

December 6, 2016

Dear Clerk to the Subcommittee on Rights of Ethnic Minorities (c/o Legislative Council Secretariat):

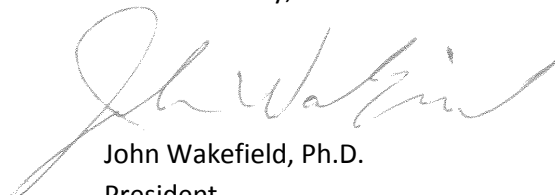
The Linguistic Society of Hong Kong (LSHK) is a nonprofit academic association of linguists. We have members in every UGC funded university in Hong Kong, and many of us specialize in language teaching and language learning ([www.lshk.org](http://www.lshk.org)). One of our aims is to contribute to the bettering of language education and research in Hong Kong. As such, we are very much interested in applying our professional training towards helping minority groups merge into mainstream Hong Kong society.

We sincerely hope that you can add us to your mailing/contact list. Unfortunately we did not find out in time about the meeting scheduled for December 12, 2016. We realized it may be too late, but we propose the two following items in hopes that you can include them in this meeting or the next:

1. We request that you endorse LSHK's Cantonese Romanization Scheme, i.e. Jyutping, as the standard system for transcribing Cantonese materials for educational purposes and other practical uses. Using a variety of Romanization schemes is detrimental to the promotion of Cantonese because it hinders codification and standardization. Students of Cantonese will be confused if they see Cantonese pronunciation transcribed using different systems, and their learning will be hindered.
2. The LSHK is currently developing and promoting a standard test for Cantonese, which is based on the EU standard, and we are actively seeking support, in the form of finance and/or manpower, from various collaborators and stakeholder parties. We would greatly appreciate any input or liaison from your subcommittee. A standard Cantonese test will be extremely useful for student placement, as well as for a standardized assessment of students' progress in learning Cantonese.

Thank you very much for your kind attention. We look forward to doing our part in helping provide better language education to our minority friends in Hong Kong.

Yours Sincerely,



John Wakefield, Ph.D.

President,

The Linguistic Society of Hong Kong

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