

## **Juncture Production in Hong Kong, Singapore and British English**

*Peggy Mok<sup>1</sup>, Jane Setter<sup>2</sup> & Ee Ling Low<sup>3</sup>*

*<sup>1</sup>Chinese University of Hong Kong, <sup>2</sup>University of Reading*

*<sup>3</sup>National Institute of Education (Singapore)*

This study compares the production of juncture pairs with the same phonemic sequences but different word boundaries (e.g. *wipe ink* vs *why pink*) in Hong Kong (HKE), Singapore (SE) and British (BrE) English. Studies on juncture characteristics in traditional native varieties of English abound (e.g. BrE), but very little work has been done on new varieties of English in East Asia, both emerging (e.g. HKE) and established (e.g. SE). Ten subjects of HKE and of BrE and three subjects of SE were recorded reading the juncture pairs in carrier phrases three times with a normal speech rate. Results show that HKE and SE speakers were slower than BrE speakers, and they used more silence or glottal stops to mark juncture boundaries, especially in C#V cases. Formant data show that vowels produced by BrE speakers were more centralised than those by HKE and SE speakers. Additionally, different juncture boundaries (C#V vs #CV) affect vowel quality more in BrE than in HKE: vowels in #CV in BrE cluster more tightly in the F1 dimension than those in C#V, indicating that they were more affected by the previous consonant as an onset than as a coda. Results from a related perceptual study (Mok, Setter and Low 2011) indicate that HKE is the most intelligible among the three varieties. Taken together, the results suggest that degree of coarticulation in juncture transition may correlate with intelligibility and may be characteristic of different varieties of English.

Mok, P., Setter, J., & Low, E.L. (2011) The perception of word juncture characteristics in three varieties of English. In *Proceedings of the 17<sup>th</sup> ICPHS*.