

Yuè & the Sinitic Languages of the Pearl River Region — Unit 1.2

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Cantonese

Cantonese < Canton

English Canton *not canton* < Portuguese *Cantão*

Português: *in Pearl River Delta since 16th century*

A província de Cantão 廣東

A cidade de Cantão 廣州

English:

The province of Canton 廣東 *this use gradually faded away*

The city of Canton 廣州

Cantonese

“Cantonese” as linguistic or ethnic term:

“Cantonese” *usually* ≠ “belonging to province of 廣東”

e.g. Cantonese also spoken in large numbers in e.g. 廣西

Guangxi Cantonese language conversation | Ying and Lian speaking Cantonese | Wikitongues



Wikitongues
157K abonnees

Lid worden

Abonneren



531



Delen

35.282 weergaven 25 sep 2020

Ying and Lian talk about sweet rice wine in Guangxi, or Mainland, Cantonese, a variety of the Yue Chinese language of Guangxi, Guangdong, Hong Kong, and Macau.

访问老南宁人，讲正宗南宁白话，听起来和广东粤语一样好听啊。



廣西白话

529 abonnees

Abonneren



15



Delen

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B56nxfnSV4U> <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qxSe0sKAHXQ>

Cantonese

In 廣東

“Cantonese” *usually* only includes certain Yuè dialects
usually excludes Hakka and Mǐn

This Perfectly Captures Cantonese/Hakka/Teochew(15th National Games of China)

 **Fake Scientist**
3,47K abonnees

Abonneren

781

Delen

Opslaan

Fragment

Downloaden

43K weergaven 3 maanden geleden 广州市

At the opening ceremony of China's 15th National Games, this song sings all three major Guangdong dialects – Cantonese, Hakka, and Teochew.
...meer

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sYIW2r0nfss>

Cantonese

Sinitic dialect groups of 廣東:

- Yuè 粵
- Hakka 客家
- Mǐn 閩
- Unclassified Patois of N Guangdong 粵北土話
- Native Mandarin varieties: Jūnhuà 軍話, SW Mandarin 西南官話

(+ 1~1.5%(?) of the population speak native non-Sinitic languages)

Cantonese

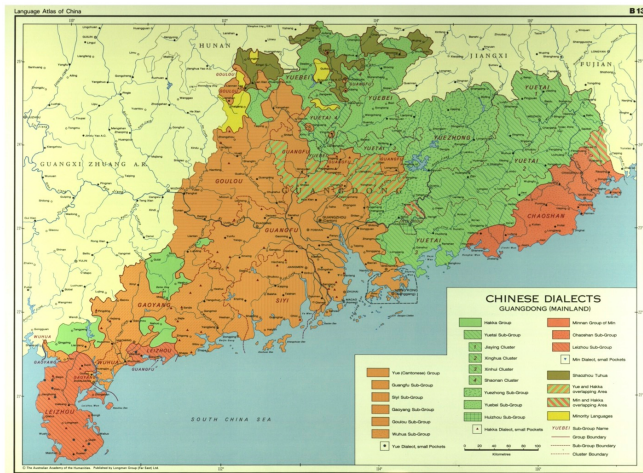


Figure 1: Guangdong in the 1st ed. of *Language Atlas of China*

Cantonese

Sinitic dialect groups of 廣西:

- Yuè 粵
- SW Mandarin 西南官話 (also Jūnhuà 軍話)
- Hakka 客家
- Píng huà 平話
- Xiāng 湘
- Mǐn (Southern) 閩南

(about 40% of the population speak native non-Sinitic languages)

Cantonese

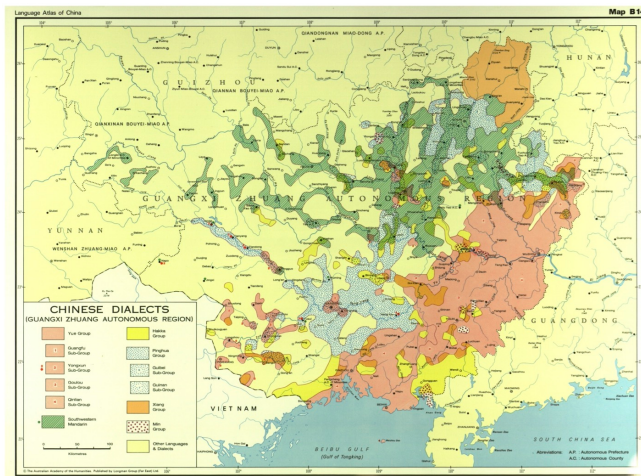


Figure 2: Sinitic Guangxi in the 1st ed. of *Language Atlas of China*

Cantonese

What range of Yuè dialects does the term “Cantonese” include?

Different people have different definitions

Language Atlas of China: “Cantonese” = Yue dialect group

Four groups of Chinese dialects are spoken in Guangdong province.¹ They are Yue (Cantonese), Hakka (Ke-jia), Min and Shaozhou Tuhua.

The Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region [...] the dialects spoken include the following six groups: South-western Mandarin, Yue (Cantonese), Hakka, Pinghua, Xiang and Min. [the underlining is mine]

I do not recommend this use; not all Yuè dialects are related to the city of Canton.

Cantonese

Many Yuè dialects are not intelligible to the people of Canton
without prior exposure.

e.g. Cantonese speakers listening to Táishān 台山 Yuè



Can Cantonese Speakers
Understand Taishanese? (ft....



39K weergaven • 4 jaar geleden

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nuXg6KhpwXc>



广州人爆笑挑战台山话！未入门就
放弃！

2018-05-04

<https://www.bilibili.com/video/BV1dW41137NS/>

Cantonese

One linguistic definition of Cantonese:

De Sousa (2022)

- Yuè dialect of Canton
- enclave Yuè varieties (“Cantonese enclaves”) resulted from the migration of people from the Canton area, or from another Cantonese enclave, primarily after the First Opium War (1840–1842)

de Sousa, Hilário. 2022. The Expansion of Cantonese Over the Last Two Centuries. In Ye, Zhengdao (ed.), *The Palgrave Handbook of Chinese Language Studies*, 409–440. Singapore: Springer Nature Singapore.
https://doi.org/10.1007/978-981-16-0924-4_35

Cantonese

“Canton area”: 3-counties (三邑 *Sānyì Saam1 Jap1*)

e.g. *Language Atlas of China*, divides the Yuè dialects overseas into three types:

3-counties (*Sānyì* 三邑), 4-counties (*Sìyì* 四邑), *Zhōngshān* 中山

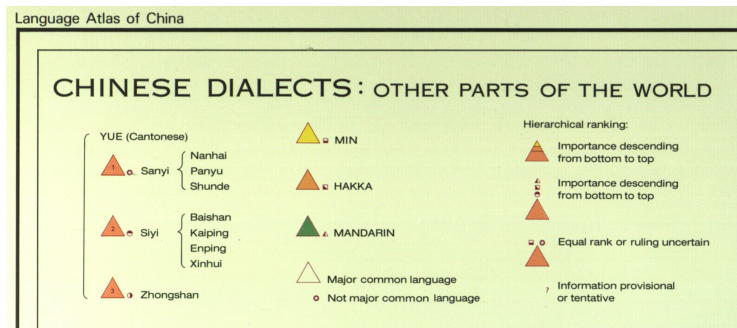


Figure 3: Legend of map B16b in the 1st ed. of *Language Atlas of China*

Cantonese

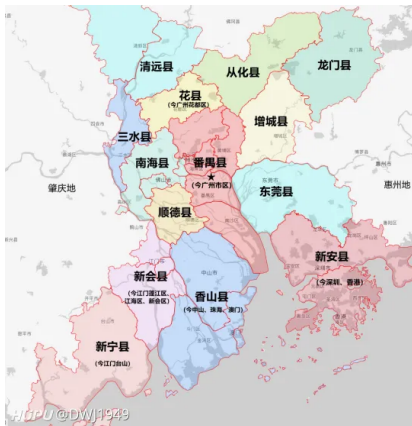


Figure 4: Counties of *Guǎngzhōu Fǔ* 廣州府, early 19th century

三邑 *Saam1 Jap1 / Sānyì* ^{3-cts}

- 南海 *Naam4 Hoi2 / Nánhǎi*
- 番禺 *Pun1 Jyu4 / Pānyú*
(includes most of the old Canton city centre)

• 順德 *Seon6 Dak1 / Shùndé*

四邑 *Sei3 Jap1 / Sìyì* ^{4-counties}

- 新會 *San1 Wui6 / Xīnhuì*
- 新寧 *San1 Ning4 / Xīnníng*
(Now 台山 *Toi4 Saan1 / Táishān*)
- (恩平 *Yan1 Ping4 / Ēnpíng*)
- (開平 *Hoi1 Ping4 / Kāipíng*)

香山 *Hoeng1 Saan1 / Xiāngshān* (Now 中山 *Zung1 Saan1 / Zhōngshān*)

Cantonese

Qīng 清 Dynasty (1644 ^{in Beijing} –1912)

before the First Opium War (1840–1842)

海禁 *hǎijìn* / *hoi2 gam3* ‘sea ban’, e.g.:

- restrictions on civilian ownership of watercrafts
- foreigners were only allowed to trade in
Canton, Amoy (Xiàmén), Níngbō, Shànghǎi (1685-1757),
and then only in Canton (1757-1842)

~~(¥¥¥¥)~~ *People in the Canton area were on average very rich,
but most of them could not go anywhere)*

Cantonese

After the war (1842), China was forced to cancel the ban on civilian ownership of watercrafts.

Cantonese (and other) people migrated in huge numbers

- a) *within the Pearl River Basin*
 - b) outward along the *sea coast*, or
 - c) *overseas*
- (in multiple waves).

Cantonese

¥¥¥ *People of Canton* ¥¥¥, through their business prowess, dominated many city and town centres in the Pearl River Region, (and many Chinatowns overseas,) forming many Cantonese enclaves.

Examples of Cantonese enclaves:

Hong Kong, Macau, Zhànjiāng 湛江 (Fort-Bayard), Běihǎi 北海, Nánning 南寧

Cantonese varieties in the Cantonese enclaves: observably different from the pre-existing surrounding dialects/languages; unique language-contact environments. They have remained largely mutually intelligible: short time depth of separation, many still have close contact.

Cantonese

Yuè-Pínghuà
dialect areas
according to the
1st ed. of
*Language Atlas
of China* from
Sung (2026: 24).

In Guǎngxī:
“Cantonese” is 白
話 *baak6 waa6*,
non-Cantonese
Yuè dialects
known by other
names, e.g. 土白
話 *tu2 baak6*
waa6 (Náníng
Cantonese
pronunciation)

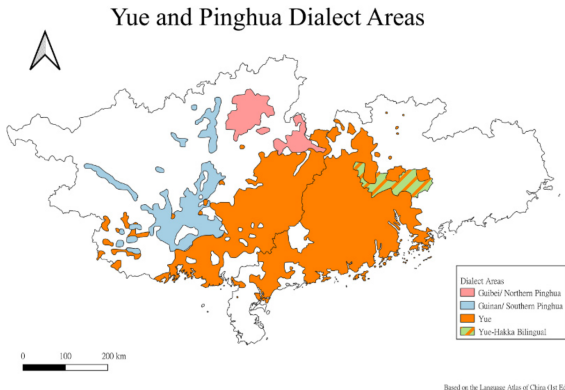


Figure 2.12: Geographical distribution of Yue, Guinan and Guibei Pinghua dialects (based on LAC 1st Edition)

Cluster Map of Yue Dialects

Cluster Map of Yue Dialects

Information:
 Alignment: MSA
 Distance calculation: RDV
 Clustering: Ward's Method
 Number of Clusters: 5

0 100 200 km

Dialect Groups: Siyi, Guangfui, Gueiou, Coastal, Western

Figure 6.5: Cluster Map of Yue Dialects in Guangdong and Guangxi (MSA)

Cantonese

Sung's Multidimensional
Scaling map of
Yuè-Pínghuà
tonal variation
(2026: 165).

Most of the dark
green dots are
Cantonese
enclaves.

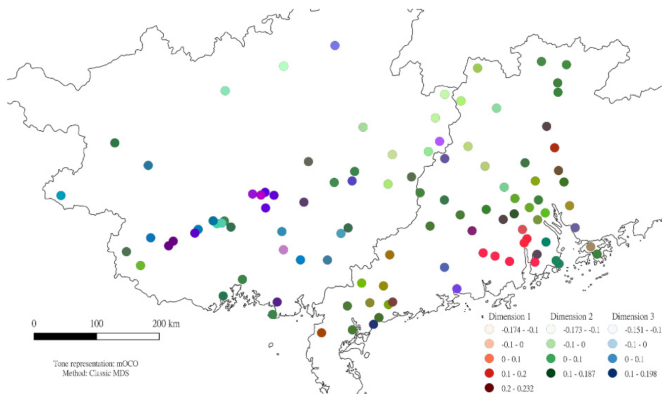


Figure 8.4: MDS map of tonal variation of Yue dialects, $r^2 = 67.2\%$ ⁸

Cantonese

Names of Cantonese:

- 廣東話 gwong2 dung1 waa2 (Guangdong language) most common in HK/Macau
- 廣州話 gwong2 zau1 waa2 (Guangzhou language) used by e.g. statistics departments of HK/Macau
- 廣府話 gwong2 fu2 waa2 (Guang Prefecture language)
- 白話 baak6 waa2 (vernacular) rare in HK/Macau, slightly old fashion in Guangdong. In Guangxi:
 - 白話 baak6 waa6 = Cantonese
 - 土白話 tu2 baak6 waa6 = local non-Cantonese Yue dialect
- 粵語 jyut6 jyu5 (Yue language)

Cantonese

Names of Cantonese:

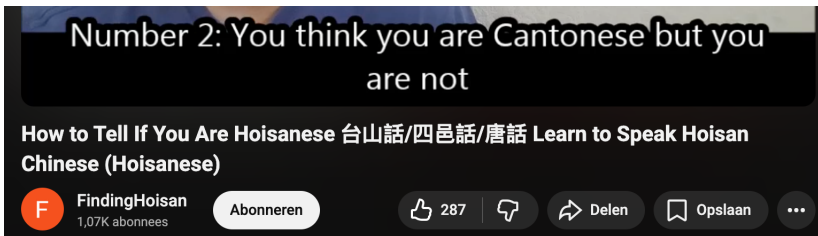
- (講) 中文 (gong2) zung1 man2 ((speak) Chinese language)
= Cantonese



Cantonese

Names of Cantonese:

- 唐話 tong4 waa2 (Tang language) used by Southern Chinese diaspora to refer to whatever Sinitic language they themselves speak; now out-dated



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MRvLWAGEvY>