

Developmental patterns of tone sandhi in three Chinese dialects

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Tone sandhi as a higher level obligatory phonological process is a common feature of many Chinese dialects with diverse patterns. Previous studies argued that transparent tone sandhi patterns are productive based on a computational mechanism while opaque patterns are not productive with allomorph listing only. However, very little work has been done on the acquisition of tone sandhi. The current study investigates the acquisition of diverse tone sandhi patterns in Xiamen Southern Min, Wenzhou Wu and Baotou Jin to examine the productivity issue with a wider perspective. The results show that productivity is a continuum with dialect-specific coping strategies for non-application of tone sandhi.

Bio

Peggy Mok is a Professor at the Department of Linguistics and Modern Languages, and Associate Dean (Student Affairs) at the Faculty of Arts, The Chinese University of Hong Kong. She obtained her MPhil and PhD in Linguistics from the University of Cambridge. She is currently an Associate Editor of *JASA Express Letters* and *Phonetica*. She has diverse interests in phonetics, incorporating articulatory, acoustic and psycholinguistic perspectives in cross-linguistic investigations of speech production and perception. Speech acquisition in different contexts is an important theme in her research. Her projects have been supported by a number of grants from the Research Grants Council in Hong Kong. She is also awarded the Humanities and Social Sciences Prestigious Fellowship Scheme in 2025/26.