Two types of \texttt{aa3}-nominals in Cantonese

Joanna Ut-Seong Sio and Sze-Wing Tang
Palacky University Olomouc | The Chinese University of Hong Kong

This paper provides an overview of the grammatical properties of the Cantonese \texttt{aa3}, a nominal element that only attaches itself to [+human] nouns. We provide evidence to show that there are in fact two types of \texttt{aa3}-nominals. Their syntactic and semantic properties correlate with the number of syllables they consist of. There is a two-way split between disyllabic \texttt{aa3}-nominals and multisyllabic \texttt{aa3}-nominals. \texttt{Aa3} in disyllabic \texttt{aa3}-nominals should be treated as a prosodic template filler while \texttt{aa3} in multisyllabic \texttt{aa3}-nominals occupies a syntactic position in the referential layer of the Chinese nominal.