

Whatchamacallit-type expressions in Cantonese: Analyzing *mat*, *matje*, *meje*, and *me*

Foong Ha Yap, Winnie Chor & Marvin
Lam

Department of English

The Hong Kong Polytechnic University

The realization of mood and modal assessment in different languages: modal particles

- ◆ **Chinese:** Christian M.I.M. Matthiessen, Foong Ha Yap, Marvin Lam, Jack Pun
- ◆ **Thai:** Pattama Patpong
- ◆ **Japanese:** Ayako Ochi
- ◆ **Indonesian:** Susanto Nanda
- ◆ **Arabic:** Mohamed Ali Bardi
- ◆ **Brazilian Portugese:** Elaine Espindola
- ◆ ...

sa²wa²di:¹ kha²
greetings Nego.
Good morning!

pet¹ ʔa²ra¹j¹ kha⁴
be wh-element Nego.
What's up?

mi:¹ ʔa:¹ci¹an¹ pen¹ li³at³ khrap⁴
have vomit be blood Nego.
I vomited with blood.

pen¹ ma:¹ ki:²wa¹n¹ læ:w⁴ kha⁴
be come wh-element ASP: pfv. Nego.
How many days (you) have been like this?

chaw⁴ ni:⁴ ʔe:¹ŋ¹ khrap⁴
morning this self Nego.
(I had been) this morning.

khə:¹j¹ pen¹ pə:²ni:⁴ ma:¹kɔ:²n² maj⁴
ASP.: pfv. be like this before Nego.
Have (you) ever been like this before?

maj³ khə:¹j¹ khrap⁴
NEG. ASP.: pfv. Nego.
No, never.

kin¹ law³ ri:⁵pla:w²
eat/drink alcohol Nego.
Do (you) drink alcohol?

kin¹ pen¹ ba:¹ŋ¹ wan¹
eat/drink be some day
(I) drink sometimes.

ʔa:¹ci¹an¹ jə⁴ maj⁴ kha⁴
vomit a lot Nego. Nego.
Did (you) vomit a lot?

ʔɔ:²k² ma:¹ kra²tho:⁵n⁵ n iŋ¹ khrap⁴
exist come container one Nego.
(I vomited) one container.

wan¹ni:⁴ khon¹ tɔ:¹ŋ³ ju:²
today probably must stay

khrap⁴
responding: yes

ro:¹ŋ¹pha²ja:¹ba:¹n¹ kɔ:²n² la³ na⁴
hospital before Nego. Nego.
Today (you) probably have to stay in the hospital.

læ:w⁴tæ:² mɔ:⁵ ca² hen⁵ khuan¹
up to doctor will see be suitable
It is up to you.

Thai: Modal particle / Negotiator

- ◆ **Negotiator: ↘ interpersonal particle**
- ◆ There are three types of Negotiator:
 - ◆ modal distance
politeness Negotiator [*kha*², *khrap*⁴]
 - ◆ mood type
polar Negotiator [*maj*⁴, *ri:*⁵*pla:w*²]
 - ◆ modal judgement
attitudinal Negotiator [*la*³, *na*⁴]

Girl (Huijin)	Boy (Jinhyeon)
<p><i>geunde hal yaegiran ge geugeo ya?</i> but Future say thing this one Neg But this is what you're going to say? →</p>	<p><i>geuman haja</i> stop let's-do Let's break up.</p>
<p><i>na bwa bora gu gimsamsun ssi ttaemun ni?</i> me look look Neg Gimsamsun Ms. Because, Neg Look at me. Look! Because of Gimsamsun? →</p>	<p><i>eo</i> yes Yes.</p>
<p><i>sarangha ni? eung?</i> love Neg Continuative (You) love (her)? euh? →</p>	<p><i>jakku saenggang-na.</i> always think-come. (I) always think (of her).</p>
<p><i>sarangha nya gu ?</i> love Quotative Marker Neg (I'm asking you) do you love (her)? →</p>	<p><i>bo go sipeo.</i> look and want I want to see (her). (=I miss her.)</p>
<p><i>sarangha nya gu ?</i> love Quotative Marker Neg (I'm asking you) do you love (her)? →</p>	<p><i>gachi isseumyeon jeulgeowo</i> together if happy If (we're) together, (we will be) happy.</p>
<p><i>geurae</i> yes Yes.</p>	

<i>sarangha ni?</i>		<i>eung?</i>
love	Neg	Continuative
(You) love (her)?		euh?

Speech Level	Examples
Plain	<i>sarangha ni?</i>
Intimate	<i>sarangha-e ?</i>
Familiar	<i>sarangha-na ?</i>
Semi-Formal	<i>sarangha-o ?</i>
Polite	<i>sarangha-eyo ?</i>
Deferential	<i>sarangha-pnik ka?</i>

Kimpachi (father)	Otome (daughter)
<p><i>onechan, ohayoo.</i> sister good morning Sister, good morning.</p>	<p><i>a, ohayoo.</i> ah, good morning Ah, good morning.</p>
<p><i>nanka kakusita?</i> what hide-PAST Did you hide anything?</p>	<p><i>iya, kakusitenai yo.</i> no, hide-negative Neg. No I didn't hide.</p> <p>mood: request?</p>
<p><i>uun, nanka kakusita yo.</i> no, what hide-PAST Neg. No, you hid something.</p> <p>mood: forceful: insistent</p>	<p><i>uun, a, ne, otoo-chan, koosaku okositekitekure nai?</i> no ah hey father koosaku wake-come-give Neg? No, ah, hey, father, can you go and wake koosaku up?</p>
<p><i>kakusita yo.</i> hide-PAST Neg. (You) hid.</p>	<p><i>jugyoo hajimaru mae ni,</i> class start before NI Before the class starts</p>
<p>mood: explanative</p> <p>mood: explanative: reason</p>	<p><i>zemi no sensee ni yobidasareteru n da tte.</i> seminar NO teacher NI call-out-PRESENT-PASSIVE Neg Neg Neg He is called by his seminar teacher (that's what I heard).</p>
<p><i>aitsu datte kodomo ja nai n da kara sa,</i> he also kids be negative Neg. Neg. Neg. Neg. He is not a kid anymore, so,</p> <p>mood: emphathetic: male</p>	
<p><i>yoo ga attara jibun de okitekuru yo...</i> business GA exist-if himself DE wake-come Neg. If he has any business, he will wake up by himself...</p> <p>mood: interrogative</p>	
<p><i>nanika, ima nani, nani kakusita no? nani?</i> what now what wh-Q hide-PAST Neg. what? What, now what, what did you hide? What?</p>	<p><i>iya betsuni. uun, moo iikara hayaku okositekite!</i> no nothing umm well fine quick wake-come! No, nothing. Umm, well, doesn't matter, can you quickly go to wake (him) up?</p>
<p><i>wakatta tte. ima ittekuru kara sa.</i> understand-PAST Neg now go-come Neg. Neg. OK. Now I'm going, yeh.</p> <p>evidentiality</p>	

Japanese: Modal particle / Negotiator

Negotiator: ↘ interpersonal particle

		written/s spoken	spoken			associated mood types
			neutral	male	female	
mood	interrogative	<i>ka</i>			<i>no</i>	indicative
	interrogative?: 'I request you to'				<i>nai</i>	
	confirmative					indicative
	empathetic			<i>sa</i>		conclusive or optative within indicative
	explanative	<i>no(da)</i>	<i>n(da)</i>			other than hortative within indicative
	explanative: reason	<i>kara</i>	<i>kara</i>			indicative
	forceful: assertive					declarative
	forceful: insistent		<i>yo</i>			imperative
evidentiality	'I told you'		<i>tte</i>			indicative
	hearsay		<i>tte</i>			indicative

interactional

politeness /
honorification



Cantonese

Japanese
Korean

Thai

aa1 as attitudinal

Negotiator

◆ *nei baanjau taamsam dou aa*

◆ you guys greedy reach

Nego

◆ You guys are **so** greedy.

◆ *hoenggong mou mantai aa*

◆ Hong Kong not-have problem

Nego

◆ There is no problem in Hong Kong **for sure**.

particles as polar Negotiator

- ◆ *nei sik m cit me*
- ◆ 2SG eat NEG fast-enough polar-Nego
- ◆ **Can't** you eat fast enough?

- ◆ *jyunloi heoi gaau ce aa*
- ◆ actually go return car polar-Nego
- ◆ (You) actually go to return the car?



1. As pronouns

- * *nei soeng sik me dou dak*
you want eat *me* also fine
You can eat *whatever* you want to.
- * *gam batjyu jiu jat gau jat gau godi me laa*
so rather have one piece one piece those *me* PRT
Then let's rather have those *thing* that are in pieces.
- * interchangeable among *me/meje/mat/matje*
- * *jiu godi me me me me me zau naai laa*
have those *me me me me me* rid milk PRT
Let's have *that* without milk.

2. As interrogative pronoun

* *you mat tai*
have *mat* see
What is there to see?

* interchangeable among *me/meje/mat/matje*

3. *me* as a placeholder for taboo or socially unutterable expression

* *ngo* *gammaan* *jiu* *heoi* *me*
1SG tonight need go *me*

soji *jiu* *zoek* *haksik* *saam*
so need wear black clothes

I need to go to **do something** tonight
so I need to wear in black.

* not interchangeable with *mat/matje*
(taboo VS. interrogative)

4. *me* as a placeholder for verbs, adjectives and adverbs

* 4.1 verb

ngo me gan m lai dak aa
1SG *me* IMPERF NEG come able PRT
I am doing *something* so I can't come.

* 4.2 adjective

keoi hai go zeoi me ge jan
3SG BE CL most *me* GE person
He is the most *X* person.

4. *me* as a placeholder for verbs, adjectives and adverbs

* 4.3 adverbs

dimgaai nei sik dak gam me gaa
why you eat PRT so *me* PRT
Why you eat in *such a way*?

* How about as placeholder for nouns?

? *ngo sik/take zo me aa*
1SG eat/“take” PERF *me* PRT
I have had/“taken” *something*.

* From referential to non-referential domains

5. *me* as a negotiator (clause-final)

* *nei sik m cit me*
2SG eat NEG fast-enough NEG
Can't you eat fast enough?

* *ngo m leng me*
1SG NEG pretty *me*
Don't I look pretty?

* polar negotiator

* attitudinal negotiator: counter-expectancy

6. *mat* as an attitudinal negotiator (clause-initial)

* *mat* *nei gam laan gaa*
mat you so lazy PRT
Why are you so lazy?

* not interchangeable with *matje/me/meje*

* only in polar question

* *mat* as an attitudinal negotiator when at clause-initial: counter-expectancy

7. *me* as an attitudinal negotiator

- * *godí me lunghaa me saanghou*
those *me* lobster *me* oyster
ngo dou jatzou sik jim laa
1SG also early eat bore PRT
I'm fed up with those lobsters and oysters for a long time.
- * *singjat waa gogo me Si Sir hai me bouzaap tinwong*
always say that *me* Si Sir is *me* tutoring king
[People] always say that Si Sir is a king of tutoring.
- * Prefixing nouns/nominal group only
- * Derogatory attitude

8. *me* as a gap filler

- * *jau di me me jauguk me baakzaunin aa*
have PL *me me* post office *me* centenary PRT
It is the centenary of the post office.
- * interchangeable with *mat*
- * not interchangeable with *meje/matje*
- * showing uncertainty (?)

Negative?

1. <i>me/meje/mat/matje</i> as pronouns	
2. <i>me/meje/mat/matje</i> as interrogative pronoun	
3. <i>me</i> as a placeholder for taboo or socially unutterable expression	Yes!
4. <i>me</i> as a placeholder for verbs, adjectives and adverbs	
5. <i>me</i> as a polar and attitudinal negotiator (clause-final)	Yes!
6. <i>mat</i> as an attitudinal negotiator (clause-initial)	Yes!
7. <i>me</i> as an attitudinal negotiator	Yes!
8. <i>me</i> as a gap filler	

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