17 years of Cantonese Wikipedia, the Written Cantonese literary movement, and the Wikimedia movement

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Wikimania 2023
Who went to a school where you **speak** and **write** in different languages?
Language education in Hong Kong

The weather is great today.

- English: The weather is great today.
- Standard Chinese: 今天天氣很好
- Mandarin (Putonghua): 今天天气很好
- Spoken Cantonese: 今日天氣好好
- Written Cantonese: 今日天氣好好

WIKIMANIA
Cantonese Wikipedia established 2006

- English & Chinese Wikipedia were already thriving
- Objection 1: No benefit in spreading knowledge
- Objection 2: Don’t we have “Chinese (Hong Kong)” already?
Differentiation & Experimentation

Deliberately different from Chinese Wikipedia

Choice of Chinese characters

Traditional to Simplified conversion gadget

Experiments in phonetic orthography
2014: Umbrella Movement

A new “Hong Kong” language identity in popular culture?
Cantonese literary movement

Cantonese Wikipedia is now a little part of a big movement!

Words.hk: Crowdsourced Cantonese dictionary
Resonate: Cantonese literature magazine
Translations of classical literature into Cantonese
Gongjyuok: Cantonese education blog
TVMost: Online mass media in Written Cantonese
Growth & convergence

- Use prevalent orthography in Hong Kong media & diaspora
- Adopt cross-wiki standards
- Embrace cross-wiki innovation

Shout out to fellow admins: Dr. Greywolf, H78c67c, Shinjiman
Cantonese Wikipedia policies

- Gentlemen’s agreement: “First come first serve”
- Defer to English and Chinese WP policies (unless otherwise specified)
- Embrace global features (e.g. Wikidata infoboxes)
The future?

- 2020 - now: mass emigration from Hong Kong
- Growing diaspora looks for Cantonese teaching material
- Wikipedia and standardization of Written Cantonese?
The history of Cantonese Wikipedia is deeply tied to the recent history of Written Cantonese.

Can regional languages learn from each other?

Thank you & questions welcome!

歡迎用華語或粵語發問。