

INTRODUCTION

CANTONESE IN THE REAL WORLD is a language book that introduces a new and effective method in learning the dialect of Cantonese in which **you** the student will be able to reach quickly a working level of proficiency, achieving basic spoken skills both rapidly and effectively, which can be put to immediate use in very quick time, meaning years of work reduced to a much shorter period. The text is an astute careful combination of style and simplicity that offers a varied and imaginative approach. The type of language taught is based upon careful research in daily Cantonese speaking conversations that range from colloquial to the more formal, with the grammar and language structure broken into basic units and then logically reassembled so that difficult topics can be understood clearly and practically. **SIMPLICITY ITSELF** the book teaches only what is necessary in making the most rapid progress from the early stages. Just as a baby learns a language, progressing in stages from the simple to the higher plane, so will **you**.

All essential features needed in a quality language manual, such as vocabulary, key pattern sentences, examples, explanations, short dialogues, additional sentences, and reading are included. To facilitate comprehension and pronunciation all Cantonese words are given in romanized form (English spelling in rendering the sound) for the convenience of the pupil. In order to reduce complications no Chinese characters included. Just looking at the way the contents are presented will give the pupil a more positive attitude and a greater feeling of understanding as will the fact that the use of grammatical terms are kept to a minimum.

The book's layout, which is divided into four parts - **each section having its own maximum effectiveness in the learning process** - will form a good basis for self-tuition as well as class work with a teacher. **Part one;** contains practically every form of grammar and syntax needed in twenty well designed lessons that would not overburden the student, giving concise, clear and detailed explanations. Of the twenty lessons, the fourth, eighth, twelfth, sixteenth, and twentieth are practical reviews covering previous lessons while at the same time introducing new vocabulary. The vocabulary covers the most important basic words used in daily life. The sentence patterns and dialogues are based on actual conversations I have had with Cantonese speakers, similar to those any student will inevitably experience. At the close of each lesson sentences are given in English for the student to translate into Cantonese. Following that come sentences in which some words are missing and will need filling in by the student. The lesson finishes with a short test in which the students are asked to use vocabulary and constructions in a creative way. Before a lesson can be considered completed, a second reading is required until it becomes automatic...practice will bring perfection as in all tasks in life. **Remember!!!** Before you start, free your mind from any strain or from anything that will impede learning. Once part one has been mastered I feel you will be over halfway towards your goal. **Part two;** introduces more vocabulary and sentences used in daily life, to an extent not usually found so often in books - phrases that will be mind blowing to Cantonese speakers, words you are not expected to know. **Part three;** enables the student to move onto more specialized vocabulary, containing sections covering the vocabulary of many specific areas such as public services etc. The student may choose whichever of these are relevant to their needs. Special mention should go to my good friend from Hong Kong Evelin Lo who spent a great amount of time and energy assisting

me in compiling the glossary. **Part four** is simply a glossary on further vocabulary that can be used to improve on constructions when studying part one.

People are forever asking me '**HOW LONG DOES IT TAKE TO MASTER CANTONESE?**' As with anything it's what effort you put into it. Of course it will come to some easier than others...but there are methods which will help greatly such as listening to conversations, mixing with Cantonese speaking people or better still seeking out friends - whether they are from Hong Kong, Vietnam, Singapore or Brixton. Nothing can ever beat that. But mixing with them only helps if you are actually using the language. Some may study for a period of six months and gain a good conversational level by simply putting in a tremendous amount of work. Some will make little progress despite years of study, remaining on the same level in terms of construction with the only improvement made in vocabulary without being able to construct any real sentence patterns. Listening to the Cantonese radio, watching television and films - once a certain standard had been reached - will facilitate progress. Watching films had first attracted me to the language as it had my teacher 'Mr. Victor J.T Appiah' before me. This form of study enables the student in getting accustomed to the speed of conversations. One myth that must be immediately banished is the method of '**trying to think and say everything to oneself in daily life**' in the language being studied rather than there first tongue. **Do** not attempt to review mentally; **do** not even try to remember; **don't** worry about it; **let it go**. Learning should not be associated with anything that involves too much concentration. All this puts unnecessary strain upon the mind. Only practice with conversations or when listening to speech. Once you are sure within yourself it will never leave you. It will be lodged within you like a computer. When required words will automatically come out. Remember; read it, hear it and repeat it, repeating until it becomes natural. Devote time to pronunciation and accent. Even if you get it wrong '**DON'T BE AFRAID**' because surely someone nice will correct you. The biggest hindrance is the fear in getting it all wrong. If one does not know his or her mistakes how is it possible for improvement? Pace yourself like a marathon runner, because it's not a race, with endurance and perseverance needed in reaching the goal ahead.

Ultimately this course of study will make the pupil very able in the spoken language of Cantonese with one able to converse on any subject in full flow conversation. Hong Kong language as I call it can only be greatly mastered if one likes the sounds of speaking, the tones, or has an interest within the culture or feels something towards its people. Once you enter into the world of this exciting and mysterious '**WAY OF TALK**' you will be able with just a small knowledge make friends with ease, gain respect, trust and admiration with probable acceptance into that community if that is wished. Another and more effective course of study can be achieved by entering the AOC **Cantonese and Japanese Spoken Language School** of which details can be found elsewhere on this site. The system - unlike no other - worked for me, and given the correct application will undoubtedly work for **you**. It will simply be one great experience and I wish you the very best of luck in it.