

# From Canton English to Shanghai English, Notices Concerning the New Corresponding Features in the Initial System of Chinese Pidgin Language in the 19th Century<sup>1</sup>

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**Abstract:** *As a special idiosyncratic dialect in the history of China, Chinese Pidgin Language can be divided into three dominant variants, all of which are either independent to each other or have linguistic connections. However, features to each variant and transitional period as well, particularly from the linguistic respect, are absence of sufficient evidence. The present paper, from the perspective of Chinese phonology, through empirical study to the relation between English word and Chinese transcription corresponding in Shanghai English, discovered the fundamental feature and kernel rules of substitution in the initial system. The process of argumentation revealed the linguistic route from Canton English to Shanghai English, also the idiosyncratic revolution amidst.*

**Keywords:** *Chinese Pidgin Language; Chinese Phonology; Transcription; Idiosyncratic feature*

## 0. Introduction

Chinese Pidgin Language, a lingua franca emerged and prevailed along southern coastal regions of China in Ming and Qing dynasty, consists of three core periods, namely, Canton Portuguese, Canton English and Shanghai

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English (known as Yang King Pang English)<sup>2</sup>. These variants are spatio-temporally linked and inherited in the linguistic property. The well-known facts speak of CPL, the riddle of sphinx as well, are mainly lying in (1) A hodgepodge of Portuguese, English, Malay, standard mandarin and local Chinese dialects in the language system; (2) A small inventory records about the language written; (3) A symbolic system of Chinese transcription to be used instead of letter alphabet.

Due to the bias on this “broken language”<sup>3</sup>, the research on CPL has been shelved and postponed, which limited the relevant description and evaluation to reach an objective judgment. In practice, as an idiosyncratic dialect existed for over 400 years in China, CPL had a stationary group of users and relatively stabilized language system just like any mandarin dialect. It is therefore not without justification to confirm that the research on CPL will profit the excavation on both the language and social value.

Caused by the differences among dialects in China, merely a feature amidst CPL is fixed and changeless. Hall (1944: 96) gave some attributes about CPL, however, from the way he narrated, the conclusion, at least the part in phonology lying in fricatives by the nearest corresponding stops (*f* by *p*, *v* by *b*, *θ* by *t*, *ð* by *d*), *r* by *l*, *ʃ* by *s*, and *ʒ* by *z* etc, seems much more based on the system of CE and whether it fits other variants of CPL should be reconsidered. Partially influenced by CE, the so-called SE, from the perspective of language contact, not only involves Shanghai area but the vicinity cities belong to the same dialect region as well. The basic materials, in the following pages, to examine the phonological system of SE, comes from *Bamboo Branch Poem in Pidgin* (*Bieqin Zhuzhici* 别琴竹枝词), *Commentaries on English Speech* (*Yinghua Zhujie* 英话注解), *An Introduction to English Script* (*Yingzi Rumen* 英字入门) and *Method for Learning English* (*Zengguang Yingzi Zhinan* 增广英字指南).

*Bieqin Zhuzhici* imitates the style of folk poem *Zhuzhici* in ancient China, blends Chinese Pidgin English and Chinese dialects in the 19<sup>th</sup> century

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<sup>2</sup> Hereinafter Chinese Pidgin Language abbreviated as CPL, the abbreviation CP, CE and SE refer to Canton Portuguese, Canton English and Shanghai English respectively.

<sup>3</sup> This phrase is derived from the book *Broken China: A Vocabulary of Pidgin English* written by Hill, A. P. in 1920.

into a series of the *Pidgin Folk Poems (Bieqin Zhuzhici)* by Yang Xun (杨勋), styled as *Shaoping* (少坪). These poems, one hundred in total, involve 400 English words in 800 corresponding Chinese transcriptions approximately in sum, published by installments in the *Shanghai News* (申报 *Shun Pao*) on March the 3<sup>rd</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>, 1873. Sample as,

*liang ˚zang theu r yoeh tsia foo, lah ˚li long ˚au ˚yan voo dzu,*  
 (梁上偷儿曰姐夫, 辣里龙号也无殊),  
*yang ˚aung ˚kwen z ˚s too wak, kok khuh sien sung tsoo ˚da ˚dzu.*<sup>4</sup>  
 (洋行管事司多画, 谷克先生做大厨)

The above is a typical four lined *Zhuzhici* with seven characters to each line. The whole poem is read in Shanghai dialect and the underlined combinations are the Chinese transcription of English and Portuguese words, namely, *thief*, *ladrão*, *steward* and *cook* (person who cooks). Literal translation of this poem is:

beam up steal kid called *thief*, *ladrão* call also no differ  
 foreign shop manager *steward*, *cook* mister (to) be main chef.

The latter three, published in 1860, 1874 and 1905, are formal English textbooks compiled and published by those who had an education experience in language schools, each of which contains Chinese entries with English meaning and additional Chinese transcriptions for the amateurs.

In terms of the phonetic rules and principles of Sino-English corresponding include, distinct differences are deviated from CP and CE, however prominent similarities and connections coincidentally paralleled with the structure of Shanghai and Ningbo dialects, which clearly tell the phonological transition and evolution from CE to SE. For instance, the voiceless sibilant *f* in English transcribed by voiced *v* in Shanghai dialect as well as *f*, but the voiced *v* in English is never misjudged. While, these two

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<sup>4</sup> the Shanghai dialect orthography in this paper is based on *Shanghai Union System*, employed in *Complete Shanghai Syllabary with an index to Davis and Silsby's Shanghai Vernacular Dictionary*, compiled by Silsby, in 1907.

consonants embodied in “few 彪呀” (*piu á*) and “clover 嫁喇不” (*ká lá pat*) are separately replaced by  $p^h$  and  $p$  in CE<sup>5</sup>. By comparing the rhyme table in Chinese and consonants in English, kernel rules of substitution on the phonetic system of initial corresponding distinguish SE from CE and CP can be revealed.

### 1. Degrees to the Confusion between Voiced and Unvoiced Sound on Plosive Consonants

According to the corresponding tradition, voiced and unvoiced consonants in foreign languages are always transcribed by initials with the most close manner and place of articulation in Chinese. Referred by Nie (2011:1066), in CE, due to the lacking of voiced sound in Canton dialect, the voiced and unvoiced plosives in English generally correspond to the characters with oblique-toned (*zesheng*, 仄声) in medieval Chinese pronounced with unaspirated sonant (*quanzhuo*, 全浊) and unaspirated surd (*quanqing*, 全清) initials, but not choose the level-toned (*pingsheng*, 平声) character pronounced with aspirated surd (*ciqing*, 次清) and unaspirated sonant initials. The voiced plosives in English also correspond to Chinese characters pronounced with an initial nasals (*cizhuo*, 次浊), while the voiceless plosives do not have the same feature. One typical example is the word “bamboo”, which is transcribed with *pong mò* (榜母) or *ma mò* (骂姆) in different CE materials around 18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> century.

In view of the fact that Shanghai dialect has the minimum pair among unvoiced, aspirated and voiced initials. Edkins (1869: iii, 1868: 46) noted the initial consonant *k, t, p* are pronounced high and with the English and Scotch sound. When *k, t, p*, takes an aspirate as in the pronunciation of some parts of Ireland and the United States, they are written *k', t', p'*, and the thick mutes in the lower tones, it may be remarked generally, that foreigner in learning colloquial phrases, usually acquire the habit of pronouncing this consonant thin, when first in a combination and broad when some word precedes. Besides, Yates (1899: vi-vii) noticed as well that among the plosives, *k, t, p*

<sup>5</sup> The Canton dialect orthography in this paper is based on *Tonic Dictionary of the Chinese Language in the Canton Dialect* □□□□□□, compiled by Williams, in 1856.

are pronounced harder and less aspiration than in English, while the aspirated sounds are with more aspiration and the thick mutes are softer than in English. These distinctive features of the plosives in Shanghai dialect result in variation of the actual corresponding relation. Under the influence of these dialectal features, auditory degrees of aspiration in English plosives are typically replaced based on the following rule.

(1) Voiced plosives *b*, *d* for the most part, are replaced by thick mutes in SE, as in “brave 孳而来扶” (*beh r le voo*), “down 唐” (*daung*), “head 海特” (*he duh*), etc. It should be pointed out that due to the special articulation manner, syllable belongs to *division Qun* 群 (voiced velar) in Shanghai dialect is merely used to transcribe the voiced *g*, but choose syllable from *division Jian* 见 (unvoiced velar) instead<sup>6</sup>.

(2) Unvoiced ending consonants *p*, *t*, *k*, in most cases, are replaced by aspirated whereas the frequency of occurrences and the more distinct feature carried, such as “ship 少破” (*sau phoo*), “front 勿浪脱” (*veh laung thoeh*), “desk 兑四克” (*t'ai s° khuh*), etc.

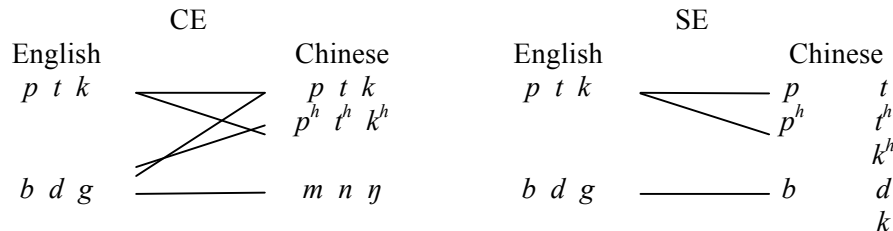
(3) Voiceless consonants *p*, *t*, *k* in other positions, including consonant clusters, are subjectively replaced by unvoiced or aspirated initials in terms of the degree of aspiration feature the users acquired, such as “Saturn 杀登” (*sah tung*), “suspense 色史本史” (*suh °s °pung °s*), “gentleman 诚脱而蛮” (*dzung thoeh r man*), etc. Even though unvoiced and voiced initials are usually regarded as free variants in Shanghai dialect, there is nearly little confusion under this rule.

(4) Nasal initials *m*, *n*, *ng* are no longer used to correspond plosives. Early materials indicate these morpheme exists in corresponding agreement with “rainbow 唵莫” (*lin 'mo*), “door 哪” (*na*), “gong 昂” (*ngong*) and the relevant syllable. However, SE transcriptions do not accept this rule.

The transition in corresponding principle from CE to SE, then, can be drawn as follows:

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<sup>6</sup> *Division*: i.e. *mu* (□) in Chinese. Initials of Medieval Chinese phonetics are divided into 36 different divisions according to the place and manner of articulation. Each division is named after a Chinese character with the same initial.



## 2. Re-distribution on the Corresponding of Sibilant $\theta$ and $\delta$

Sibilant  $\theta$  and  $\delta$  are the unique consonants that can merely be found in Chinese dialect. The well known rule of the corresponding in CE is the replacing by relevant “coronals”  $t$  and  $t^h$  in Chinese. In CE, words like “three 的里” (*tik li*), “brother 模罗达” (*mò lo tát*), “this 里实” (*lí shat*) all do follow this rule, which accord with what Hall (1944) observed. While  $\theta$  and  $\delta$  in the final as in “mouth 畝” (*mau*), “teeth 滴” (*tik*), besides, CE disperses on having a uniform of corresponding, which can either be replaced by the stop coda in Canton dialect or just be neglected. When the language transferred, particular rules modified and derived in SE.

(1) Coronals, under the typical rule of voiced/unvoiced corresponding, are still used in replacing these two sibilants. In fact, words in this frame invariably belong to the kernel vocabulary in Pidgin Language.

Word with $\theta$	SE	CE	Word with $\delta$	SE	CE
thing	<i>ting</i> (丁)	<i>ting</i> (叮)	father	<i>fah dah</i> (法达)	<i>fát tát</i> (法达)
three	<i>tih °li</i> (的里)	<i>tik li</i> (的里)	mother	<i>mah dah</i> (袜达)	<i>má tát</i> (吗达)
thousand	<i>tau °sung</i> (到顺)	<i>tò yan</i> (刀仁)	brother	<i>beh lah dah</i> (勃辣达)	<i>mò lo tát</i> (模罗达)

A word is kernel originated from the fundamental usage in daily necessity, regardless of the occasion and occupation of the user. Anyone who speaks CE and SE knows these words, and they formed in the very beginning

of Chinese Pidgin English. In the upper table, although materials referred are differed in epoch and dialect, the transcription and rule shows a strict highly agreement. It should be noticed as well that there are foreign users of CPL in each period, hence the Latin alphabet also used in recording the sound. As in Leland's (1876: 119-136) record, the same six words are wrote in the form of *ting*, *te-le (tlee)*, *tau-shan*, *fáta*, *máta* and *pat-lut-ta*. In some extent, therefore, this rule is essentially reasoned on the orthography of standard English, and the pidgin form may also served as a sample for those CPL learners through oral teaching.

(2) These two consonants, in sequence, are replaced by labial and dental sibilants when positioning the ending consonant. In Shanghai dialect, due to the small inventory of stop coda, the corresponding chiefly depends on the articulation place. In the prior period of SE, if the apical position is over front, a replacing by transcription with initial surd *s* or *ts* in Shanghai dialect will take the place, as in “with 活此” (*weh ʔhs*), “teeth 梯此” (*thi ʔhs*), “berth 剖司” (*phoo ʔs*). If the apical position is over back, the replacing will be taken by transcription with fricative initial *f*, as in “south 烧甫” (*sau ʔfoo*), “cloth 克老夫” (*khuh ʔlau foo*), “mouth 毛夫” (*mau foo*). In the later period yet, from late 19<sup>th</sup> century, the labial initial is largely merged into dental sibilant and no longer used in corresponding the same situation, exception is “notwithstanding 恼脱 活乙夫 史坦定” (*ʔnau thoeh weh ih foo ʔs ʔthan ding*). This procedure somehow outlines the on and off cognition relation to the sibilants *θ* and *ð* from CE to SE.

(3) *θ* and *ð* are replaced by dental sibilants when occur in other positions. In “thank 失杏克” (*seh yung khuh*), “thick 昔克” (*sih khuh*), “thirsty 侧司脱” (*tsuh s thoeh*), “that 掷脱” (*dzak thoeh*), the initial consonants neatly arranged to correspond unvoiced plosives and aspirateds covering the *division Xin* 心 (unvoiced dental fricative), *Qing* 清 (unvoiced dental affricate), *Chuan* 穿 (unvoiced palatal affricate), *Shen* 审 (unvoiced palatal fricative). It can be inferred from the rule that, in Shanghai dialect, only unvoiced and aspirated initials are used for the replacing, sonants are not ordinarily used in the corresponding.

Reflected from the fact shown above, it can be said that started from the latter period of 19<sup>th</sup> century, the phonetic feature shown were getting standardized to normal English. The truth, however, is probably due to the

education background of translators who learnt the language in school instead of learning in *Hong* 行 (business firm) or from the elder generation of compradore<sup>7</sup>, which, in quite another perspective, mirrors the decline of CPL.

### 3. Naissance of New Corresponding to Closed Syllable

Caused by the uniqueness writing symbolic system in Chinese, same character, varies in dialect divisions, contains different phonological features and represents different sounds. This nature will influence the selection of transcription character in CPL as the result and, according to the work already been taken, each CPL variant contains an independent transcription character system and a fixed tendency in using, while corresponds to the only English phonetic system.

Standard English	Shanghai English		Canton English <sup>8</sup>	
	<i>Yinghua</i> <i>Zhujie</i>	<i>Bieqin</i> <i>Zhuzhici</i>	<i>Yingjiliguo</i> <i>Yiyu</i>	<i>Hongmao</i> <i>Fanhua</i>
fat	--	<i>fah thoeh</i> (法脱)	<i>fát</i> (法)	<i>fat</i> ( )
deep	<i>di pheh</i> (提泼)	--	<i>lap</i> (啦)	<i>típ</i> (喋)

<sup>7</sup> Indicated by Couling in *the Encyclopaedia Sinica* (1917:235), The Chinese word *Hong* means a row or series and is applied to warehouses built in rows. The factories in Canton being built so were called Honges and the name was specially applied to the native commercial houses connected with foreign trade. The name has come to be used of all business firms.

<sup>8</sup> *An English-Chinese Vocabulary (Yingjiliguo Yiyu 噶□□□□)*, preserved in the Palace Museum in Peking, is a formal bilingual vocabulary belong to the series of *Dictionary of Sino-Minority Language (Huayi Yiyu □□□□)*, which compiled under the edict of Emperor Qianlong issued in 1748 and 1749. This vocabulary contains 734 Chinese entries with Portuguese or English translation and Chinese transcriptions in Canton dialect. *The Language of the Red-haired Foreigners (Hongmao Fanhua □□□□)*, preserved in the British Library, is an English- Chinese glossary compiled in the first half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century.



book	--	<i>bok khuh</i> (薄克)	<i>muk</i> (目)	<i>puk</i> (卜)
head	<i>°he thoeh</i> (海脱)	<i>°he duh</i> (海特)	<i>hit</i> (歇)	<i>hit</i> (歇)
dog	<i>°dau khuh</i> (道克)	<i>°dau khuh</i> (道克)	<i>lap</i> (腊)	<i>tok</i> (铎)

The table shows the feature in corresponding to the same English word among different materials. Although the actual character varies, in materials represent CE, these transcription characters all belong to the stop coda, which correspond to the syllable with ending consonant in the whole. The only way to reveal these final in CE is by adding extra vowels, that is the reason why there are the pidgin spelling form like *makee*, *takee*, *wantchee*, *gettee* in CE. Quite to the contrary, the same closed syllable is divided into two parts before the final consonant and replaced respectively in SE by individual characters, the latter of which, agreement with the final consonant during the transcription, tends to select one with glottal stop in Shanghai dialect but not a must.

#### 4. Coping Strategies under Palatalization

At the beginning stage of SE, speaker groups not only consisted of local people, but gathered a great number of compradores from Canton. Proofs can be found in *A Miscellanies Collection on the Coastal Region (Yingruan Zazhi 瀛壖杂志)* (1875:8) that Shanghai area are crowded with goods and merchandise, all trades between Chinese and foreigner rely on the negotiation of compradores, almost half of whom are from Canton<sup>9</sup>. Doubtless to say, these compradores were the user of CE before they come to Shanghai. Their dialect and the habit in corresponding foreign language are brought into SE. When confront with dialect from the other side, there always are some hints of CE in SE system. Poem number twenty-seven in *Bieqin Zhuzhici* notes:

<sup>9</sup> Chinese original is: □□□□□□,□□□□□□,□□□□□□,□□□□□□.

*wah the °m mung °z 'oo z, ding °ne °we °iung yoong °kyeu ts,*  
 (wah the °m mung ask is what time, dinner wine use wine cup)  
*ih ye °dzan taung 'wung ne °thoeh, z °ming tsoong we °khuh °lau ji*  
 (one night just be 'wung ne °thoeh, striking clock call khuh °lau ji)<sup>10</sup>

The notation of the last sentence clearly indicates the saying *khuh °lau ji* (克老基, CE: clockee), the corresponding agreement to the feature mentioned above, comes from canton dialect, which replaced by *khuh °lau khuh* (克老克, SE: clock) in shanghai dialect. Under a statistics analysis, this feature is also proved from the related materials.

	keep	take	drink	give
<i>Yingjiliguó Yiyu</i>	<i>kai pí</i> (鸡避)	<i>tik kat</i> (滴咭)	<i>tai leng kat</i> (低领咭)	<i>ip mí</i> (业未)
<i>Hongmao Fanhua</i>	<i>kíp pí</i> (劫毗)	<i>tak kí</i> (得 )	<i>teng ling kí</i> (定呤 )	<i>kíp</i> (劫)

Judging from the table, In Canton dialect, well preserved the pronunciation of ancient Chinese, translators are accustomed to use transcription characters with an unaspirated surd initial without medieval *-i-* in corresponding the pronunciation *ki* and *gi* in English. Besides, *Monograph of Macao* (澳门纪略 *Aomen Jilüe*) records CP words “preguiçoso 庇哩机苏素” (*pí lé kí sú sú*, Eng.: lazy) and “figo caqui 非古加其” (*fí kú ká k'í*, Eng.: persimmon), which, despite of the total amount, also applies to this rule equivalently.

To anyone, the target of learning a foreign language is the bidirectional comprehension skills in communication, no exception for CPL. During the cross-culture communication, people are aware of adjusting and adapting for a better imitation of foreign language features all the time, and under the guidance of local dialect, the improvement are reflected in the system of transcription.

In shanghai dialect, pronunciation of characters in the division *Jian* 见 and *Xi* 溪 is one of the kernel distinction make it different from Canton

<sup>10</sup> Chinese original is □□□□□□, □□□□□□, □□□□□□, □□□□□□.

dialect according to Edkins (1868:46) that the initials *k* or *g* is enunciated thickly before the vowels *i* and *ü*, though according to the system of the dictionaries, the initial is the same in all cases. Some foreign students regard it as an aspirated consonant. Others write it *dj* or *d*. This anomaly of pronunciation, so difficult to express, does not occur before *w*, *a* and *é*. The change revealed above is called the palatalization in Wu dialect, which completed in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. This pronunciation, however, is not quite easy to describe or analogy to any phoneme in English or in Chinese dialect. Many missionaries in early times took notice on this other than Edkins. Williams (1896: xxiv) states the aspirated initial *k* before *i* and *ü* is one of the difficult sounds in the mandarin, and is often heard like *kt*, *ch* or *ks*, and still unlike all these. Yates (1899: vii) points out that *ky* is a peculiar sound which cannot be represented by any English combination. Perhaps *tky* might better represent it. *Ch* is softer and with more aspiration than *ch* in church. Silsby (1907: v) also notes *ky* is *ch* in *church* with all aspiration eliminated.

One conclusion can be drawn from the description that when before with *i* and *ü*, the articulation feature of the syllable with initial *g* and *k* in Shanghai dialect situates more like a critical position between velar and palatal, closer to the latter, in an affricative oriented place. The common using of the same or relevant transcription characters belong to the same initial division in SE mainly corresponds to the sibilants *dʒ* and *ʃ* in English.

<i>Yingzi Rumen</i>		<i>Bieqin Zhuzhici</i>	
chief	<i>chi °foo</i> (欺甫)	chief	<i>chih foo</i> (气夫)
large	<i>'la ji</i> (拉其)	secure	<i>s cheu °au</i> (司邱下)
charge	<i>°cha ji</i> (楷其)	quill-pen	<i>choeh r phe°</i> (屈而配)
<i>Yinghua Zhujie</i>		<i>Zengguang Yingzi Zhinan</i>	
chief	<i>°chi foo</i> (启夫)	match	<i>mah chih</i> (袜乞)
large	<i>la° dz°</i> (癞治)	damage	<i>dah me ji</i> (达梅其)
cheat	<i>°chi thoeh</i> (起脱)	jealous	<i>ji° e luh °s</i> (及哀勒史)

From the above table, it is, thus, clear evident that initial *k* or *g* before *i* or *ü* is no longer pronounced in Shanghai dialect. Although *Beiqin Zhuzhici*

continues to use the existing rule, as “keeper 鸡排” (*kyi ba*), other material in shanghai area point to the re-adjusting towards to the old custom of corresponding by finals without medieval *-i-*, which are:

- (1) Substitutes by the nearest finals without medieval *-i-*.
- (2) Substitutes by the mode of *Fanqie Spelling* (反切)<sup>11</sup>.

<i>Yinghua</i> <i>Zhujie</i>		<i>Yingzi</i> <i>Rumen</i>		<i>Zengguang Yingzi</i> <i>Zhinan</i>	
monkey	<i>mung khe</i> (门开)	market	<i>ma khe° thoeh</i> (埋磕脱)	kick	<i>khuh ih khuh</i> (克一克)
kick	<i>khe khuh</i> (开克)	keeper	<i>khuh i phoo°</i> (克衣剖)	kill	<i>khuh ih r</i> (克一而)
give	<i>ge° foo</i> (馘夫)	give	<i>geh ih° foo</i> (搯一甫)	give	<i>geh ih voo</i> (搯一扶)

Referred to the table, there indeed isn't an equivalent local corresponding in Shanghai dialect. Chinese transcriptions *khe* (开), *ge°* (馘), *kheh* (磕) all belongs to the Class of *Mouth opened* (开口呼, finals without medieval)<sup>12</sup>, which do exist in Shanghai dialect. The purpose of changing is to fill the blank of the absent *ki* and *gi* in Shanghai dialect. Though, if the change of finals still leaves some gap in reducing the syllable between the two sides, then the mode of *Fanqie Spelling* in classic Chinese phonology will be borrowed and used. The first consonant of the English syllable is represented by the initial of the transcription's upper character. Vowel and the final consonant, if there be, are represented by the final of the lower character. The latter character in the transcription group, generally, is level-toned that can be fit the pitch of the English word. The line under represents the mark

<sup>11</sup> *Fanqie spelling* is a traditional method of indicating the pronunciation of a Chinese character by using two other Chinese characters, the first having the same consonant as the given character and the second having the same vowel (with or without final nasal) and tone.

<sup>12</sup> *The Four Hu* (si hu □ □): a traditional way of classifying syllable finals of Mandarin dialects based on different glides before the central vowel of the final.

indicating a rapid liaison flow. Compared to the other two, this method, being introduced into the system of transcription corresponding, records the original sound of English word to the utmost, so long as the learner knows the way and character.

The biggest advantage of *Fanqie Spelling* is actually a universal principle over any absent syllable in Shanghai dialect. While, objectively, these newly merged two methods are first used in formal English textbooks. Obviously, the difference on education environment and teaching approach of the school students are quite varies to the way of compradores'. So in some extent, these phonological changes are not from the first instinct of human, but a re-adjusting after selection and abandon. Furthermore, because of the population constituted in the prior period as shown in *Bieqin Zhuzhici*, users of pidgin language still use the corresponding rule from Canton dialect. With the decline and substitution of Canton compradores, however, as well as the development of formal education along with the opening of commercial ports in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, the feature of continuous purified CPL is approaching to standard inter-language.

### 5. Polarization of Alveolars

The lateral alveolar approximant *l* and alveolar trill *r* in English consist of different variants, which are the consonant hard to distinguish for Chinese people. Traditionally, the corresponding agreement in CE, even in CP regards these two sounds as the same phoneme.

CP		CE			
<i>Aomen Jilüe</i>		<i>Yingjiliguó Yìyǔ</i>		<i>Hongmao Fānhuá</i>	
esteira	<i>i sz té lái</i> (以士爹拉)	narrow	<i>ná lá</i> (拏喇)	gloves	<i>k'ap lap</i> (及笠)
labaça	<i>lái pá shá</i> (拉巴沙)	large	<i>lá jin</i> (喇仁)	crab	<i>k'ap lap fū</i> (及笠乎)

Shown from the table that the same transcription in the same material belongs all to the *division Lai* 来 (Lateral approximant) in majority and makes no difference take either the place of *l* or *r*. There are still some minority

situation corresponding, influenced by standard mandarin, replaced by division *Yi* 疑 (velar nasal), *Ri* 日 (retroflex fricative), *Ying* 影 (glottal plosive), as in “rotten 用唔” (*yung ng*), “wall 瓦儿” (*ngá r*), “near 嘍亚” (*níp á*).

A regular result of this corresponding leads to the mix in the sound and a misunderstanding in meaning as *light* and *right* in CE are all pronounced *le tik* (来的/来得). This rule and the extra extension, but, are still used in the prior period of SE, lying in:

(1) the postalveolar [ɾ], not positioned as the initial consonant, is replaced by transcription in division *Lai*. Under such circumstances, the corresponding of *r* in “foreign 福林” (*fok ling*), “very 佛力” (*veh lih*) overlaps with “clean 克林” (*khuh ling*), “police 泼力司” (*pheh lih s*).

(2) the ending consonant *r*, as in “year 爷” (*ya*), “copper 考派” (*ˈkhou pha*) is habitually neglected.

(3) the variant *ə* of *r* after a vowel corresponds to sound in division *Ri* on occasion. i.e. “Mercury 灭儿姑略” (*mít r kú léuk*) in CE and “horse 好二四” (*ˈhau r° s*) in SE.

Accompanied with the increasing development of society, this method cannot completely adapt the needs in the performance of language. After the phonological adjusting, the corresponding of *l* and *r*, in the latter period of SE, is polarized according to different situation.

(4) the initial consonant *r*, with its all variants, is replaced by a transcription cluster combined with two characters, such as “ring 而零” (*r ling*), “river 而勒佛” (*r luh veh*). The former character always belongs to division *Ri*, and the latter to division *Lai*. Different from the method of *Fanqie Spelling*, this cluster is not pronounced by re-grouping the initial and final of each character, but pronounces together in order to put the feature of trill to the surface and ultimately reach the aim of distinguishing from *l*.

(5) the velarized alveolar ɭ is replaced by transcription in division *Ri*, but not division *Lai*. Pronunciation of related Chinese transcriptions, as “double 达勃儿” (*dah beh r*), “fool 夫而” (*foo r*), “hill 吓而” (*hak r*), are all represent *ə* in standard mandarin.

## 6. Conclusion

The present paper, from the perspective of Chinese phonology, discussed some features of initial system in Shanghai English as one of the variant of Chinese Pidgin Language, by comparing to Canton English and Standard English. The result reached the typical fundamental phonological changes and the rule of replacement in the process of transcription corresponding agreement. These rules and features summarized contribute to a better understanding either to the facts of Chinese Pidgin Language or to universal languages in glance. Indicated with the development of trade and business affairs, also the shifting of social status, Shanghai English experienced a rapid evolution in the realm of language feature so much so that the decline happened synchronously just with the evolution. By analyzing the corresponding system in the present paper, Shanghai English is much complicate to other pidgin language ever lying in the contained languages and dialects, the literary and vernacular pronunciations, the spring up of formal education and textbooks, etc. An inference, thus, can be figured that, similar to the relation between Chinese Pidgin Language and its three variants, Shanghai English at least includes three variants as well, Shanghai English with Canton accent, Shanghai English with Shanghai accent and Shanghai English with English accent in chronologic order. Hereto, further study on both verifying and expansion of these materials needs to launch in the future in order to present more truth on Chinese Pidgin Language.

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