

The University of Pittsburgh ~ Department of Linguistics

Colloquium Series *Presents:*

“Tonal Morphology of Cantonese Attenuative Reduplication”

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This paper examines tonal morphology of Cantonese as exemplified in the context of attenuative reduplication. Locating the ‘total reduplication without tonal repetition’ phenomenon (Chan, 2006) as a vantage point, an analysis of the regularities of tonal alternation is couched in de Lacy’s (2002a, 2002b, 2004) formal theory of scale-referring markedness under the rubric of Optimality Theory (Prince & Smolensky, 1993). Accordingly, the changed tone — a high rising contour in Cantonese is argued to be the most marked tonal configuration in the prosodic head position (i.e. Foot). Cantonese exhibits morphological vigor by means of tone, as revealed by morphologically-conditioned tonal alternations (unlike tone-sandhi) found in attenuative reduplication and vocative, among others.

Friday, December 5, 2008 @ 3:00 p.m.

Room 332 ~ Cathedral of Learning