

STANDARD NEGATION IN GAOZHOU YUE

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ABSTRACT

This paper examines the negation system of Gaozhou Yue, an under-documented and under-studied Yue variety. The discussion takes the official documentation of the variety as a starting point, which reports two negators *mau5* and *mau5 jau5* to be equivalent to Mandarin *méi(yǒu)* and can appear interchangeably. Then based on systematic acceptability judgment data and field-recorded production data, the paper compares Gaozhou Yue and Mandarin negators and argues that (i) *mau5* is resemblant to *méi(yǒu)* only in terms of viewpoint aspectual restrictions but has a much broader application where situation aspect is concerned; and (ii) *mau5* and *mau5 jau5* are only interchangeable in negative existential and negative possessive constructions, together with the fact that *mau5 jau5* is hardly acceptable in verbal negation, these demonstrate

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