	CM	"wholeheartedly" "intentionally"	我一心幫佢，點知佢唔領情。 佢一心同我作對。
236	一手	<i>jat1sau2</i>	CM	"single-handed"	佢一手就拎起張櫈。
237	一手一腳	<i>jat1sau2jat1goek3</i>	CS	"by oneself"	佢自己一手一腳做嘢。
238	一時時	<i>jat1si2si4</i>	CS	"occasionally"	佢一時時嚟探我嘢。
239	一時(之間)	<i>jat1si4(zilgaan1)</i>	CS	"for the time being"	我一時(之間)諗唔起佢係邊個。
240	一時...一時...	<i>jat1si4...jat1si4...</i>	CS	"sometimes ...; sometimes..."	呢排嘅天氣真係無譜，一時熱到死，一時又凍到死。
241	一瞓眼	<i>jat1zaam2ngaan5</i>	CS	"in an instant"	佢一瞓眼就唔見咗人。
242	一直	<i>jat1zik6</i>	CM	"continuously"	佢間公司幾年嚟一直好順利。
243	一再	<i>jat1zoi3</i>	CM	"time and again"	佢一再強調佢無做過。
244	一早	<i>jat1zou2</i>	CS	"in advance"	我哋一早買咗飛喇。
245	日日	<i>jat6jat6</i>	CM	"daily; regularly"	佢日日遲到，分明搏炒啫。
246	日夜	<i>jat6je6</i>	CM	"day and night"	嘢警察日夜吸住佢。
247	由頭	<i>jau4tau4</i>	CS	"from the beginning"	我哋一齊由頭讀一次。
248	有	<i>jau5</i>	CS	"surely; already"	佢有打電話嚟。
249	有得	<i>jau5dak1</i>	CS	"it is possible to" "it is worthwhile to"	我哋有得食海鮮。 哩個問題有得諗。
250	有啲	<i>jau5di1</i>	CS	"a little bit"	我有啲唔舒服。
251	有幾何	<i>jau5gei2ho2</i>	CS	"rarely; seldom (rhetorical sentence)"	你有幾何嚟到咗，坐多陣喇。
252	有意	<i>jau5ji3</i>	CS	"intentionally; deliberately"	你有意同我作對！
253	有理無理	<i>jau5lei5mou5lei5</i>	CS	"regardless of the consequences"	我有理無理做咗先算。
254	有時	<i>jau5si4</i>	CM	"sometimes"	我個人有時好失魂嚟。
255	有陣時	<i>jau5zan6si2</i>	CS	"sometimes"	我有陣時一個人落街行吓。
256	又	<i>jau6</i>	CM	"repeatedly; again" "at the same time" "also; expressing information of the same kind"	睇完又睇。 佢做嘢又快又好。 食完飯，又無嘢做，不如出去行吓。

				"but" "expressing emphasis"	我想食糖，又怕肥。 我又無做過，驚咩啲。
257	又試	<i>jau6si3</i>	CS	"again"	佢又試食零食。
258	依稀	<i>ji1hei1</i>	CM	"vaguely"	我依稀記得佢嚟過。
259	依然	<i>ji1jin4</i>	CM	"still"	佢依然日日嚟。
260	依時(依候)	<i>ji1si4(ji1hau6)</i>	CS	"punctually"	我依時(依候)食葯。
261	已經	<i>ji5ging1</i>	CM	"already"	佢已經走咗喇。
262	異常	<i>ji6soeng4</i>	CM	"extremely"	佢今日異常興奮。
263	亦(都)	<i>jik6(dou1)</i>	CM	"as well"	佢主要讀經濟，會計亦(都) 識啲茄。
264	現兜兜	<i>jin6dau1dau1</i>	CS	"in cash"	我現兜兜用咗三百蚊買番嚟 嘅。
265	應份	<i>jing1fan6</i>	CS	"necessarily"	呢筆錢我應份俾啲。
266	認真	<i>jing2zan1</i>	CS	"absolutely"	佢做嘢認真快。
267	仍然	<i>jng4jin4</i>	CM	"still; yet"	我仍然未搵到工。
268	約莫	<i>joek3mok2</i>	CM	"approximately"	佢約莫三十幾歲。
269	郁啲	<i>juk1di1</i>	CS	"easily; frequently"	佢郁啲就喊。
270	郁吓	<i>juk1haa5</i>	CS	"easily; frequently"	佢郁吓就鬧人。
271	預先	<i>jyu6sin1</i>	CM	"in advance; beforehand"	我預先過咗啲料俾佢，等佢 有心理準備。
272	預早	<i>jyu6zou2</i>	CS	"in advance; beforehand"	你幾時走，要預早話低。
273	完全	<i>jyun4cyun4</i>	CM	"completely"	佢份功課完全做錯晒。
274	原來	<i>jyun4loi4</i>	CM	"originally"	佢原來病咗，無返工。
275	原先	<i>jyun4sin1</i>	CM	"originally"	佢原先話去，而家又唔去。
276	遠遠	<i>jyun5jyun5</i>	CM	"largely"	你遠遠比唔上佢動力。
277	越...越...	<i>jyut6...jyut6...</i>	CM	"the more...the more..."	我越諗就越發。
278	越嚟越	<i>jyut6lai4jyut6</i>	CS	"more and more"	越嚟越多人知道哩件事。
279	卡那(卡那)	<i>kaa3laa1(kaa3laa1)</i>	CS	"alternatively"	我哋卡那(卡那)噉坐。
280	擒擒青	<i>kam4kam2ceng1</i>	CS	"quickly"	我擒擒青走番入屋。
281	勤啲	<i>kan4di1</i>	CS	"frequently"	夏天啲衫要勤啲洗。
282	及早	<i>kap6zou2</i>	CM	"as soon as possible"	你都係及早去睇醫生喇。
283	其實	<i>kei4sat6</i>	CM	"actually; in fact"	揸車其實都唔係好難啫。
284	確係	<i>kok3hai6</i>	CS	"really; indeed"	佢確係無嚟過。
285	確實	<i>kok3sat6</i>	CM	"really; indeed"	我確實唔知道。
286	狂	<i>kwong4</i>	CS	"crazily"	佢狂飲啤酒卒之搞到入醫 院。
287	揸埋	<i>laa2maai4</i>	CS	"easily; frequently; at every turn" "generally speaking"	你唔好揸埋就發癲，聽佢解 釋先。 哩隊籃球隊嘅球員個個揸埋 都有兩米以上。
288	嚟(嚟)臨	<i>laa4(laa4)lam4</i>	CS	"very quickly; at once"	你嚟(嚟)臨返學先喇。
289	嚟嚟聲	<i>laa4laa2seng1</i>	CS	"very quickly; at once"	我地嚟嚟聲做埋啲嘢就走 喇。
290	拉勻	<i>laai1wan4</i>	CS	"on average"	間鋪頭每年拉勻都賺到十幾

					萬噏。
291	躡日	laam3jat6	CS	"every two days"	佢唔係日日噏，躡日先噏一次。
292	立即	laap6zik1	CM	"immediately"	一聽完電話，佢立即走咗。
293	臨急臨忙	lam4gap1lam4mong4	CS	"at the last moment"	我臨急臨忙搵咗佢噏頂替我。
294	臨時臨急	lam4si4lam4gap1	CS	"at the last moment"	佢臨時臨急先話唔噏。
295	笠亂	lap6lyun2	CS	"carelessly; casually; at random"	哩啲說話唔好笠亂講。
296	輪流	leon4lau2	CS	"in turn"	我哋輪流照顧阿爸。
297	哩哩啦啦	li4li1laa4laa4	CS	"very quickly"	我哋咁多人，哩哩啦啦就做完晒咯。
298	力	lik6	CM	"make every effort"	力捧；力勸
299	鏈住條頸	lin2zyu6tu4geng2	CS	"unwillingly"	咪鏈住條頸聽佢唱 K 嚟。
300	連隨	lin4ceoi4	CS	"immediately"	嗰晚黑一落火車，連隨就搭船返番江門。
301	連氣	lin4hei3	CS	"in succession"	佢連氣食咗三大碗麵。
302	連續	lin4zuk6	CM	"successively"	我連續問咗佢三個問題。
303	靈舍	ling4se3	CS	"particularly"	今日去睇波嘅人靈舍多。
304	另外	ling6ngoi6	CM	"in addition"	我另外叫咗碟沙律。
305	略略	loek6loek2	CM	"a little; a bit; slightly"	張枱略略移開啲咪得嚟。
306	略為	loek6wai4	CM	"slightly"	件衫略為大咗啲！
307	兩份	loeng5fan2	CS	"together"	呢包餅你同細佬兩份食。
308	來回	loi4wui4	CM	"back and forth"	佢來回噏咗醫院三次。
309	落手	lok6sau2	CS	"by oneself; in person"	細妹今日落手整蛋糕。
310	落手落腳	lok6sau2lok6goek3	CS	"by oneself; in person"	整鑊最好自己落手落腳去整。
311	陸陸續續	luk6luk6zuk6zuk6	CM	"in succession"	啲人陸陸續續噏到劇場。
312	陸續	luk6zuk6	CM	"in succession"	我哋陸續返番屋企。
313	亂(咁)	lyun2(gam3)	CM	"thoughtlessly"	你咪亂(咁)噏噏！
314	唔(鬼)	m4(gwai2)	CS	"not"	你唔去呀？
315	唔...又...	m4...jau6...	CS	"not...but"	你唔食又食。
316	唔多	m4dol	CS	"not very"	佢哋兩個唔多襯。
317	唔多唔少	m4dolm4siu2	CS	"to a certain extent"	噏做法唔多唔少有啲作用嘅。
318	唔慌	m4fong1	CS	"absolutely not"	佢唔慌係好人。
319	唔見得	m4gin3dak1	CS	"not likely"	佢唔見得鍾意你喎。
320	唔經唔覺	m4ging1m4gok3	CS	"without knowing consciously"	唔經唔覺幾十歲咯！
321	唔怪(之)得	m4gwaai3(zi1)dak1	CS	"that is why"	唔怪(之)得佢唔去喇，原來佢有事。
322	唔好	m4hou2	CS	"don't"	你唔好喊喇。
323	唔使	m4sai2	CS	"not necessarily"	你唔使咁快決定啲。
324	唔使問	m4sai2man6	CS	"undoubtedly"	佢唔使問又遲到喇！
325	唔使審	m4sai2sam2	CS	"undoubtedly"	你唔使審去咗玩，無做到功課。

326	唔聲唔聲	<i>m4sengl m4sengl</i>	CS	"quietly"	佢唔聲唔聲行埋嚟，嚇咗我一跳。
327	唔通	<i>m4tungl</i>	CS	"expressing rhetorical question" "can it be that; is it possible that"	唔通你惡，我就要怕咗你？ 把遮唔通俾人撻咗？
328	唔掙在	<i>m4zaangl zoi6</i>	CS	"never mind"	架車咁大，唔掙在坐多幾個人喇。
329	唔知	<i>m4zil</i>	CS	"unknowingly" "really"	佢唔知行咗去邊。 落雨唔打得波，唔知幾無癮！
330	唔只	<i>m4zi2</i>	CS	"not only"	佢唔只呢我，仲呢埋你。
331	唔淨只/ 唔單只	<i>m4zing6zi2/ m4daanl6zi2</i>	CS	"not only"	我哋唔淨只去行街，仲去睇戲添。
332	誤	<i>m6</i>	CM	"mistakenly"	誤殺；誤食
333	漫	<i>maan6</i>	CM	"casually"	漫談；漫步
334	萬二分	<i>maan6ji6fanl</i>	CS	"very much; extremely"	我萬二分感激你。
335	慢慢	<i>maan6maan2</i>	CS	"slowly"	我慢慢行。
336	猛(咁)	<i>maang5(gam3)</i>	CS	"desperately"	我猛(咁)跑都趕唔切。
337	咪	<i>mai5</i>	CS	"don't"	你咪郁啊，等埋我。
338	咪	<i>mai6</i>	CS	"exactly; really" "then"	佢咪輸咗囉。 你鍾意味擺去囉。
339	乜滯	<i>matl zai6</i>	CS	"not quite (negative sentence)"	我都無用乜滯。
340	貿然	<i>mau6jin4</i>	CM	"rashly; hastily"	你唔可以貿然下結論。
341	貿貿然	<i>mau6mau6jin4</i>	CM	"rashly; hastily"	你點可以貿貿然應承佢嚟？
342	微微	<i>mei4mei2</i>	CM	"slightly"	佢微微郁咗郁隻手。
343	未	<i>mei6</i>	CM	"not yet"	我未去。
344	未必	<i>mei6bitl</i>	CM	"not necessarily"	佢未必知哩件事。
345	未曾	<i>mei6cang4</i>	CM	"never"	我之前未曾搵過佢。
346	未有耐	<i>mei6jau5noi1</i>	CS	"not (in time)" "not (in degree)"	我未有耐畢業。 你未有耐及得佢。
347	未免	<i>mei6min5</i>	CM	"a bit too"	佢噉做未免太過份。
348	未嘗	<i>mei6soeng4</i>	CM	"not (negative sentence)"	佢未嘗唔係一個好人。
349	面對面	<i>min6deoi3min6</i>	CS	"face-to-face"	我哋面對面坐响度。
350	明明	<i>ming4ming4</i>	CM	"certainly"	明明係你做，仲唔認。
351	無情情	<i>mou4cing4cing4</i>	CS	"without reason"	你做乜無情情鬧人啲？
352	無從	<i>mou4cung4</i>	CM	"have no way of doing something"	呢件事我真係無從入手。
353	無端白事/ 無情白事	<i>mou4dyunl baak6si6/ mou4cing4baak6si6</i>	CS	"without reason"	佢無端白事喊起上嚟。
354	無端端	<i>mou4dyunl dyunl</i>	CS	"without reason"	我無端端俾人鬧。
355	無非	<i>mou4fei1</i>	CM	"nothing but; simply; no more than; only"	佢講咁多嘢無非想你應承佢啫。
356	無意中	<i>mou4ji3zungl</i>	CS	"not intentionally; by chance"	我無意中聽到佢話唔想嚟。

357	無緣無故	<i>mou4jyun4mou4gu3</i>	CM	"without reason"	你做乜無緣無故唔返學？
358	無屢屢	<i>mou4laa1laa1</i>	CS	"without reason"	你無屢屢去美國做乜啊？
359	無論如何	<i>mou4leon6jyu4ho4</i>	CM	"in any case; at any rate ; whatever happens"	你無論如何都要幫吓我啊！
360	無時無刻	<i>mou4si4mou4hak1</i>	CM	"all the time"	我無時無刻都掛住佢。
361	無	<i>mou5</i>	CM	"have not" "not (in fixed phrases)"	我無去。 無緊要；無有怕
362	無得	<i>mou5dak1</i>	CS	"it is not possible to"	樓上嘈到我成晚無得瞓。
363	無幾何	<i>mou5gei2ho2</i>	CS	"rarely; seldom"	我無幾何去睇戲。
364	無日	<i>mou5jat6</i>	CM	"all the time (negative sentence)"	我無日唔諗住佢。
365	無乜	<i>mou5mat1</i>	CS	"almost not"	佢無乜出聲。
366	無話	<i>mou5waa6</i>	CS	"never"	個衰仔由細到大無話俾的錢阿媽使個啲。
367	每	<i>mui5</i>	CM	"whenever"	我每見到佢一次就勝一次。
368	難怪	<i>naan4gwaai3</i>	CM	"no wonder"	你成日都講大話，難怪佢哋唔信你。
369	啱(啱)先	<i>ngaam1(ngaam1)sin1</i>	CS	"just"	我哋啱(啱)先講緊佢。
370	啱啱	<i>ngaam1ngaam1</i>	CS	"exactly" "just"	我同佢諗嘅嘢啱啱相反。 啱啱有人打電話俾你。
371	啱啱好/ 啱啱線	<i>ngaam1ngaam1hou2/ ngaam1ngaam1sin3</i>	CS	"just right"	哩度啱啱好擺得落個雪櫃。
372	眼白白	<i>ngaan5baak6baak6</i>	CS	"helplessly"	我眼白白睇住個股市係嘅跌。
373	硬係	<i>ngaang2hai6</i>	CS	"in contrary to speaker's will"	嗰本書硬係買唔到啲。
374	硬	<i>ngaang6</i>	CS	"certainly"	輸硬；拮硬
375	毅然	<i>ngai6jin4</i>	CM	"determinedly"	佢毅然放棄去美國讀書嘅機會。
376	哽	<i>ngang3</i>	CS	"even very"	哽複雜嘅嘢佢都搞得拮。
377	惡	<i>ngok3</i>	CS	"with difficulty" "painstakingly"	條路好惡行。 我最近惡補英文。
378	哩頭...個頭...	<i>niltau4...go2tau4...</i>	CS	"as soon as"	我哩頭打緊電話搵佢，個頭佢就到。
379	寧願	<i>ning4jyun2</i>	CM	"would rather"	我寧願留响屋企。
380	耐不耐/ 耐唔耐	<i>noi6bat1noi2/ noi6m4noi2</i>	CS	"once in a while"	我耐不耐睇場戲。
381	耐唔中	<i>noi6m4zung1</i>	CS	"once in a while"	我耐唔中嘞吓。
382	怕(且)	<i>paa3(ce2)</i>	CS	"perhaps"	間屋怕(且)住得七八個人啲。
383	頻頻	<i>pan4pan4</i>	CM	"again and again"	佢頻頻望過嚟。
384	憑空	<i>pang4hung1</i>	CM	"without foundation"	呢啲嘢都係佢憑空諗出嚟啲。
385	偏	<i>pin1</i>	CM	"contrary to speaker's will"	唔俾佢去，佢偏要去。
386	偏偏	<i>pin1pin1</i>	CM	"contrary to speaker's will"	我叫佢陪我行街，佢偏偏唔得閒。



				"just"	你做乜偏偏要問佢啲？
387	三番四次	saam1faan1sei3ci3	CS	"repeatedly"	佢三番四次嚟搵過你嘍。
388	三爬兩撥(噉)	saam1paa4loeng5but6(gam2)	CS	"very quickly"	佢哋三爬兩撥(噉)就做起晒啲嘢。
389	霎時間	saap3si4gaan1	CM	"in a twinkling"	我霎時間記唔起佢係邊個。
390	稍為	saau2wai4	CM	"slightly"	間屋稍為細咗啲。
391	勢	sai3	CS	"absolutely"	勢估唔到；唔勝勢係假。
392	誓死	sai6sei2	CM	"firmly"	我誓死唔做埋啲嘢。
393	甚至(無)/ 甚至(乎)	sam6zi3(mou4)/ sam6zi3(fu4)	CM	"even"	唔好話佢受咗少少傷，甚至無重傷、殘廢，我都唔會離開佢嘅。
394	新	san1	CM	"newly"	佢哋係新嚟嘅。
395	新近	san1gan6	CM	"recently"	佢係新近嚟呢度實習嘅。
396	晨早	san4zou2	CS	"well in advance" "early in the morning"	我晨早搞掂晒喇。 你晨(咁)早叫醒我做乜？
397	十分(之)	sap6fen1(zi1)	CM	"very"	今日我十分(之)勞氣。
398	十成十	sap6sing4sap6	CS	"surely"	佢嘅嘅樣，十成十輸咗喇。
399	失驚無神	sat1geng1mou4san4	CS	"suddenly"	你失驚無神大叫一聲，想嚇死人咩？
400	實	sat6	CS	"actually" "certainly"	話就話七百，我實收五百。 我實搵到佢。
401	實梗	sat6gang2	CS	"certainly"	你實梗唔嚟嘍喇，係唔係？
402	實係	sat6hai6	CS	"certainly"	你咁高，打波實係你贏喇。
403	實行	sat6hang4	CS	"certainly"	唔理你哋點諗，我實行做落去。
404	實牙實齒	sat6ngaa4sat6ci2	CS	"definitely; undoubtedly"	佢實牙實齒講過會嚟。
405	實實在在	sat6sat6zoi6zoi6	CS	"in fact"	我實實在在唔想佢咁擔心我。
406	實則	sat6zak1	CM	"actually"	佢實則唔係咁懶嘅。
407	實在	sat6zoi6	CM	"actually"	我實在好唔捨得哩份工。
408	首先	sau2sin1	CM	"first of all"	佢哋首先登記咗我哋個名。
409	死	sei2	CM	"desperately; determinedly"	死慳死抵；佢死話人哋遲到。
410	死(人)都	sei2(jan4)dou1	CS	"in any case; anyway"	反正要俾錢，死人都要食番夠本。
411	死命(噉)	sei2meng6(gam2)	CM	"desperately"	我哋死命(噉)跑。
412	死死地氣	sei2sei2dei6hei3	CS	"have no way out"	佢死死地氣返番屋企。
413	成	seng4	CS	"full; as much as"	哩本書成二百蚊嘍。
414	成日	seng4jat6	CS	"always"	我成日嚟幫襯哩間鋪頭。
415	衰衰哋	seoi1seoi1dei2	CS	"nevertheless"	佢衰衰哋都係你細佬，你要睇實佢啊。
416	純粹	seon4seoi5	CM	"simply"	佢純粹玩你咋。
417	順便	seon6bin2	CM	"conveniently"	你順便攞埋哩啲嘢返屋企喇。
418	順帶	seon6daai3	CM	"in passing"	我順帶提吓你哋，記住著校服。

419	順勢	<i>seon6sai3</i>	CM	"by taking advantage of an opportunity"	我順勢打咗佢一拳。
420	順手	<i>seon6sau2</i>	CM	"conveniently"	你出門口嗰陣時順手鎖埋道門佢。
421	私底下	<i>sil dai2haa6</i>	CS	"in secret; in private"	我哋已經私底下傾好叻。
422	施施然	<i>sil sil jin4</i>	CS	"leisurely; unhurriedly"	過咗成個鐘，佢先至施施然嚟到。
423	私自	<i>sil zi6</i>	CM	"secretly"	佢私自改咗份約。
424	試過	<i>si3gwo3</i>	CS	"before; formerly; in the past"	哩個細路仔未試過咁靜。
425	時...時...	<i>si4...si4...</i>	CM	"sometimes...; sometimes..."	佢時喊時笑。
426	時不時	<i>si4bat1si4</i>	CM	"sometimes"	我時不時都會去噏下弗。
427	時時	<i>si4si4</i>	CM	"often; constantly"	佢喺外國時時掛住個仔。
428	時時刻刻	<i>si4si4hak1hak1</i>	CS	"all the time"	我時時刻刻都想同佢一齊。
429	是必	<i>si6bit1</i>	CS	"certainly"	你噉話佢，但是必唔高興咯。
430	是但	<i>si6daan6</i>	CS	"randomly; as one pleases"	是但你俾幾多就幾多喇。 你是但將啲野擺喺度得嘍。
431	事實上	<i>si6sat6soeng6</i>	CM	"in fact; actually"	事實上有時真係唔係好明。
432	食住個勢(就)	<i>sik6zyu6go3sai3(zau6)</i>	CS	"by taking advantage of a favourable situation"	間公司食住個勢(就)推廣哩隻產品。
433	先(至)	<i>sin1(zi3)</i>	CM	"first" "then"  "as late as" "just" "expressing emphasis"	邊件衫乾先就著邊件。 你勤力啲先(至)擺到好成績嘢嗎。 我聽日先(至)嚟。 而家先(至)一點鐘。 你先(至)係，我唔係！
434	先後	<i>sin1hau6</i>	CM	"one after another"	我哋先後去咗北京同理上海玩。
435	先先/先前	<i>sin1sin1/sin1cin4</i>	CS	"before; previously"	我先先收咗大家五千蚊，而家用剩哩度啲錢，回番水俾你哋。
436	擅自	<i>sin6zi6</i>	CM	"without authorisation"	佢擅自改咗個計劃書。
437	誠心	<i>sing4sam1</i>	CS	"intentionally"	佢誠心同我作對。
438	少不免	<i>siu2bat1min5</i>	CS	"to a certain extent"	你少不免會掛住佢。
439	相當(之)	<i>soeng1dong1(zi1)</i>	CM	"quite; fairly; considerably"	份工要輪班，相當(之)困身。
440	上下	<i>soeng6haa2</i>	CS	"almost"	佢嘅病上下好嘞。
441	索性	<i>sok3sing3</i>	CM	"simply"	我索性自己一個人去行街。
442	素來	<i>sou3loi4</i>	CM	"always; usually"	我素來好準時，唔會遲到。
443	算	<i>syun3</i>	CM	"fairly"	佢嘅成績算唔差嘍。
444	太(過)	<i>taai3(gwo3)</i>	CM	"too"	條褲太(過)窄，著唔落。
445	睇怕	<i>tai2paa3</i>	CS	"apparently; seemingly"	天咁翳，睇怕要落雨。
446	偷	<i>tau1</i>	CM	"secretly"	偷睇；偷聽

447	偷雞	<i>tau1gai1</i>	CS	"secretly"	我哋公司偷雞做自己嘢。
448	偷偷哋	<i>tau1tau1dei2</i>	CS	"secretly"	佢偷偷哋出咗街。
449	頭尾	<i>tau4mei5</i>	CS	"from beginning to end; altogether"	我哋頭尾去咗五日。
450	頭頭	<i>tau4tau2</i>	CS	"at the beginning"	我哋廠頭頭得十幾個人。
451	聽講(話)	<i>teng1gong2(waa6)</i>	CS	"be told; hear of"	聽講(話)佢哋離咗婚。
452	通常	<i>tung1soeng4</i>	CM	"usually"	我上網嘅時候通常會聽快歌。
453	通通	<i>tung1tung1</i>	CM	"all; entirely"	無用嘅嘢通通拎走。
454	同埋	<i>tung4maai4</i>	CS	"together"	我哋係同埋做嘢嘅工友。
455	同時	<i>tung4si4</i>	CM	"at the same time"	佢哋同時衝過終點。
456	話名	<i>waa6meng2</i>	CS	"nominally"	佢哋話名係親戚，其實好少來往。
457	話晒	<i>waa6sai3</i>	CS	"after all"	佢話晒都係你老豆。
458	或者	<i>waak6ze2</i>	CM	"perhaps; maybe"	你去勸佢，佢或者會聽。
459	玩吓手	<i>waan2haa5sau2</i>	CS	"probably"	你玩吓手唔捨得走添啊。
460	橫掂	<i>waang4dim6</i>	CS	"anyway"	橫掂都無用咯，掉咗佢喇。
461	唯獨是	<i>wai4duk6si6</i>	CM	"only"	唯獨是有嘅人唔肯做。
462	唯有	<i>wai4jau5</i>	CM	"only; anyway"	佢要等電話，唯有唔出街住。
463	永遠	<i>wing5jyun5</i>	CM	"forever"	我會永遠支持你嘅。
464	互	<i>wu6</i>	CM	"each other"	互篤；互坎
465	互相	<i>wu6soeng1</i>	CM	"mutually; each other"	我哋互相合作做埋嘢嘅佢。
466	瞓吓眼	<i>zaam2haa5ngaan5</i>	CS	"in an instant"	佢瞓吓眼唔知去咗邊。
467	盞	<i>zaan2</i>	CS	"in vain; for nothing" "to an undesirable result"	噉搞法盞辛苦啫。 咁大雨仲出街，盞搽濕身！
468	掙啲	<i>zaang1dil</i>	CS	"almost"	我掙啲跌倒。
469	枕長	<i>zam2coeng4</i>	CS	"for a long time"	佢枕長喇係醫院度。
470	枕住	<i>zam2zyu6</i>	CS	"continuously"	啲雨枕住係噉落。
471	真係	<i>zan1hai6</i>	CS	"really"	外便落雨無垠去，真係悶親。
472	周(不)時	<i>zau1(bat1)si4</i>	CS	"often; constantly"	我周(不)時見到佢嚟。
473	就	<i>zau6</i>	CM	"very soon" "as early as" "as soon as" "naturally (under certain condition); then" "expressing contrast" "expressing concession (in comparing two things)" "originally" "only; merely" "expressing determination"	佢就出嚟囉。 佢卅五歲就死咗。 噉得出就噉。 太過揀飲擇食就會唔夠營養。 佢三日嚟一次，你一日就嚟三次。 貴就貴啲，買咗佢算喇。 開頭就養咗隻狗嘅。 就得咁多囉咋。 我就唔信學唔到。

				"expressing emphasis; the fact is that" "expressing contrary belief"	就係佢嚟。 佢唔係喺哩度做嘢，喺嗰度就真。
474	就快	zau6faai3	CS	"very soon"	啲飯就快煮好。
475	就嚟	zau6lai4	CS	"very soon"	佢就嚟搬屋。
476	借嘅意	ze3di1ji2	CS	"by making an excuse"	個會開咗一半，佢就借嘅意鬆人。
477	借頭借路	ze3tau4ze3lou6	CS	"by making an excuse"	佢成日借頭借路話唔得閒。
478	正話	zeng3waa6	CS	"just"	佢正話都喺呢度。
479	最	zeoi3	CM	"the most"	呢束花最好睇。
480	最多/至多	zeoi3do1/zi3do1	CM	"at the worst" "at the most"	人工咁矣，我最多唔做。 我哋最多等多佢五分鐘。
481	最好	zeoi3hou2	CM	"it is good to"	咁凍最好留喺屋企。
482	最少/至少	zeoi3siu2/zi3siu2	CM	"at least"	哩度最少坐三百人。
483	盡	zeon6	CM	"exhaustively"	盡寫；盡講
484	盡情	zeon6cing4	CM	"as much as one likes"	我盡情唱 K。
485	儘快	zeon6faai3	CM	"as fast as one could"	你記得儘快交番返嚟。
486	盡力	zeon6lik6	CM	"try one's best"	我哋盡力拉住喬樹，等佢唔好秤。
487	儘量	zeon6loeng6	CM	"to the full"	你儘量食咗，唔好客氣喎。
488	儘早	zeon6zou2	CM	"as early as possible"	你儘早交埋篇論文咪可以去玩嚟。
489	卒之	zeot1zil	CS	"finally"	卒之無賣俾佢。
490	只不過	zi2bat1gwo3	CS	"merely; only; just"	佢只不過做錯咗少少嘢啫，唔使咁嬲呀。
491	只係	zi2hai6	CS	"merely; only; just"	我只係去過大陸一次。
492	至	zi3	CM	"the most" "then" "until"	我至憎人食煙。 你勤力啲至攞到好成績啫嗎。 我聽日至嚟。
493	至多(咪)/ 至多(唔係)	zi3do1(mai6)/ zi3do1(m4hai6)	CS	"at the worst"	我至多咪賣咗間屋佢嚟。
494	自不然	zi6bat1jin4	CS	"naturally"	你咁吓佢，佢自不然唔會嬲你喇。
495	自自然然	zi6zi6jin4jin4	CS	"naturally"	你放鬆啲，個病自自然然會好嚟嚟。
496	即管	zik1gun2	CS	"feel free to; not hesitate to"	你有乜嘢即管講出嚟。
497	即刻	zik1haak1	CM	"immediately"	你等一陣，我即刻嚟。
498	直	zik6	CM	"straightly; directly"	直講；直去
499	直情	zik6cing4	CS	"straight; directly" "simply; at all"	你直情話俾佢聽我唔去咪得嚟。 咁少錢要招待咁多人直情考起我哋！

				"surely"	直情係佢喺度嘈喧巴閉喇！
500	直頭	zik6tau4	CS	"straight; directly" "simply; at all" "surely"	直頭行去佢屋企，唔好喺度等嚟。 直頭唔理佢行咗去！ 佢直頭冤枉喇。
501	漸漸	zim6zim2	CM	"gradually"	啲雨漸漸細落嚟。
502	整整吓	zing2zing2haa2	CS	"gradually"	佢去咗外國咁多年，整整吓連中文都唔識講。
503	正(一)	zing3(jat1)	CS	"indeed; really"	你正(一)衰人！
504	正式	zing3sik1	CS	"indeed; really"	呢勻正式係行衰運。
505	淨	zing6	CS	"only"	淨食飯，唔食餸。
506	靜雞雞	zing6gailgail	CS	"quietly"	佢靜雞雞喺枱面攤吃嘅錢。
507	淨係	zing6hai6	CS	"only" "constantly"	屋企淨係得我一個人。 唔好淨係話人，你自己都有錯。
508	接住	zip3zyu6	CS	"immediately afterwards; in a minute"	你講完之後，我接住講。
509	照計	ziu3gai3	CS	"according to reason; in the ordinary course of events; normally"	照計經理無理由唔嚟咯。
510	照舊(噉)/照	ziu3gau6(gam2)/ziu3	CM	"as usual"	我照舊(噉)去佢屋企玩。
511	照樣(噉)/照	ziu3joeng2(gam2)/ziu3	CM	"in the same old way"	我照樣(噉)幫佢打字。
512	照例	ziu3lai6	CM	"as a rule"	我哋照例六點鐘收鋪。
513	照理	ziu3lei5	CM	"generally"	佢照理應該俾你放假咯？
514	照常	ziu3soeng4	CM	"as usual"	星期日我都照常返公司做嘢。
515	座底	zo6dai2	CS	"at least"	哩度座底三百人。
516	將近	zoeng1gan6	CM	"nearly; almost" "very soon"	而家將近八點。 飛機將近起飛嚟。
517	再	zoi3	CM	"again" "more" "continuously" "afterwards" "also"	再講一次。 哩件衫再平啲就好嚟。 你再嘈就唔俾飯你食。 你睇完本書再還俾我都唔遲。 我哋叫四碟餸，再要個湯。
518	再三	zoi3saam1	CM	"over and over again"	佢再三求我幫佢。
519	再試	zoi3si3	CS	"again"	你再試係噉呢，我就唔睬你！
520	撞喺	zong6ngaam1	CS	"by chance"	撞喺佢唔係屋企。
521	早日	zou2jat6	CM	"soon"	希望你早日返嚟香港喇。
522	(老)早就	(lou5)zou2zau6	CS	"in advance"	你同我定，我(老)早就準備好晒。
523	早知	zou2zil	CS	"having known this beforehand"	我早知唔去喇。

524	早早	<i>zou2zou2</i>	CM	"well in advance"	我早早就嚟到呢度喇。
525	足以	<i>zuk1ji5</i>	CM	"enough"	你嘅講都唔足以證明佢無辜嘅。
526	足足	<i>zuk1zuk1</i>	CM	"full; as much as"	我足足等咗你半個鐘。
527	逐啲	<i>zuk6dil</i>	CS	"one by one"	唔好心急，逐啲做。
528	逐個	<i>zuk6go3</i>	CM	"one by one"	佢逐個教啲細路哥寫字。
529	逐一	<i>zuk6jat1</i>	CM	"one by one"	佢逐一點名。
530	終於	<i>zung1jyul</i>	CM	"finally"	我終於做晒啲嘢嘍！
531	終須	<i>zung1seoil</i>	CS	"anyhow; eventually; after all"	噉落去終須有日唔拈。
532	總共	<i>zung2gung6</i>	CM	"altogether"	聖誕節嚟住新年，總共有十日假。
533	總係	<i>zung2hai6</i>	CS	"always; invariably"	問親佢，佢總係話唔知。
534	總算	<i>zung2syun3</i>	CM	"at long last; finally" "all things considered"	我總算無白費心機。 佢總算對我唔錯。
535	仲	<i>zung6</i>	CS	"more; even more" "still; yet" "additionally" "expressing emphasis"	今日仲凍過琴日。 佢仲未肯走。 佢日頭做嘢，夜晚仲要讀書。 最初佢話試機呢，我仲以為佢會教晒啲 function 點用嘅。
536	仲係	<i>zung6hai6</i>	CS	"still; nevertheless"	十年無見，你仲係咁後生。
537	仲加	<i>zung6gaal</i>	CS	"even more"	聽日仲加辛苦嘅啊。
538	專	<i>zyun1</i>	CM	"specially; always"	佢專講大話。
539	專程	<i>zyun1cing4</i>	CM	"specially"	我專程嚟探你嘅。
540	專登	<i>zyun1dang1</i>	CS	"for a special purpose; specially"	我專登嚟探你嘅。
541	專門	<i>zyun1mun2</i>	CM	"specially; always"	佢專門整蠱人。
542	轉吓眼	<i>zyun2haa5ngaan5</i>	CS	"in an instant"	佢轉吓眼就唔見人。
543	轉(個)頭	<i>zyun3(go3)tau4</i>	CS	"later"	我轉(個)頭嚟搵你。
544	絕對	<i>zyut6deoi3</i>	CM	"absolutely"	啲消息絕對可靠嘅！

Number of Cantonese adverbs having cognates in Mandarin (CM): 242

Number of Cantonese-specific adverbs (CS): 302

# Appendix 2: Classification of Adverbs by Grammatical Meanings

## 1. Conjunctive Adverb

不特止...仲...	<i>bat1dak6zi2...zung6...</i>	"not only...but also..."
固然之...只不過...	<i>gu3jin4zil...zi2bat1gwo3...</i>	"no doubt... only..."
一...就...	<i>jat1...zau6...</i>	"as soon as... then..."
一旦...就...	<i>jat1daan6...zau6...</i>	"once; in case... then..."
又 <sub>a</sub> ...又 <sub>a</sub> ...	<i>jau6...jau6...</i>	"at the same time"
唔...又...	<i>m4...jau6...</i>	"not...but..."
咪 <sub>a</sub>	<i>mai6</i>	"then"
哩頭...嗰頭...	<i>ni1tau4...go2tau4 ..</i>	"as soon as"
先 <sub>a</sub> (至)	<i>sin1(zi3)</i>	"then"
就 <sub>a</sub>	<i>zau6</i>	"as soon as"
就 <sub>b</sub>	<i>zau6</i>	"naturally (under certain condition); then"
就 <sub>c</sub>	<i>zau6</i>	"expressing contrast"
就 <sub>d</sub>	<i>zau6</i>	"expressing concession (in comparing two things)"
至 <sub>a</sub>	<i>zi3</i>	"then"

## 2. Degree Adverb

比較(上)	<i>bei2gaau3(soeng6)</i>	"fairly; rather"
半	<i>bun3</i>	"half"
超	<i>ciu1</i>	"super"
大大	<i>daai6daai6</i>	"greatly; enormously"
得滯	<i>dak1zai6</i>	"too"
特別	<i>dak6bit6</i>	"particularly"
分外	<i>fan6ngoi6</i>	"particularly"
非常(之)	<i>fei1soeng4(zi1)</i>	"very"
較為	<i>gaau3wai4</i>	"relatively"
咁(鬼)	<i>gam3(gwai2)</i>	"very"
近乎	<i>gan6fu4</i>	"close to"
更加	<i>gang3gaal</i>	"even more"
幾 <sub>a</sub>	<i>gei2</i>	"rather"
幾 <sub>b</sub>	<i>gei2</i>	"very"
幾咁/幾鬼	<i>gei2gam3/gei2gwai2</i>	"very"
極 <sub>a</sub>	<i>gik6</i>	"extremely"
極之	<i>gik6zi1</i>	"extremely"
勁	<i>ging6</i>	"extremely"
鬼咁	<i>gwai2gam3</i>	"very"

過分	<i>gwo3fan6</i>	"excessively"
過頭	<i>gwo3tau4</i>	"very; too"
輕輕	<i>heng6heng1</i>	"slightly"
好(鬼)	<i>hou2(gwai2)</i>	"extremely"
有啲	<i>jau5dil</i>	"a little bit"
異常	<i>ji6soeng4</i>	"extremely"
認真	<i>jing2zan1</i>	"absolutely"
完全	<i>jyun4cyun4</i>	"completely"
遠遠	<i>jyun5jyun5</i>	"largely"
越...越...	<i>jyut6.. jyut6...</i>	"the more...the more..."
越嚟越	<i>jyut6lai4jyut6</i>	"more and more"
靈舍	<i>ling4se3</i>	"particularly"
略略	<i>loek6loek2</i>	"a little; a bit; slightly"
略為	<i>loek6wai4</i>	"slightly"
萬二分	<i>maan6ji6fan1</i>	"very much; extremely"
微微	<i>mei4mei2</i>	"slightly"
哽	<i>ngang3</i>	"even very"
稍為	<i>saau2wai4</i>	"slightly"
十分(之)	<i>sap6fen1(zi1)</i>	"very"
相當(之)	<i>soeng1dong1(zi1)</i>	"quite; fairly; considerably"
算	<i>syun3</i>	"fairly"
太(過)	<i>taai3(gwo3)</i>	"too"
最	<i>zeoi3</i>	"the most"
儘量	<i>zeon6loeng6</i>	"to the full"
至 <sub>b</sub>	<i>zi3</i>	"the most"
再 <sub>a</sub>	<i>zoi3</i>	"more"
仲 <sub>a</sub>	<i>zung6</i>	"more; even more"
仲加	<i>zung6gaa1</i>	"even more"

### 3. Manner Adverb

#### Manner

擺明	<i>baai2ming4</i>	"clearly"
百般	<i>baak3bun1</i>	"by every means"
白	<i>baak6</i>	"in vain; for nothing"
白白	<i>baak6baak6</i>	"in vain; to no purpose"
嘅嘅聲	<i>baang4baang2seng1</i>	"very quickly; at once"
齊齊	<i>cai4cai4</i>	"together"
親口	<i>can1hau2</i>	"(speak) personally"
親耳	<i>can1ji5</i>	"(hear) personally"
親眼	<i>can1ngaan5</i>	"(see) personally"
親手	<i>can1sau2</i>	"with one's own hands"
親自	<i>can1zi6</i>	"in person"
趁早	<i>can3zou2</i>	"as early as possible"
脆脆地	<i>ceoi3ceoi3dei2</i>	"reluctantly; grudgingly"
隨口	<i>ceoi4hau2</i>	"(speak) thoughtlessly"
隨手	<i>ceoi4sau2</i>	"conveniently"



速速	<i>cuk1cuk1</i>	"very quickly; at once"
從中	<i>cung4zung1</i>	"from among"
打掂	<i>daa2dim6</i>	"vertically"
打戙	<i>daa2dung6</i>	"vertically"
打孖	<i>daa2maa1</i>	"in pair"
打橫	<i>daa2waang4</i>	"horizontally"
大大步	<i>daai6daai6bou6</i>	"with wide steps"
大大啖	<i>daai6daai6daam6</i>	"at a big mouthful"
大大力	<i>daai6daai6lik6</i>	"with a strong force"
大大聲	<i>daai6daai6seng1</i>	"very loudly"
大啖大啖	<i>daai6daam6daai6daam6</i>	"at a big mouthful"
大力	<i>daai6lik6</i>	"vigorously"
單獨	<i>daan1duk6</i>	"alone"
特登	<i>dak6dang1</i>	"for a special purpose; specially"
突然(之)間	<i>dat6jin4(zil)gaan1</i>	"suddenly"
冚水	<i>dam4dam4kwaak1</i>	"in a circle"
疊埋心水	<i>dip6maai4sam1seoi2</i>	"wholeheartedly; attentively"
當面	<i>dong1min2</i>	"in somebody's presence"
當眾	<i>dong1zung3</i>	"in the presence of all"
快啲	<i>faai3di1</i>	"quickly"
快快脆脆	<i>faai3faai3ceoi3ceoi3</i>	"quickly"
快手快腳	<i>faai3sau2faai3goek3</i>	"quickly"
分頭	<i>fan1tau4</i>	"separately"
忽然(之)間	<i>fat1jin4(zil)gaan1</i>	"suddenly"
監粗	<i>gaam3cou1</i>	"unyieldingly"
監生	<i>gaam3saang1</i>	"while still alive"
夾硬	<i>gaap3ngaang2</i>	"unyieldingly"
夾手夾腳	<i>gaap3sau2gaap3goek3</i>	"jointly"
雞噉腳	<i>gai1gam2goek3</i>	"very quickly"
急急	<i>gap1gap1</i>	"nearly at once"
急急腳	<i>gap1gap1goek3</i>	"at a fast pace"
急急忙忙	<i>gap1gap1mong4mong4</i>	"in a hurry; in a haste"
急住	<i>gap1zyu6</i>	"in a hurry; in a haste"
極力	<i>gik6lik6</i>	"do one's utmost"
各自各	<i>gok3(zi3)gok3</i>	"respectively"
乾	<i>gon1</i>	"in a dry manner"
公然	<i>gung1jin4</i>	"openly"
滾水淥腳(噉)	<i>gwan2seoi2luk6goek3(gam2)</i>	"in a hurry"
閒閒哋	<i>haan4haan2dei2</i>	"very easily"
係都	<i>hai6dou1</i>	"with insistence"
係噉意	<i>hai6gam2ji2</i>	"perfunctorily"
刻意	<i>hak1ji3</i>	"painstakingly"
口快快(噉)	<i>hau2faai3faai3(gam2)</i>	"without hesitation"
好好(哋)	<i>hau2hau2(dei2)</i>	"well"
口口聲聲	<i>hau2hau2seng1seng1</i>	"(say) again and again"
起勢	<i>hei2sai3</i>	"desperately"
輕易	<i>hing1ji6</i>	"rashly"
開口埋口	<i>hoi1hau2maai4hau2</i>	"(keep) talking over the same thing"

好意思	hou2ji3si1	"have the nerve"
一步步	jat1bou2bou6	"step by step; progressively"
一齊 <sub>a</sub>	jat1cai4	"together"
一口價	jat1hau2gaa3	"at a fixed price"
一口氣	jat1hau2hei3	"in one breath; without a break"
一一	jat1jat1	"one by one"
一輪嘴	jat1leon2zeoi2	"without a break"
一連	jat1lin4	"in succession"
一眼	jat1ngaan5	"in a glimpse"
一心 <sub>a</sub>	jat1sam1	"wholeheartedly"
一心 <sub>b</sub>	jat1sam1	"intentionally"
一手	jat1sau2	"single-headed"
一手一腳	jat1sau2jat1goek3	"by oneself"
由頭	jau4tau4	"from the beginning"
有意	jau5ji3	"intentionally; deliberately"
依稀	ji1hei1	"vaguely"
依時(依候)	ji1si4(ji1hau6)	"punctually"
現兜兜	jin6dau1dau1	"in cash"
卡那(卡那)	kaa3laa1(kaa3laa1)	"alternatively"
擒擒青	kam4kam2ceng1	"quickly"
及早	kap6zou2	"as soon as possible"
狂	kwong4	"crazily"
噏(噏)臨	laa4(laa4)lam4	"very quickly; at once"
噏噏聲	laa4laa2seng1	"very quickly; at once"
臨急臨忙	lam4gap1lam4mong4	"at the last moment"
臨時臨急	lam4si4lam4gap1	"at the last moment"
笠亂	lap6lyun2	"carelessly; casually; at random"
輪流	leon4lau2	"in turn"
哩哩啦啦	li4li1laa4laa4	"very quickly"
力	lik6	"make every effort"
鏈住條頸	lin2zyu6tiu4geng2	"unwillingly"
連氣	lin4hei3	"in succession"
連續	lin4zuk6	"successively"
兩份	loeng5fan2	"together"
來回	loi4wui4	"back and forth"
落手	lok6sau2	"by oneself; in person"
落手落腳	lok6sau2lok6goek3	"by oneself; in person"
陸陸續續	luk6luk6zuk6zuk6	"in succession"
陸續	luk6zuk6	"in succession"
亂(咁)	lyun2(gam3)	"thoughtlessly"
唔經唔覺	m4ging1m4gok3	"without knowing consciously"
唔聲唔聲	m4seng1m4seng1	"quietly"
誤	m6	"mistakenly"
漫	maan6	"casually"
慢慢	maan6maan2	"slowly"
猛(咁)	maang5(gam3)	"desperately"
貿然	mau6jin4	"rashly; hastily"
貿貿然	mau6mau6jin4	"rashly; hastily"

面對面	<i>min6deoi3min6</i>	"face-to-face"
無情情	<i>mou4cing4cing4</i>	"without reason"
無從	<i>mou4cung4</i>	"have no way of doing something"
無端白事/ 無情白事	<i>mou4dyun1baak6si4/ mou4cing4baak6si6</i>	"without reason"
無端端	<i>mou4dyun1dyun1</i>	"without reason"
無意中	<i>mou4ji3zung1</i>	"not intentionally; by chance"
無緣無故	<i>mou4jyun4mou4gu3</i>	"without reason"
無慶慶	<i>mou4laa1laa1</i>	"without reason"
啱啱 <sup>a</sup>	<i>ngaam1ngaam1</i>	"exactly"
啱啱好/ 啱啱線	<i>ngaam1ngaam1hou2/ ngaam1ngaam1sin3</i>	"just right"
眼白白	<i>ngaan5baak6baak6</i>	"helplessly"
毅然	<i>ngai6jin4</i>	"determinedly"
惡 <sup>a</sup>	<i>ngok3</i>	"with difficulty"
惡 <sup>b</sup>	<i>ngok3</i>	"painstakingly"
憑空	<i>pang4hung1</i>	"without foundation"
三爬兩撥(噉)	<i>saam1paa4loeng5but6(gam2)</i>	"very quickly"
誓死	<i>sai6sei2</i>	"firmly"
新	<i>san1</i>	"newly"
失驚無神	<i>sai1geng1mou4san4</i>	"suddenly"
死	<i>sei2</i>	"desperately; determinedly"
死命(噉)	<i>sei2meng6(gam2)</i>	"desperately"
死死地氣	<i>sei2sei2dei6hei3</i>	"have no way out"
順便	<i>seon6bin2</i>	"conveniently"
順帶	<i>seon6daai3</i>	"in passing"
順勢	<i>seon6sai3</i>	"by taking advantage of an opportunity"
順手	<i>seon6sau2</i>	"conveniently"
私底下	<i>sil dai2haa6</i>	"in secret; in private"
施施然	<i>sil sil jin4</i>	"leisurely; unhurriedly"
私自	<i>sil zi6</i>	"secretly"
是但	<i>si6daan6</i>	"randomly; as one pleases"
食住個勢(就)	<i>sik6zyu6go3sai3(zau6)</i>	"by taking advantage of a favourable situation"
先後	<i>sin1hau6</i>	"one after another"
擅自	<i>sin6zi6</i>	"without authorisation"
誠心	<i>sing4sam1</i>	"intentionally"
偷	<i>tau1</i>	"secretly"
偷雞	<i>tau1gai1</i>	"secretly"
偷偷地	<i>tau1tau1dei2</i>	"secretly"
同埋	<i>tung4maai4</i>	"together"
話名	<i>waa6meng2</i>	"nominally"
互	<i>wu6</i>	"each other"
互相	<i>wu6soeng1</i>	"mutually; each other"
盡 <sup>a</sup>	<i>zaan2</i>	"in vain; for nothing"
借的意	<i>ze3di1ji2</i>	"by making an excuse"
借頭借路	<i>ze3tau4ze3lou6</i>	"by making an excuse"
盡	<i>zeon6</i>	"exhaustively"

盡情	zeon6cing4	"as much as one likes"
儘快	zeon6faai3	"as fast as one could"
盡力	zeon6lik6	"try one's best"
儘早	zeon6zou2	"as early as possible"
直	zik6	"straight; directly"
直情 <sub>a</sub>	zik6cing4	"straight; directly"
直頭 <sub>a</sub>	zik6tau4	"straight; directly"
漸漸	zim6zim2	"gradually"
整整吓	zing2zing2haa2	"gradually"
靜雞雞	zing6gai1gai1	"quietly"
照舊(噉)/照	ziu3gau6(gam2)/ziu3	"as usual"
照樣(噉)/照	ziu3joeng2(gam2)/ziu3	"in the same old way"
照常	ziu3soeng4	"as usual"
足以	zuk1ji5	"enough"
逐一	zuk6di1	"one by one"
逐個	zuk6go3	"one by one"
逐一	zuk6jat1	"one by one"
專	zyun1	"specially; always"
專程	zyun1cing4	"specially"
專登	zyun1dang1	"for a special purpose; specially"
專門	zyun1mun2	"specially; always"

#### Repetition

重	cung4	"again; once more"
重新	cung4san1	"again; anew"
從頭	cung4tau4	"anew; once again"
反複	faan2fuk1	"repeatedly"
極 <sub>b</sub>	gik6	"repeatedly"
一次又一次	jat1ci3jau6jat1ci3	"time and again; repeatedly"
一再	jat1zoi3	"time and again"
又 <sub>b</sub>	jau6	"repeatedly; again"
又試	jau6si3	"again"
三番四次	saam1faan1sei3ci3	"repeatedly"
再 <sub>b</sub>	zoi3	"again"
再三	zoi3saam1	"over and over again"
再試	zoi3si3	"again"

#### 4. Modal Adverb

Level of Doubt/Certainty i.e. Epistemic Condition on the Clause

包	baau1	"certainly"
似乎	ci5fu4	"seemingly"
的(而且)確	dik1(ji4ce2)kok3	"really; indeed"
多多少少	do1do1siu2siu2	"to a certain extent"
多數	do1sou3	"probably; most likely"
斷(斷)	dyun6(dyun6)	"absolutely"

分明	<i>fan1ming4</i>	"clearly; obviously"
梗 <sub>a</sub> (係)	<i>gang2(hai6)</i>	"undoubtedly"
梗 <sub>b</sub> (係)	<i>gang2(hai6)</i>	"certainly"
九成	<i>gau2sing4</i>	"very likely"
肯定	<i>hang2ding6</i>	"surely"
可能	<i>ho2nang4</i>	"probably"
好似	<i>hou2ci5</i>	"presumably"
一定	<i>jat1ding6</i>	"certainly; surely"
一口	<i>jat1hau2</i>	"with certainty"
有	<i>jau5</i>	"surely; already"
確係	<i>kok2hai6</i>	"really; indeed"
確實	<i>kok2sat6</i>	"really; indeed"
唔多唔少	<i>m4do1m4siu2</i>	"to a certain extent"
唔見得	<i>m4gin3dak1</i>	"not likely"
唔使問	<i>m4sai2man6</i>	"undoubtedly"
唔使審	<i>m4sai2sam2</i>	"undoubtedly"
唔通 <sub>a</sub>	<i>m4tung1</i>	"can it be that; is it possible that"
唔知 <sub>a</sub>	<i>m4zi1</i>	"really"
咪 <sub>b</sub>	<i>mai6</i>	"exactly; really"
未必	<i>mei6bit1</i>	"not necessarily"
明明	<i>ming4ming4</i>	"certainly"
硬	<i>ngaang6</i>	"certainly"
怕(且)	<i>paa3(ce2)</i>	"perhaps"
勢	<i>sai3</i>	"absolutely"
十成十	<i>sap6sing4sap6</i>	"surely"
實 <sub>a</sub>	<i>sat6</i>	"certainly"
實梗	<i>sat6gang2</i>	"certainly"
實係	<i>sat6hai6</i>	"certainly"
實行	<i>sat6hang4</i>	"certainly"
實牙實齒	<i>sat6ngaa4sat6ci2</i>	"definitely; undoubtedly"
是必	<i>si6bit1</i>	"certainly"
少不免	<i>siu2bat1min5</i>	"to a certain extent"
睇怕	<i>tai2paa3</i>	"apparently; seemingly"
或者	<i>waak6ze2</i>	"perhaps; maybe"
玩吓手	<i>waan2haa5sau2</i>	"probably"
真係	<i>zan1hai6</i>	"really"
直情 <sub>b</sub>	<i>zik6cing4</i>	"surely"
直頭 <sub>b</sub>	<i>zik6tau4</i>	"surely"
正(一)	<i>zing3(jat1)</i>	"indeed; really"
正式	<i>zing3sik1</i>	"indeed; really"
絕對	<i>zyut6deoi3</i>	"absolutely"

Speaker's Attitude

弊在	<i>bai6zoi6</i>	"unfortunately"
不妨	<i>bat1fong4</i>	"there is no harm in; might as well"
不如	<i>bat1jyu4</i>	"it would be better to"
不期然	<i>bat1kei4jin4</i>	"unexpectedly"

不愧	<i>bat1kwai5</i>	"be worthy of"
不知	<i>bat1zi1</i>	"to speaker's/hearer's surprise"
查實	<i>caa4sat6</i>	"in fact; actually"
始終	<i>ci2zung1</i>	"after all"
千祈	<i>cin1kei4</i>	"for heaven's sake"
情願	<i>cing4jyun2</i>	"would rather"
點(不)知	<i>dim2(bat1)zi1</i>	"unexpectedly"
當然	<i>dong1jin4</i>	"of course"
都 <sub>a</sub>	<i>dou1</i>	"after all; rather"
都 <sub>b</sub>	<i>dou1</i>	"expressing emphasis; already"
都係	<i>dou1hai6</i>	"had better"
到底	<i>dou3dai2</i>	"actually; exactly"
反而	<i>faan2ji4</i>	"on the contrary"
反爲	<i>faan2wai4</i>	"on the contrary; instead"
反正	<i>faan2zing3</i>	"anyway"
假假咗	<i>gaa2gaa2dei2</i>	"in any case; anyhow"
簡直	<i>gaan2zik6</i>	"simply"
咁啱	<i>gam3ngaam1</i>	"by chance"
根本(上)	<i>gan1bun2(soeng6)</i>	"at all; simply"
夠	<i>gau3</i>	"as well; too"
究竟	<i>gau3ging2</i>	"actually; exactly"
幾大	<i>gei2daai2</i>	"no matter what, how, etc."
居然	<i>geoi1jin4</i>	"unexpectedly"
竟然	<i>ging2jin4</i>	"unexpectedly"
乾脆	<i>gon1ceoi3</i>	"simply"
姑且	<i>gulce2</i>	"for the time being"
果然	<i>gwo2jin4</i>	"accordingly"
何必	<i>ho4bit1</i>	"why bother"
何苦	<i>ho4fu2</i>	"why bother"
好好醜醜	<i>hou2hou2cau2cau2</i>	"in any case; whatever happens"
好唔好都	<i>hou2m4hou2dou1</i>	"in any case; whatever happens"
好在	<i>hou2zoi6</i>	"fortunately"
一日	<i>jat1jat6</i>	"in the final analysis; at bottom"
一於 <sub>a</sub>	<i>jat1jyu1</i>	"regardless of the consequences"
一於 <sub>b</sub>	<i>jat1jyu1</i>	"simply; just; altogether"
一於 <sub>c</sub>	<i>jat1jyu1</i>	"expressing a decision"
有得 <sub>a</sub>	<i>jau5dak1</i>	"it is possible to"
有得 <sub>b</sub>	<i>jau5dak1</i>	"it is worthwhile to"
有理無理	<i>jau5lei5mou5lei5</i>	"regardless of the consequences"
又 <sub>c</sub>	<i>jau6</i>	"but"
又 <sub>d</sub>	<i>jau6</i>	"expressing emphasis"
應份	<i>jing1fan6</i>	"necessarily"
原來	<i>jyun4loi4</i>	"originally"
其實	<i>kei4sat6</i>	"actually; in fact"
唔怪(之)得	<i>m4gwaai3(zi1)dak1</i>	"that is why"
唔通 <sub>b</sub>	<i>m4tung1</i>	"expressing rhetorical question"
唔掙在	<i>m4zaang1zoi6</i>	"never mind"
唔知 <sub>b</sub>	<i>m4zi1</i>	"unknowingly"

未免	<i>mei6min5</i>	"a bit too"
無非	<i>mou4fei1</i>	"nothing but; simply; no more than; only"
無論如何	<i>mou4leon6jyu4ho4</i>	"in any case; at any rate ; whatever happens"
難怪	<i>naan4gwaai3</i>	"no wonder"
硬係	<i>ngaang2hai6</i>	"in contrary to speaker's will"
寧願	<i>ning4jyun2</i>	"would rather"
偏	<i>pin1</i>	"contrary to speaker's will"
偏偏 <sub>a</sub>	<i>pin1pin1</i>	"contrary to speaker's will"
甚至(無)/甚至(乎)	<i>sam6zi3(mou4)/sam6zi3(fu4)</i>	"even"
實 <sub>b</sub>	<i>sat6</i>	"actually"
實實在在	<i>sat6sat6zoi6zoi6</i>	"in fact"
實則	<i>sat6zak1</i>	"actually"
實在	<i>sat6zoi6</i>	"actually"
死(人)都	<i>sei2(jan4)dou1</i>	"in any case; anyway"
衰衰吔	<i>seoi1seoi1dei2</i>	"nevertheless"
純粹	<i>seon4seoi5</i>	"simply"
事實上	<i>si6sat6soeng6</i>	"in fact; actually"
先 <sub>b</sub> (至)	<i>sin1(zi3)</i>	"as late as"
先 <sub>c</sub> (至)	<i>sin1(zi3)</i>	"expressing emphasis"
索性	<i>sok3sing3</i>	"simply"
話晒	<i>waa6saai3</i>	"after all"
橫掂	<i>waang4dim6</i>	"anyway"
唯有	<i>wai4jau5</i>	"only; anyway"
盞 <sub>b</sub>	<i>zaan2</i>	"to an undesirable result"
就 <sub>e</sub>	<i>zau6</i>	"as early as"
就 <sub>f</sub>	<i>zau6</i>	"expressing determination"
就 <sub>g</sub>	<i>zau6</i>	"expressing emphasis; the fact is that"
就 <sub>h</sub>	<i>zau6</i>	"expressing contrary belief"
最多/至多 <sub>a</sub>	<i>zeoi3do1/zi3do1</i>	"at the worst"
最好	<i>zeoi3hou2</i>	"it is good to"
至 <sub>c</sub>	<i>zi3</i>	"as late as"
至多(咪)/至多(唔係)	<i>zi3do1(mai6)/zi3do1(m4hai6)</i>	"at the worst"
自不然	<i>zi6bat1jin4</i>	"naturally"
自自然然	<i>zi6zi6jin4jin4</i>	"naturally"
即管	<i>zik1gun2</i>	"feel free to; not hesitate to"
直情 <sub>c</sub>	<i>zik6cing4</i>	"simply; at all"
直頭 <sub>c</sub>	<i>zik6tau4</i>	"simply; at all"
撞喺	<i>zong6ngaam1</i>	"by chance"
早知	<i>zou2zi1</i>	"having known this beforehand"
仲 <sub>b</sub>	<i>zung6</i>	"expressing emphasis"

Speaker's Point of View

大體(上)	<i>daai6tai2(soeng6)</i>	"on the whole"
奉旨	<i>fung6zi2</i>	"as a rule"
計正	<i>gai3zeng3</i>	"under normal circumstances; as a rule"
基本上	<i>gei1bun2soeng6</i>	"basically"
揸埋 <sub>a</sub>	<i>laa2maai4</i>	"generally speaking"

聽講(話)	<i>teng1gong2(waa6)</i>	"be told; hear of; by hearsay"
照計	<i>ziu3gai3</i>	"according to reason; in the ordinary course of events; normally"
照例	<i>ziu3lai6</i>	"as a rule"
照理	<i>ziu3lei5</i>	"generally"
總算 <sub>a</sub>	<i>zung2syun3</i>	"considering everything; all things considered; on the whole"

## 5. Negation Adverb

幾時得 <sub>a</sub>	<i>gei2si4dak1lai4</i>	"not (within a period of time)"
幾時得 <sub>b</sub>	<i>gei2si4dak1lai4</i>	"not (comparatively speaking)"
鬼	<i>gwai2</i>	"not"
唔(鬼)	<i>m4(gwai2)</i>	"not"
唔多	<i>m4do1</i>	"not very"
唔慌	<i>m4fong1</i>	"absolutely not"
唔好	<i>m4hou2</i>	"don't"
唔使	<i>m4sai2</i>	"not necessarily"
咪	<i>mai5</i>	"don't"
未	<i>mei6</i>	"not yet"
未曾	<i>mei6cang4</i>	"never"
未有耐 <sub>a</sub>	<i>mei6jau5noi1</i>	"not (in time)"
未有耐 <sub>b</sub>	<i>mei6jau5noi1</i>	"not (in degree)"
未嘗	<i>mei6soeng4</i>	"not (negative sentence)"
無 <sub>a</sub>	<i>mou5</i>	"have not"
無 <sub>b</sub>	<i>mou5</i>	"not (in fixed phrases)"
無得	<i>mou5dak1</i>	"it is not possible to"
無乜	<i>mou5mat1</i>	"almost not"
無話	<i>mou5waa6</i>	"never"

## 6. Scope Adverb

差啲	<i>caa1di1</i>	"almost"
隨處	<i>ceoi4cyu3</i>	"everywhere"
隨地	<i>ceoi4dei6</i>	"everywhere"
前後	<i>cin4hau6</i>	"altogether"
大大話話	<i>daai6daai6waa6waa6</i>	"approximately"
大約	<i>daai6joek3</i>	"approximately"
大嚟	<i>daai6laa4laa4</i>	"as much as"
大略	<i>daai6loek2</i>	"roughly"
大致(上)	<i>daai6zi3(soeng6)</i>	"roughly; approximately; more or less"
單係	<i>daan1hai6</i>	"only"
點止	<i>dim2zi2</i>	"not only"
頂多	<i>ding2do1</i>	"at the most"
頂籠	<i>ding2lung2</i>	"at the most"
都 <sub>c</sub>	<i>dou1</i>	"also; as well"
都 <sub>d</sub>	<i>dou1</i>	"all"
到處	<i>dou3cyu3</i>	"everywhere"



加加埋埋	<i>gaalgaalmaai4maai4</i>	"altogether"
咁滯	<i>gam3zai6</i>	"almost"
幾乎	<i>gei1fu4</i>	"almost"
極其量	<i>gik6kei4loeng6</i>	"at the most"
山滿岭	<i>ham6baang6laang6</i>	"all"
起碼	<i>hei2maa5</i>	"at least"
何止	<i>ho4zi2</i>	"not only"
一齊 <sub>b</sub>	<i>jat1cai4</i>	"along with all the others"
一共	<i>jat1gung6</i>	"altogether"
一概	<i>jat1koi3</i>	"without exception; totally"
一律	<i>jat1leot6</i>	"without exception"
又 <sub>e</sub>	<i>jau6</i>	"also; expressing information of the same kind"
亦(都)	<i>jik6(dou1)</i>	"as well"
約莫	<i>joek3mok2</i>	"approximately"
拉勻	<i>laai1wan4</i>	"on average"
另外	<i>ling6ngoio6</i>	"in addition"
唔只	<i>m4zi2</i>	"not only"
唔淨只/唔單只	<i>m4zing6 zi2/m4daan16zi2</i>	"not only"
乜滯	<i>mat1zai6</i>	"not quite (negative sentence)"
偏偏 <sub>b</sub>	<i>pin1pin1</i>	"just"
成	<i>seng4</i>	"full; as much as"
上下	<i>soeng6haa2</i>	"almost"
頭尾	<i>tau4mei5</i>	"from beginning to end; altogether"
通通	<i>tung1tung1</i>	"all; entirely"
唯獨是	<i>wai4duk6si6</i>	"only"
掙啲	<i>zaang1di1</i>	"almost"
就 <sub>i</sub>	<i>zau6</i>	"only; merely"
最多/至多 <sub>b</sub>	<i>zeoi3do1/zi3do1</i>	"at the most"
最少/至少	<i>zeoi3siu2/zi3siu2</i>	"at least"
只不過	<i>zi2bat1gwo3</i>	"merely; only; just"
只係	<i>zi2hai6</i>	"merely; only; just"
淨	<i>zing6</i>	"only"
淨係 <sub>a</sub>	<i>zing6hai6</i>	"only"
座底	<i>zo6dai2</i>	"at least"
將近 <sub>a</sub>	<i>zoeng1gan6</i>	"nearly; almost"
再 <sub>c</sub>	<i>zoi3</i>	"also"
足足	<i>zuk1zuk1</i>	"full; as much as"
總共	<i>zung2gung6</i>	"altogether"
仲 <sub>c</sub>	<i>zung6</i>	"additionally"

## 7. Time Adverb

### Past/Present/Future Time Adverb

不闕	<i>bat1lau1</i>	"consistently; all long"
本來	<i>bun2loi4</i>	"originally"
曾經	<i>cang4ging1</i>	"ever"

隨時	<i>ceoi4si4</i>	"at all times"
遲啲(再)	<i>ci4di1(zoi3)</i>	"later"
遲早	<i>ci4zou2</i>	"some time in the future; some day"
初	<i>co1</i>	"at first"
初初	<i>co1co1</i>	"at the beginning"
初頭	<i>co1tau4</i>	"at the beginning"
從來	<i>cung4loi4</i>	"always; at all times"
大早	<i>daai6zou2</i>	"some time ago"
第(二)日	<i>dai6(ji6)jat6</i>	"later"
第(二)時	<i>dai6(ji6)si4</i>	"later; next time"
第一時間	<i>dai6jat1si4gaan3</i>	"immediately"
當初	<i>dong1co1</i>	"originally"
當堂	<i>dong1tong4</i>	"immediately"
到時	<i>dou3si4</i>	"at that time"
到頭嚟	<i>dou3tau4lai4</i>	"in the end; finally"
分分鐘	<i>fan1fan1zung1</i>	"at any time"
跟手	<i>gan1sau2</i>	"next; then; after that; immediately"
跟住	<i>gan1zyu6</i>	"afterwards; then"
舊底	<i>gau6dai2</i>	"in the past"
經已	<i>ging1ji5</i>	"already"
過後	<i>gwo3hau6</i>	"afterwards; later"
喺度喺處	<i>hai2dou6/hai2syu3</i>	"in progress of"
後尅	<i>hau6mei1</i>	"afterwards; later"
起初	<i>hei2co1</i>	"originally"
起先	<i>hei2sin1</i>	"at the beginning"
响度响處	<i>hoeng2dou6/hoeng2syu3</i>	"in progress of"
向來	<i>hoeng3loi4</i>	"always"
一邊...一邊...	<i>jat1bin1...jat1bin1...</i>	"at the same time"
一便...一便...	<i>jat1bin6...jat1bin6...</i>	"at the same time"
一齊 <sub>c</sub>	<i>jat1cai4</i>	"at a time"
一向	<i>jat1hoeng3</i>	"consistently; all along"
一路 <sub>a...</sub> 一路 <sub>a...</sub>	<i>jat1lou6...jat1lou6...</i>	"at the same time"
一路 <sub>b</sub>	<i>jat1lou6</i>	"continuously; always; all along"
一面...一面...	<i>jat1min6...jat1min6...</i>	"at the same time"
一時(之間)	<i>jat1si4(zilgaan1)</i>	"for the time being"
一直	<i>jat1zik6</i>	"consistently"
一早	<i>jat1zou2</i>	"in advance"
依然	<i>ji1jin4</i>	"at the same time"
已經	<i>ji5ging1</i>	"already"
仍然	<i>jing4jin4</i>	"still; yet"
預先	<i>jyu6sin1</i>	"in advance; beforehand"
預早	<i>jyu6zou2</i>	"in advance; beforehand"
原先	<i>jyun4sin1</i>	"originally"
立即	<i>laap6zik1</i>	"immediately"
連隨	<i>lin4ceoi4</i>	"immediately"
喺(啱)先	<i>ngaam1(ngaam1)sin1</i>	"just"
喺 <sub>b</sub>	<i>ngaam1ngaam1</i>	"just"
新近	<i>san1gan6</i>	"recently"

晨早 <sub>a</sub>	san4zou2	"well in advance"
晨早 <sub>b</sub>	san4zou2	"early in the morning"
首先	sau2sin1	"first of all"
試過	si3gwo3	"before; formerly; in the past"
先 <sub>d</sub> (至)	sin1(zi3)	"first"
先 <sub>e</sub> (至)	sin1(zi3)	"just"
先先/先前	sin1sin1/sin1cin4	"before; previously"
素來	sou3loi4	"always; usually"
頭頭	tau4tau2	"at the beginning"
同時	tung4si4	"at the same time"
就 <sub>j</sub>	zau6	"very soon"
就 <sub>k</sub>	zau6	"originally"
就快	zau6faai3	"very soon"
就嚟	zau6lai4	"very soon"
正話	zeng3waa6	"just"
卒之	zeot1zil	"finally"
即刻	zik1haak1	"immediately"
接住	zip3zyu6	"immediately afterwards; in a minute"
將近 <sub>b</sub>	zoeng1gan6	"very soon"
再 <sub>d</sub>	zoi3	"afterwards"
早日	zou2jat6	"soon"
(老)早就	(lou5)zou2zau6	"in advance"
早早	zou2zou2	"well in advance"
終於	zung1jyu1	"finally"
終須	zung1seoi1	"anyhow; eventually; after all"
總算 <sub>b</sub>	zung2syun3	"at long last; finally"
仲 <sub>d</sub>	zung6	"still; yet"
仲係	zung6hai6	"still; nevertheless"
轉(個)頭	zyun3(go3)tau4	"later"

#### Frequency

不斷	bat1dyun6	"continuously"
次次	ci3ci3	"every time"
動不動	dung6bat1dung6	"frequently"
凡親	fan4can1	"whenever"
逢(親)	fung4(can1)	"whenever"
間(唔)中	gaan3(m4)zung1	"occasionally"
久唔久	gau2m4gau2	"once in a while"
係嘅	hai6gam2	"continuously"
好多時	hou2do1si4	"very often"
好日	hou2jat6	"rarely; seldom"
好少	hou2siu2	"rarely; seldom"
一日到黑 <sub>a</sub>	jat1jat6dou3hak1	"always"
一味	jat1mei2	"blindly; endlessly"
一時時	jat1si2si4	"occasionally"
一時...一時...	jat1si4...jat1si4...	"sometimes... sometimes..."
日日	jat6jat6	"daily; regularly"

有幾何	<i>jau5gei2ho2</i>	"rarely; seldom"
有時	<i>jau5si4</i>	"sometimes"
有陣時	<i>jau5zan6si2</i>	"sometimes"
郁啲	<i>juk1di1</i>	"easily; frequently"
郁吓	<i>juk1haa5</i>	"easily; frequently"
勤啲	<i>kan4di1</i>	"frequently"
揸埋 <sub>b</sub>	<i>laa2maai4</i>	"easily; frequently; at every turn"
躡日	<i>laam3jat6</i>	"every two days"
無時無刻	<i>mou4si4mou4hak1</i>	"all the time (negative sentence)"
無幾何	<i>mou5gei2ho2</i>	"rarely; seldom"
無日	<i>mou5jat6</i>	"all the time (negative sentence)"
每	<i>mui5</i>	"whenever"
耐不耐/耐唔耐	<i>noi6bat1noi2/noi6m4noi2</i>	"once in a while"
耐唔中	<i>noi6m4zung1</i>	"once in a while"
頻頻	<i>pan4pan4</i>	"again and again"
成日	<i>seng4jat6</i>	"always"
時...時...	<i>si4...si4...</i>	"sometimes...sometimes..."
時不時	<i>si4bat1si4</i>	"sometimes"
時時	<i>si4si4</i>	"often; constantly"
時時刻刻	<i>si4si4hak1hak1</i>	"all the time"
通常	<i>tung1soeng4</i>	"usually"
枕住	<i>zam2zyu6</i>	"continuously"
周(不)時	<i>zau1(bat1)si4</i>	"often; constantly"
淨係 <sub>b</sub>	<i>zing6hai6</i>	"constantly"
再 <sub>e</sub>	<i>zoi3</i>	"continuously"
總係	<i>zung2hai6</i>	"always; invariably"

#### Duration

長	<i>coeng4</i>	"for a long time"
一度	<i>jat1dou6</i>	"for a time"
一日到黑 <sub>b</sub>	<i>jat1jat6dou3hak1</i>	"from morning till night; all day long"
一瞬眼	<i>jat1zaam2ngaan5</i>	"in an instant"
日夜	<i>jat6je6</i>	"day and night"
霎時間	<i>saap3si4gaan1</i>	"in a twinkling"
永遠	<i>wing5jyun5</i>	"forever"
瞬吓眼	<i>zaam2haa5ngaan5</i>	"in an instant"
枕長	<i>zam2coeng4</i>	"for a long time"
轉吓眼	<i>zyun2haa5ngaan5</i>	"in an instant"

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