

Table of Contents

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS.....	ii
Abstract.....	iv
บทคัดย่อ.....	v
List of Tables.....	x
List of Figures.....	xi
Abbreviations and Symbols.....	xiii
Chapter 1 Singaporean Hokkien Adjectives.....	1
1.1 The Hokkien Population.....	1
1.2 The Hokkien Language.....	2
1.2.1 Hokkien Orthography.....	3
1.3 Singaporean Hokkien Phonological Sketch.....	3
1.3.1 Singaporean Hokkien Consonant Chart.....	4
1.3.2 Singaporean Hokkien Vowel Chart.....	4
1.3.3 Singaporean Hokkien Tone Chart.....	5
1.4 Singaporean Hokkien Grammatical Sketch.....	6
1.5 Methodology.....	6
1.6 Literature Review.....	10
1.7 Objectives.....	11
1.8 Hypothesis.....	12
1.9 Scope.....	12

1.10 Limitations	12
1.11 Definitions of Technical Terms	13
1.12 Contributions or Benefits of the Thesis	14
Chapter 2 Types of Singaporean Hokkien Adjectives	15
2.1 Relevant Word Classes	15
2.1.1 The Noun	15
2.1.2 The Verb	16
2.1.3 The Adjective	20
2.1.4 The Adverb	30
2.2 Distinguishing Adjectives from Verbs	30
2.3 Monosyllabic Adjectives	34
2.4 Disyllabic Adjectives	35
2.4.1 Simple Disyllabic Adjectives	36
2.4.2 Compounded Disyllabic Adjectives	36
2.4.3 Derived Disyllabic Adjectives	37
2.4.4 Disyllabic Adjectives: An Alternative Analysis	45
2.5 Polysyllabic Adjectives	47
Chapter 3 Degree Expressions and Adjectives	48
3.1 Structure of the Adjectival Phrase	48
3.2 Types of Degree Expressions	49
3.3 Intensifier Degree Expressions	50
3.3.1 Intensifying Intensifier Degree Expressions	50

3.3.2 Moderated Intensifier Degree Expressions.....	52
3.3.3 Excessive Intensifier Degree Expressions.....	55
3.4 Comparison Constructions.....	55
3.4.1 Equative Comparison Constructions.....	56
3.4.2 Figurative Comparison Constructions	58
3.4.3 Differential Comparison Constructions.....	60
3.4.4 Comparative Comparison Constructions	70
3.4.5 Superlative Comparison Constructions.....	75
3.5 Reduplication of Singaporean Hokkien Adjectives	77
3.5.1 Reduplicated Expressives	78
3.5.2 ADJ-AA Reduplicated Expressives.....	78
3.5.3 ADJ-AB Reduplicated Expressives.....	79
Chapter 4 Negation of the Adjective in Various Contexts.....	84
4.1 Comparison of Negation across Mandarin and Singaporean Hokkien.....	84
4.1.1 The Modal Auxiliary Verb <i>?e²¹</i> ‘can’ and Its Negative Counterpart <i>bwe²¹</i> ‘can not’	84
4.1.2 The Modal Auxiliary Verb <i>?u²¹</i> ‘have’ and Its Negative Counterpart <i>bo²⁴</i> ‘not have’	85
4.1.3 The Modal Auxiliary Verb <i>si²¹</i> ‘be’ and Its Negative Counterpart <i>?m²¹ si²¹</i> ‘not be’	87
4.2 Negation of the Adjectival Phrase	88
Chapter 5 Summary of Findings and Conclusion.....	91

Bibliography97

Appendix A The Effects of Tone Sandhi on Singaporean Hokkien.....99

PAYAP UNIVERSITY

List of Tables

Table 1. Singaporean Hokkien Consonant Chart	4
Table 2. Singaporean Hokkien Vowel Chart.....	5
Table 3. Singaporean Hokkien Tone Chart.....	5
Table 4. Singaporean Hokkien Adjective Classification according to Grammatical and Semantic Features.....	29
Table 5. Singaporean Hokkien Adjective Classification according to phonological and Morphological Features (Adapted from Cheng 1979:17)	34

PAYAP UNIVERSITY

List of Figures

Figure 1. Noun Hierarchy (Adapted from Givón 1984).....	16
Figure 2. Time-Stability Scale of Nouns, Adjectives and Verbs (Adapted from Givón 1984).....	20
Figure 3. Reduplication of a Monosyllabic Adjective in Singaporean Hokkien.....	34
Figure 4. Continuum of Moderated Intensifier Degree Expressions.....	53
Figure 5. Grammatical Structure of Equative Comparison Constructions.....	56
Figure 6. Grammatical Structure of Abbreviated Equative Comparison Constructions	57
Figure 7. Grammatical Structure of Figurative Comparison Constructions A.....	58
Figure 8. Grammatical Structure of Figurative Comparison Constructions B.....	59
Figure 9. Grammatical Structure of Differential Comparison Constructions without Degree of Difference with Adjective Functioning as Main Predicate A....	61
Figure 10. Grammatical Structure of Differential Comparison Constructions without Degree of Difference with Adjective Functioning as Main Predicate B....	63
Figure 11. Grammatical Structure of Differential Comparison Constructions without Degree of Difference with Adjective Functioning as Verb Object Modifier	64
Figure 12. Grammatical Structure of Differential Comparison Constructions without Degree of Difference with Adjective Functioning as Main Verb Modifier	65
Figure 13. Grammatical Structure of Differential Comparison Constructions without Degree of Difference with Adjective Functioning as Verb Complement A	66
Figure 14. Grammatical Structure of Differential Comparison Constructions without Degree of Difference with Adjective Functioning as Verb Complement B	67
Figure 15. Grammatical Structure of Differential Comparison Constructions with Degree of Difference A.....	68
Figure 16. Grammatical Structure of Differential Comparison Constructions with Degree of Difference B.....	69
Figure 17. Grammatical Structure of Differential Comparison Constructions with Degree of Difference C.....	69
Figure 18. Grammatical Structure of Comparative Comparison Constructions with the Adjective Functioning as the Main Predicate.....	71

Figure 19. Grammatical Structure of Comparative Comparison Constructions with the Adjective Functioning as Verb Object Modifier.....	71
Figure 20. Grammatical Structure of Comparative Comparison Constructions with the Adjective Functioning as Main Verb Modifier A	72
Figure 21. Grammatical Structure of Comparative Comparison Constructions with the Adjective Functioning as Main Verb Modifier B.....	72
Figure 22. Grammatical Structure of Comparative Comparison Constructions with the Adjective Functioning as Verb Complement A.....	73
Figure 23. Grammatical Structure of Comparative Comparison Constructions with the Adjective Functioning as Verb Complement B	74
Figure 24. Grammatical Structure of Superlative Comparison Constructions.....	75
Figure 25. Construction of ADJ-AA Reduplicated Expressives.....	78
Figure 26. Construction of ADJ-AB Reduplicated Expressives by Consonance	80