

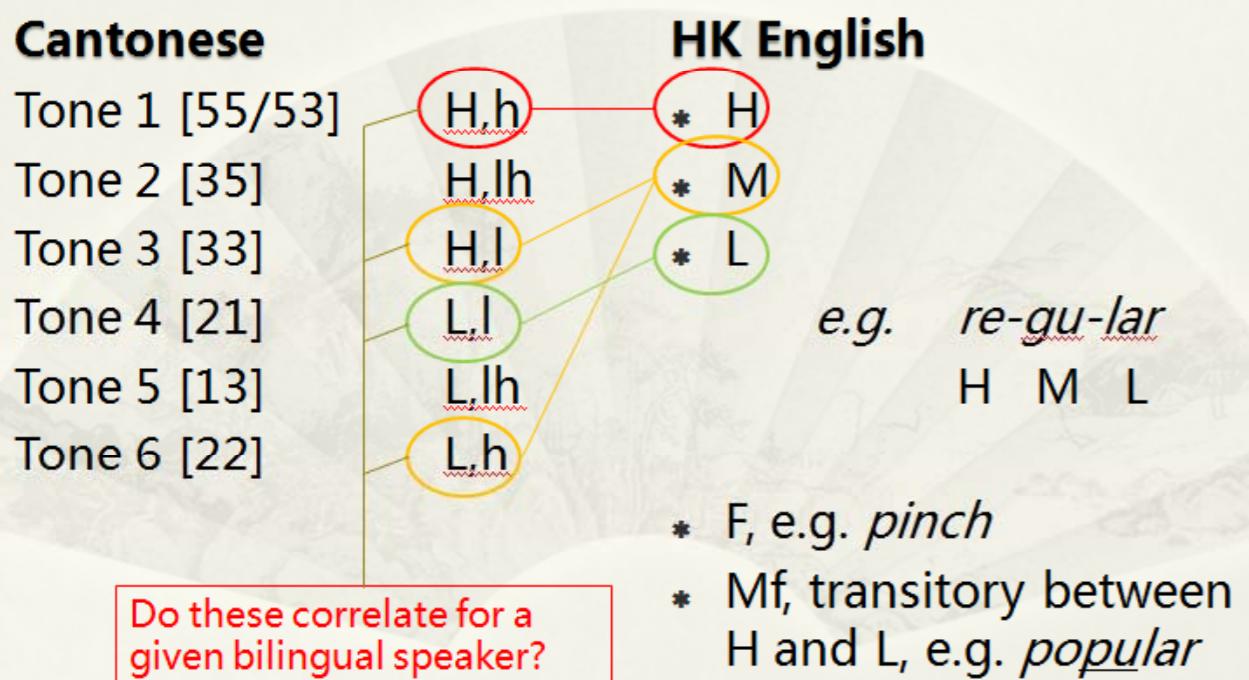
Comparison of F0 profiles in Hong Kong Cantonese and Hong Kong English

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1. In a nutshell

Key Question: If Hong Kong English is characterized by Cantonese influence, would the influence be from tone?
Answer: Very possibly, but the influence is certainly not absolute
Evidence: F0 profiles of HKE tones overlaps only partially with those of Cantonese tones

2. Tonal Inventories of HKC and HKE



3. Methodology

Query the Wee et al (2013) corpus

Recordings of six HKE~HKC bilinguals balanced for gender
 Cantonese word list contains

- * 18 target characters
- * CV triplets, each triplet corresponding to one of the six Cantonese tonal contours
- * Triplets varied for vowels [i], [a], [u] to cover the cardinal vowel points

English wordlist contains

- * 20 target words: monosyllabic and polysyllabic
- * H, L, F, M, Mf all represented word-initially, -medially and -finally.
- * to the extent possible, each tone is varied for the three cardinal vowel points

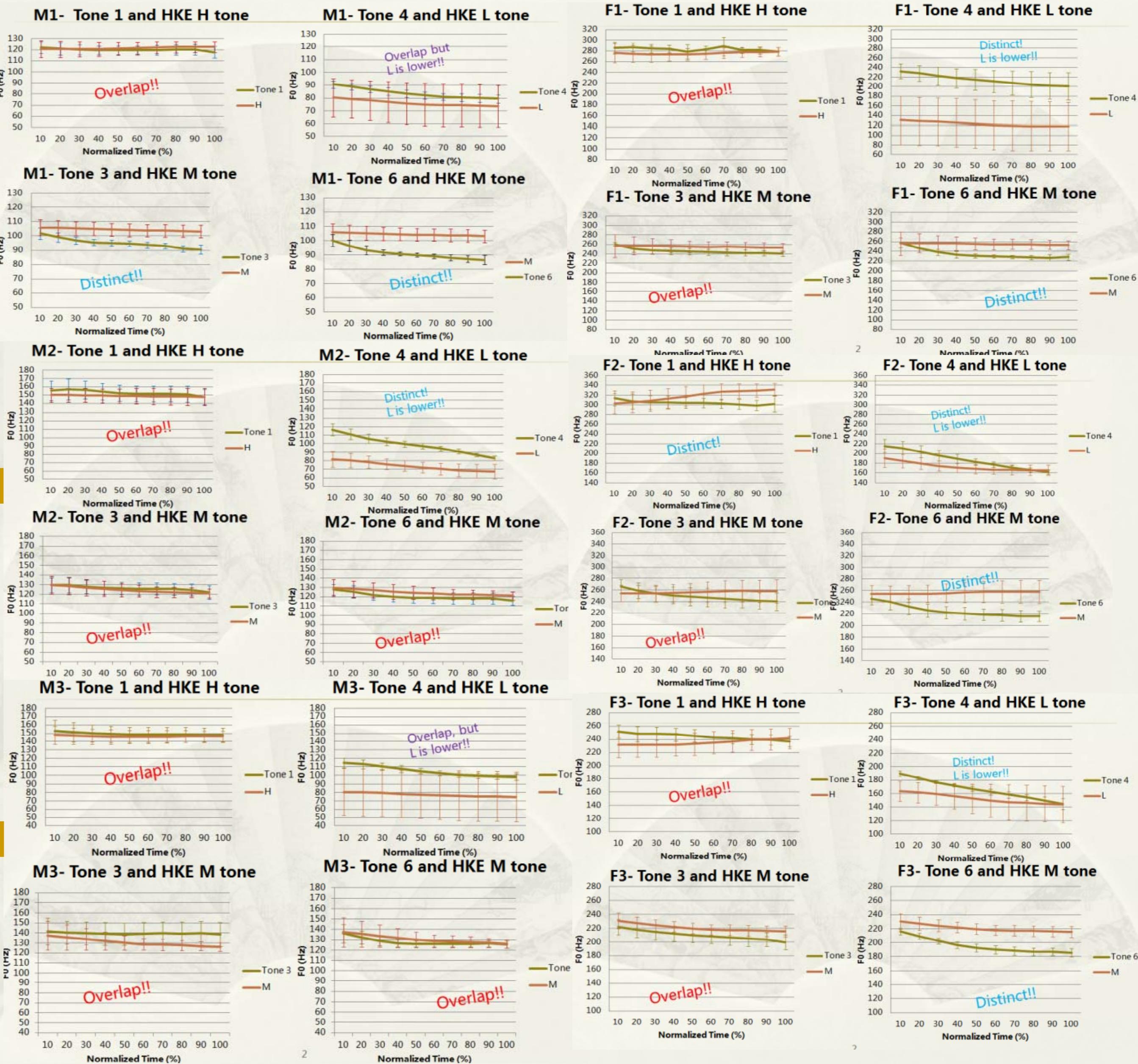
5. Summary, discussion, speculation

	T1~H	T4~L	T3~M	T6~M
M1	Overlap	Overlap, but L is lower	M is higher	M is higher
M2	Overlap	L is lower	Overlap	
M3	Overlap	Overlap, but L is lower	Overlap	
F1	Overlap	L is lower	Overlap	M is higher
F2	Distinct	L is lower	Overlap	M is higher
F3	Overlap	L is lower	Overlap	M is higher
M1	Reasonable to say that HKC T1 = HKE high			
M2	Reasonable to say that HKC T4 = HKE low			
M3	Reasonable to say that HKC T4 = HKE mid		Reasonable to say that HKC T6 = HKE mid	
F1				
F2				
F3				

Cheung (2009): HKE L is utterance boundary markers, i.e. postlexical
 Wee (in prep): HKE H is lexical, though not contrastive
 Wee (in prep): HKE M is lexical boundary markers. Convergence with [33] supports this idea
 HKC tones are lexical.
Bold speculation

L1 transfer is sensitive to phonological nature (lexical versus post-lexical)

4. Results



References

- Cheung, Winnie H.Y. (2009) Span of high tones in Hong Kong English. In *Proceedings of the 35th Annual Meeting of Berkeley Linguistics Society (BLS 35)*, 72-82. Berkeley, CA.
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