

Interpreting 都 *to*¹ TO in earlier Southern Min texts



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Abstract

The paper explores the polyfunctional word 都 *to*¹ TO in early Southern Min texts dating back to the sixteenth century or even earlier. Unlike 都 *dou*¹ in Mandarin, which mainly functions as a maximality operator, 都 *to*¹ in Southern Min is chiefly used as a modal particle expressing a concessive meaning or meaning of unexpectedness as a type of conventional implicature rather than pragmatic inference. However, it can be identified as expressing maximality and exhaustivity in construction with *wh*-words and negation. In a nutshell, the concessive sense is taken as the default sense unless it is overridden by the interpretation of 都 *to*¹ as a maximality operator. I will examine the syntactic and semantic properties of 都 *to*¹ based on these texts. Its interpretation hinges on the structural position it occupies and the collocates it interacts with.

Keywords: Maximality; Concessivity; Default; Southern Min

1 Introduction

As attested in early Southern Min texts,^a 都 *to*¹ TO is mainly subject to two interpretations: (1) a concessive interpretation and (2) an interpretation of maximality and exhaustivity. The two interpretations are structure-driven. The concessive meaning is obtained by the conflict between the at-issue meaning of the sentence marked by 都 *to*¹ and the presupposition or inferred meaning driven by the linguistic context.^b The universal and distributive meaning induced by 都 *to*¹ is only compatible with the plural meaning carried by noun phrases. Since the construction featuring 都 *to*¹ is ambiguous between concessive and distributive meaning, we need some linguistic cues to disambiguate it. Let us assume that the concessive meaning is the default, unless the noun phrase constrained by 都 *to*¹ is a determiner phrases with a plural quantifier. In this particular situation, 都 *to*¹ would take on the distributive function and become a universal operator. The concessive meaning would be overridden if there was no linguistic cue to bring about a conflict between presuppositions of the word meaning and the at-issue expression. Since 都 *to*¹ alone is potentially ambiguous between the concessive meaning and the interpretation of maximality and exhaustivity, my focus will be to pin down its exact meaning by examining the structural position it occupies in sentences. In addition to structural cues inside sentences, there is a need to draw on cross-sentential elements for pinning down the interpretation of 都 *to*¹. Our strategy is to first identify the sentence-internal elements that 都 *to*¹ co-occurs with. If there is a restrictor that 都 *to*¹ binds, then it takes on the function of a maximality operator

(Giannakidou and Cheng 2006; Cheng 2009). If there is a contradiction or incompatibility between the at-issue expression and a certain assumption or the presupposition inferable from a preceding proposition over and above the sense of exhaustivity and maximality, then 都 to^1 will be construed as a modal particle featuring the concessive meaning. According to König (1988), concessive clauses involve incompatibility of two eventualities. Concessivity denotes conventional implicature arrived at based on the contradictory relation between the asserted part and presupposition in sentences.^c Cross-linguistic evidence points to five types of origins of concessives: (1) elements expressing emotions such as spite, obstinacy, and contempt, (2) free-choice quantifiers, (3) temporal or conditional connectives, (4) elements emphasizing truth, and (5) elements implying the coexistence of two facts. 都 to^1 seems to belong to the second type of origin, as it features both a maximality operator and a concessive indicator. As will be argued in the following discussion, the interpretation of 都 to^1 will rest on the interface between sentence-internal and cross-sentential elements especially when the concessive sense is involved.

The structure of the paper is organized as follows. We will first explore the sequence of 都 to^1 + X (Section 2) where X may be the copula 是 si^7 (2.1), negatives (2.2), modals (2.3), agentive marker in passives (2.4), the aspect marker (2.5) or verbs (2.6). Then we will look into the sequence of X + 都 to^1 in Section 3 where X may be 盡 $tsin^7$ (3.1), 不 m^7 (3.2), or 是 si^7 (3.3).^d Section 4 concludes the paper.

2 都 to^1 + X

The structural position that 都 to^1 occupies with respect to other functional words bears on the issue of its interpretation. 都 to^1 either (1) precedes or (2) follows other functional elements. *Let's consider the first type.* 都 to^1 occurs before the focus marker 是 si^7 , negative elements like 不 m^7 , 無 bo^5 , 未 be^7 , and 袂 bue^7 ,^e and modal verbs like 卜 $berh^4$, 著 $tioh^8$, 通 $thang^1$, 會 ue^7 , and 敢 $kann^2$. In this position, 都 to^1 is ambiguous between both the concessive and distributive interpretation.

2.1 都 to^1 + the focus marker 是 si^7

都 to^1 can be taken as an operator that binds its restrictor, whereas the copula 是 si^7 can be regarded as the focus marker that covers its nucleus scope based on the theory of tripartite structure (Partee 1991; Hajičová et al. 1998). While the nucleus scope always immediately follows the focus marker 是 si^7 , the restrictor can precede or follow the maximality operator 都 to^1 .^f For example, the restrictor, indicated by being underlined below, precedes the operator in 1 and 2 and follows it in 3. The restrictor may remain implicit, as in 4.^g

2.1.1 都是 $to^1 si^7$

- (1) 伊百般苦痛,都是為我 (26.074 嘉靖 Jiajing)
 i^1 $pah^4 puann^1$ $khoo^2 thiann^3$ to^1 si^7 ui^7 gua^2
 he hundred.kind hard.ache TO COP for I
The suffering she has gone through are all for me.

- (2) 姻緣早晚,都是月老推付 (2.027 萬曆 Wanli)
 in¹ien⁵__tsa²buan²__to¹__si⁷__geh⁸lo²__tui¹hu³
 predestined.marriage__early.late__TO-COP__old.man.under.the.moon__arrange
Predestined marriage sooner or later is arranged by the legendary go-between.
- (3) 街上都是公子、王孫 (6.036 嘉靖 Jiaping)
 kue¹tsiunn⁷__to¹__si⁷__kong¹tsu²__ong⁵sun¹
 street__on__TO__COP__princeling__noble
Streets are all thronged with princelings and nobles.
- (4) 我想起來都是五百年前註定 (9.017 道光 Daoguang)
 gua²__siunn⁷__khi²lai⁵__to¹__si⁷__goo⁷__pah⁴__ni⁵__tsing⁵__tsu³tiann⁷
 I__think INCH__TO__COP__five__hundred__ago__predestine
It dawns on me that it was predestined five hundred years ago.

2.2 都 to¹ + negatives

都 to¹ may occur before negatives such as 不 m⁷ 'not', 未 ber⁷ 'not yet', 無 bo⁵ 'not have', and 袂 bue⁷ 'cannot, may not'. Let us take a short detour on diachronic aspects of negatives before embarking on discussing the collocation of 都 to¹ and the negatives. 不 m⁷ is a negative element featuring a syllabic nasal, and the character 不 or its graph variant 𠄎 or 𠄎 adopted to represent the word is a semantic loan in Southern Min. In other words, m⁷ and 不 *pK have their separate etymological origin. The pronunciation m⁷ evolves from negatives featuring *m- initial, whereas 不 comes from negatives featuring *p- initials shared by negatives such as 不 and 弗.^h Depending on the kinds of predicates that it occurs with, 不 m⁷ can function as a plain negative word or a negative coupled with a silent bouloamic modal, as in 伊不捌我 i¹ m⁷ pat⁴ gua² he not know I 'he doesn't know me' and 伊不來 i¹ m⁷ lai⁵ he not come 'He doesn't want to come'. 未 ber⁷ 'not yet' is a negative counterpart of the perfective aspect marker 了 liau² or the inchoative aspect marker 囉 loo⁰ / 啦 lah / 啊 a⁰.ⁱ 無 bo⁴ is indisputably taken to be a fusion of a negative m- and the verb 有 you³ 'have'. Old Chinese as a synthetic language boasts negatives with rich lexicalized sense of grammatical categories such as mood, conditionality, and aspect, among others. 無 bo⁴ may be ambiguous between negation of existence and negation of deontic modality in Old Chinese. (Dobson 1966; Pulleyblank 1995: 84) 無 bo⁴ in modern Southern Min features only negation of existence, but not the function of deontic modality, even though it develops a newly rising pluractional function, as in 伊有食薰 i¹ u⁷ tsiah⁸ hun¹ he have eat cigarette 'he smokes' taking on a habitual sense.^j 袂 bue⁷ 'cannot', a phonetic loan character, is also a fusional word comprising a negative m- and a modal 解 ue⁷ (often written as 會, a semantic loan character) 'can' denoting capability or possibility, as in 狗解吠 kau² ue⁷ pui⁷ dog can bark 'Dogs can bark' and 明仔載解落雨 bin⁵-a²-tsai⁷ ue⁷ loh⁸ hoo⁷ tomorrow can fall rain 'It will rain tomorrow'.

Let us turn now to the collocation of 都 to¹ and negatives. 都 to¹ in this configuration carries a concessive meaning in that 都 to¹ as a modal particle can be used to mark the following at-issue expression in its scope which conflicts with the presupposition as the inferred meaning from what is expressed in a previous utterance.

2.2.1 都不 *to*¹ *m*⁷

Take 都 *to*¹ followed by 不 *m*⁷. For example, example 5 with the use of 都 *to*¹ yields the conventional implicature that the speaker dares not to make complaints, which is in conflict with what one is expected to do.

- (5) 辛苦在心內,都不敢坦 (22.07 嘉靖 Jiajing)
 sin¹khoo²_ti⁷_sim¹lai⁷_to¹_m⁷_kann²_tann³
 hardship_at_heart_in_TO_not_dare_speak
Even though hardship is in my mind, I dare not air it.

不 *m*⁷ when immediately followed by activity verbs like 來 *lai*⁵ ‘come’ will evoke a silent volitional modal WANT, as in 6.

- (6) 伊心向痛,都不來見阮 (27.032 萬曆 Wanli)
 i¹_sim¹_hiunn³_tiann³_to¹_m⁷_lai⁵_kinn³_gua²
 he_heart_so_ache_TO_not_come_meet_I.PL
Even though he is sad, he won't come to see me

The meaning of WANT as a silent element is preempted by another modal like 願 *guan*⁷ ‘be willing’ (7), or 畏 *ui*³ ‘fear’ (8, 9) as well as 敢 *kann*² ‘dare’ (5) occupying the same position. 都 *to*¹ immediately followed by 不 *m*⁷ is however construed to be preceded by a null subject recoverable based on the exophoric or endophoric contexts, as in 8 and 9. We can see that the inferred meaning from the expression before the comma is in conflict with the at-issue clause headed by 都 *to*¹ in 7, 8, and 9.

- (7) 多少郎君卜求,我只心中都不願 (11.017 嘉靖 Jiajing)
 to¹siau²_long⁵_kun¹_berh⁴_kiu⁵_gua²_tsi²_sim¹_tiong¹_m⁷_guan⁷
 many.few_man_want_beg_I_this_heart_in_TO_not_willing
Though there are so many suitors, I will not accept their proposal.
- (8) 潑伊人,都不畏了冷伊人 (22.111 嘉靖 Jiajing)
 phuah⁴_i¹_lang⁵_to¹_m⁷_ui³_liau²_ling²_i¹_lang⁵
 splash_he_person_TO_not_fear_PERF_cold_he_person
Though I splash water on him, I don't fear that it will make him catch cold.
- (9) 瓜田李下,都不畏人疑 (30.065 道光 Daoguang)
 kua¹_tien⁵_li²_ha⁷_to¹_m⁷_ui³_lang⁵_gi⁵
 melon_field_plum_under_TO_not_fear_people_doubt
Even though you are in the melon patch and under the plum tree, you do not fear being open to suspicion'

Following the suggestions made by an anonymous reviewer, we can motivate the concessive meaning conveyed by 都 *to*¹ as a kind of conventional implicature rather than conversational implicature. The concessive meaning conveyed by 都 *to*¹ in each of the above complex sentences is derivable due to the existence of background sentence. The meaning of the main clause in each of the above sentences is in conflict with the

inference obtained from the antecedent clause featuring a silent concessive marker such as 著算 *tioh⁸-sng³* right count ‘even though’. For example, splashing water on someone will cause him to feel cold, as in 8. This is expressed in the subordinate clause, and its meaning conflicts with what is expressed in the main clause. The apparent noun phrase such as 瓜田李下 *kua¹ tien⁵ li² ha⁷* in the melon plots and under the plum tree, a juxtaposition of two noun phrases, as in 9, may stand for a whole proposition when the missing predicate is restored.

2.2.2 都無 *to¹ bo⁵*

都 *to¹* followed by 無 *bo⁵* may yield a concessive meaning. As shown in 10, it is commonsensical that one will be displeased when scolded, but the sentence implies that it does not matter. When a man is getting old, he is expected to marry a woman. Contrary to this expectation, the speaker (v.i., 小七 *sio²tshit⁴* little seven ‘Little Seven’) has no wife at the mature and marriageable age, let alone at the old age, as in 11. Example 12 shows that aside from the concessive meaning, there is in addition a scalar sense in that there is a comparison between the lower and high caliber in a scale. That is, men’s capacity is higher than women’s capacity in the scale of decision-making. All of these sentences involve the scalar model where the two elements on a certain scale are compared. We can add, as insightfully suggested by an anonymous reviewer, the marker 連 *lien⁵* ‘even’ in the slot to signal the underlined explicit element being compared. There is an explicit underlined element compared with an implicit element in 10, and 11, whereas both compared elements are present in 12, namely the contrast between men and women in the capacity of offering an idea.

- (10) [] 罵箇都無打緊 (11.27 順治 Shunzhi)
 ma⁷ kan² to¹ bo⁵ tann² kin²
 scold_maid_TO_not.have_urgent
Even (you) scolding me will be okay.
- (11) 小七[] 老了都無△ (30.124 順治 Shunzhi)
 sio²tshit⁴ lau⁷ liau⁰ to¹ bo⁵ boo²
 little.seven_old_INCH_TO_not.have_wife
I (Little Seven) am getting on in age, and yet I have no wife.
- (12) [] 恁乾埔人都無主意, 阮婆娘人有乜主意? (34.009 道光 Daoguang)
 lin² ta¹ poo¹ lang⁵ to¹ bo⁵ tsu²i³ gun² tsu¹niu⁵ lang⁵ u⁷ mih⁴ tsu²i³
 you_man_person_TO_have.not_idea_we_woman_person_have_what_idea
You men don't even have any idea, let alone we women, what idea can we women have?

Thus, both 都不 *to¹ m⁷* and 都無 *to¹ bo⁵* express a concessive meaning, but they differ at least on two counts. First, 都無 *to¹ bo⁵* rather than 都不 *to¹ m⁷* involves a scalar model. Second, the restrictor of 都 *to¹* is the predicate that it precedes in the first case, whereas its restrictor in the latter case is the underlined element in the subject position.

2.2.3 都未 *to⁷ be⁷*

都 *to⁷* followed by 未 *be⁷* brings about a sense of unexpectedness. For example, it is a common practice to eat when one gets up in the morning, but 13 is just the opposite, viz., contrary to his routine practice, the speaker has not had his breakfast yet. Likewise, as shown in 14, 五娘 *wu³ niang²* five lady 'Wuniang' (the female lead) expects 陳三 *chen² san¹* Chen three 'Chen San' (the male lead) to show concern for her, and yet he does not do so, contrary to her expectation.

- (13) 我早起都未食 (22.371 嘉靖 Jiajing)

gua²_tsa²khi²_to⁷_ber⁷_tsiah⁸

I_morning_TO_not.yet_eat

I haven't even eaten yet since I got up in the morning.

- (14) 三哥自來寒舍都未八相動問 (23.317 光緒 Guangxu)

sann¹ko¹_tsu⁷_lai⁵_han⁵sia³_to¹_ber⁷_pat⁴_sann¹_tang⁷_mng⁷

third.brother_since_come_humble.house_TO_not.yet_EXP_mutually_move_ask

You (i.e., Third Brother) haven't even asked after me yet since you came here.

2.2.4 都袂 *to¹ bue⁷*

都 *to¹* followed by 袂 *bue⁷* yields a concessive meaning. In a traditional male chauvinistic society, a man can scold his wife with impunity. Thus, what the speaker is driving at in 15 with the particle 都 *to¹* is that the speaker cannot scold his wife given that he is the addressee's wife, and this is in conflict with the assumed male chauvinistic belief. When the second clause is taken as a rhetoric question, the ultimate interpretation is that he cannot scold his wife. Likewise, in 16 the addressee (Chen San)'s reluctance to talk to the speaker (益春 *yi⁴ chun¹* benefit spring 'Yichun', the maid) runs counter to her expectation. In 17, the speaker (Yichun again) complains to Chen San that once his match with the lady Wuniang is secured he will forget all her contributions. This does not jibe well with her expectations. Example 18 shows that the tree even with its huge size cannot withstand the gold hatchet; similarly humans cannot either.

- (15) 我是你翁仔,都袂罵得你? (11.65 順治 Shunzhi)

gua²_si⁷_li²_ang¹kann²_to¹_bue⁷_ma⁷_tit⁴_li²

I_COP_you_husband_SUF_TO_cannot_scold_MOD_you

I am your husband; couldn't I even scold you?

- (16) 你都袂割捨得共小妹咀一聲 (26.007 道光 Daoguang)

li²_to¹_bue⁷_kuah⁸_sia²_tit⁴_kang⁷_sio²be⁷_tann³_tsit⁸_siann¹

you_TO_cannot_ungrudging_MOD_with_little.sister_say_one_CLF

You are even reluctant to talk to me.

- (17) 姻緣成就,許時都袂記得小妹 (21.039 道光 Daoguang)

In¹en⁵_sing⁵tsiu⁷_hu⁵_si⁵_to¹_bue⁷_ki³tit⁸_sio²be⁷

marriage_accomplish_that_time_TO_cannot_remember_little.sister

If the marriage is fulfilled, you will not even remember me then.

(18) 大樹都袂受金刀斧,人都袂受得人千聲嘍嘈。(21.038 道光 Daoguang)

tua⁷ tshiu⁷__to¹__bue⁷__siu⁷__kim¹__to¹poo²__lang⁵__to¹__bue⁷__siu⁷__tit⁴__lang⁵
tshien¹siann¹__lo¹tso¹

big__tree__TO__cannot__receive__gold__knife.hatchet__poeple__TO__cannot__
bear__MOD__

people__thausand.sound__din

Even huge trees cannot bear the gold hatchet. People cannot even tolerate the sheer human din.

2.3 都 to¹ + modals

都 to¹ may occur before a range of modals such as the volitional modal 卜 *berh⁴* ‘want’, deontic modals like 著 *tioh⁸* ‘must’ and 通 *thang¹* ‘can, may’, and dynamic modals like 會 *ue⁷* ‘can, be able to’ and 敢 *kann²* ‘dare’. 卜 *berh⁴* (cf. 要 *yao⁴* ‘want’ M.) might be a modal verb indigenous to Min; seeing as its etymological origin is unknown, and the character used to identify it, 卜, was adopted based on its sound rather than meaning. 著 *tioh⁸* (cf. 得 *dei³* or 應該 *ying¹gai¹* ‘should’ M.) may be a result of grammaticalizing the causative verb 著 *tioh⁸* ‘have, ask, get (sb. to do sth.)’ (Hsu 2013). Whereas *ue⁷* written as a semantic loan character 會 (cf. 能 *neng²* ‘can’ or 會 *hui⁴* ‘can/may’ M.) can be traced back to 解 *xie⁴* ‘know, understand’ with confidence, the etymological origin of 通 *thang¹* (cf. 可以 *ke³yi³* ‘can/be allowed to’ M.) remains still unsettled. There is no question about the etymology of 敢 *kann²*.

All examples featuring this constructional type will take on the default concessive sense unless there are quantifier noun phrases as the restrictors bound by the maximality operator 都 to¹.

2.3.1 都卜 to¹ *berh⁴*

Examples 19, 20, and 21 with the particle 都 to¹ coupled with the volitional modal 卜 *berh⁴* ‘want’ all show the stubborn propensity or behavior on the part of the subject in resistance to some common code of conduct or social mores. Thus, all the three examples show the unexpected behavior of the protagonist as well as a concessive sense. Such an interpretation is justified against the backdrop of the knowledge background provided for each case.

Chen San once eloped with his mistress Wuniang and her maid Yichun. Yichun accidentally tripped on the way. With no one lending her a hand she refused to go along. Wuniang uttered 19 to reproach her.

(19) 賊婢都卜來賴人 (29.074 光緒 Guangxu)

tshat⁸pi⁷__to¹__berh⁴__lai⁷__lua⁷__lang⁵

wicked.maid__TO__want__come__blame__person

You wretched maid nevertheless have the nerve to blame others.

Chen San asked the maid Yichun to persuade her mistress Wuniang to stop crying. The maid replied, uttering 20 with the hint that despite her pleading to the contrary, her mistress still cannot help crying.

- (20) 伊都卜啼,罔乞伊啼 (34.067 道光 Daoguang)
 i¹ to¹ berh⁴ thi⁵ bong² khit⁴ i¹ thi⁵
 she_TO_want_cry_might_let_he_cry
She wants to weep. We might just as well let her cry.

It is a routine practice befitting a decent lady to comb her hair every morning. Stubborn as she is, Wuniang is reluctant to do it even at the risk of being found out by her parents.

- (21) 亞娘都卜不梳,亞公亞媽知了,不句愛罵 (22.003 道光 Daoguang)
 a¹niu⁵_to¹_berh⁴_m⁷_sue¹_a¹kong¹_a¹ma²_tsai¹_liau²_m⁷_ku³_ai³_ma⁷
 lady_TO_want_not_comb_grandpa_grandma_know_INCH_not_again_
 love_scold
If you are not willing to have your hair combed, won't grandpa and grandma scold you again when they get to know it?

2.3.2 都著 to¹ tioh⁸

都 to¹, when followed by the deontic modal 著 tioh⁸ 'should', may take on the function of the maximality operator, as in 22 with the quantifier noun phrase, or involve the comparison of two loci in a scale, as in 23.

- (22) 三人手都著槌 (23.115 光緒 Guangxu)
 sann¹lang⁵_to¹_tioh⁸_tui⁵
 three.person_hand_TO_should_pound
All three persons' hands should be pounded.
- (23) 我都著叫伊官,你天不叫? (31.050 道光 Daoguang)^k
 gua²_to¹_tioh⁸_kio³_i¹_kuann¹_li²_iau²_m⁷_kio³
 I_TO_should_call_he_master_you_still_not.willing_call
Even if I call him master. How can you not call (him)?

2.3.3 都會 to¹ e⁷

都 to¹ combined with the dynamic modal 會 ue⁷ 'can' is conducive to the quantificational interpretation of exhaustivity and maximality given the presence of the noun phrase denoting a list of things, as in 24, and the implicit universal time adverb such as 逐擺 tak⁸-pai² every time 'every time, whenever', as in 25.

- (24) 琴、棋、書、畫我都會 (25.089 嘉靖 Jiajing)
 khim⁵_ki⁵_su¹_ui⁷_gua²_to¹_ue⁷
 zither_chess_calligraphy_painting_I_TO_be.skillful at
I excel at zither, chess, calligraphy and painting.
- (25) 恁師父磨鏡,都會唱歌 (9.136 順治 Shunzhi)
 lin²_su¹hu⁷_bua⁵_kiann³_to¹_ue⁷_tshiunn³_kua
 you_master_polish_mirror_TO_can_sing_song
Whenever your master polished mirrors, he would sing.

One may wonder whether the absence of a concessive meaning of 都會 *to¹ e⁷* may have to do with the sense of 會 *ue⁷* ‘can’. What we can observe at the present stage is that the concessive and quantitative senses of 都 *to¹* are in competition. Whenever no inferential meaning is obtainable to be in conflict with the meaning of the main clause, then another meaning of 都 *to¹* emerges. So its quantitative interpretation comes about by default.

2.3.4 都通 *to¹ tang¹*

都 *to¹* in construction with the deontic modal 通 *tang¹* ‘can, may’ yield the concessive meaning, as in 26 and 27. The male lead Chen San indented himself as a long-termed hired hand to redeem the cost of purposefully breaking a mirror. As a male servant, he still thinks that Yichun, the maid, does not enjoy the equal social status, as he is from a family of officials. In uttering 26, Chen San is disapproving of Yichun calling out his name. Both Chen San and Little Seven are male servants. They vie for currying favor with their master. So Little Seven teases at his workmate uttering 27. In his mind, both he and Chen San are equals. They are both in a scalar model competing with each other. Little Seven believes that if the addressee (viz. Chen San), as a less likely candidate for a certain task, can be allowed to do something, he surely can get the permission to do so.

(26) 只一箇仔,都通叫我名 (28.115 嘉靖 Jiajing)

tsi²__tsit⁸__kan²kann²__to¹__thang¹__kio³__gua²__mia⁵
 this__one__maid__TO__may__call__I__name
This maid can even call my name.

(27) 你都通磨鏡,我不通補鼎? (19.221 道光 Daoguang)

li²__to¹__tang¹__gua⁵__kiann³__gua²__m⁷__tang¹__poo²__tiann²
 you__TO__may__polish__mirror__not__may__mend__wok
If you can even polish mirrors, can't I mend the wok?

2.3.5 都敢 *to¹ kann²*

The same can be said of 28, 29, and 30 where the sequence of 都敢 *to¹ kann²* TO dare ‘even dare’ takes on the concessive meaning. As shown in 28, scolding is less desirable and therefore more unexpected than name calling in the scale of interpersonal verbal interaction. This scalar discrepancy justifies the use of 都 *to¹*. As shown in 28, Wuniang is indignant at Chen San (the male servant, a socially inferior person) taking the liberty of scolding her, an unexpected breach of the code of conduct. As in 28, the use of 都 *to¹* is motivated in 30 since beating is less expected than scolding.

(28) 叫你名啞,你無正經,罵你都敢。 (17.1636-64 順治 Shunzhi)

kio³__lir²__mia⁵__a⁰__Lir²__bo⁵__tsing³king¹__ma⁷__lir²__TO__kann²
 call__you__name__SFP__you__not.have__decency__scold__you__TO__dare
I call your name. Since you are not decent, I can even scold you without a qualm.

(29) 只賊奴乜大膽都敢罵我 (26.163 嘉靖 Jiajing)

tsi²__tshat⁸loo⁵__mih⁴__tua⁷tann²__to¹__kann²__ma⁷__gua²
 this__wicked__slave__what__big__gall__TO__dare__scold__I
The rascal is so bold and even dares to scold me.

- (30) 罵啞?打都敢 (4.05 順治 Shunzhi)

ma⁷_a⁰_phah⁴_to¹_kann²

scold_SFP_bet_TO_dare

*Scold you? I even dare beat you.***2.4 都 to¹ + the agentive marker 乞 khit⁴ in passives**

乞 khit⁴ is a preposition heading a preposition (DP) in passives. It occurs both after 都 to¹ and the subject. We can see that 都 to¹ occupies a syntactic position higher than voice. It conveys a sense of unexpectedness over the propositional content denoted by the sentence, as in 31, 32, and 33.

- (31) 亞娘,咱只處咁話,都乞陳三聽見勞 (22.081 道光 Daoguang)

a¹niu⁵_lan²_tsi²_te³_tann³_ue⁷_to¹_khit⁴_tan⁵sann¹_thiann¹_khinn³_loo⁰

lady_we.INCL_this_place_speak_word_TO_let_Chen.San_listen_hear_SFP

Our talks here have been overheard by Chen San, Madam.

- (32) 汝心都乞狗食去 (8.014 光緒 Guangxu)

lir²_sim¹_to¹_khit⁴_kau²_tsiah⁸_khi³

you_heart_TO-let_dog_eat_go

Your heart has been eaten by dogs.

- (33) 亞娘都乞小八擦去到泉州了 (32.055 光緒 Guangxu)

a¹niu⁵_to¹_khit⁴_sio²pat⁴_tshua⁷_khi³_kau³_tsuan⁵tsiu¹_liau⁰

lady_TO_let_Little.Eight_take_go_to_Quanzhou_SFP

The lady has been taken by Little Eight to Quanzhou.

Following Bowers (2010), I postulate a layer of VoiceP (VoiP for short) to account for the presence of the agent marker in passives. VoiP has the feature of [+/- act]. If the feature is positive, the agent (ag) selects DP in an active sentence. If the feature is negative, the ag selects a prepositional phrase headed by the preposition 乞 khit⁴ in a passive.¹

2.5 都 to¹ + the aspect marker 在只 ti⁷ tsi²

都 to¹ occurs before a locative phrase 在只 ti⁷ tsi² at-here 'here', which later developed into the progressive marker. Example 34 takes on the interpretation of maximality and exhaustiveness.

2.5.1 都在只 to¹ ti⁷ tsi²

- (34) 簡都在只聽候啞娘 (15.095 順治 Shunzhi)

kan¹_to¹_ti⁷_tsi²_thiann³hau⁷_a¹-niu⁵

maid_TO_at_here_listen.wait_lady

*I have all along been here waiting for you.***2.6 都 to¹ + verbs**

都 to¹ may be immediately followed by verbs without being mediated by modals or other elements. Since verbs are an open class grammatical category, I will only focus on 有 u⁷

'have' as an example. The presence of 都 *to*¹ in 35 as a yes-no question casts into doubt the very proposition that men have periods, a totally impossible situation. Example 36 occurs in a situation in which Wuniang reminds Chen San that the lychee as a token of love is still in his place in response to his request for a keepsake. Chen San utters 37 complaining that Wuniang would not hold his hand. Yichun, the maid, says 38 calling her lady Wuniang's attention to the situation that someone made a sound outside the wall. All these examples exhibit a concessive meaning and some measure of unexpectedness.

2.6.1 都有 *to*¹ *u*⁷

(35) 乾埔人都有月經? (5.099 道光 Daoguang)

ta¹poo¹_lang⁵_to¹_u⁷_geh⁸king¹
 man_person_TO_have_period
Do men even have periods?

(36) 阮都有荔枝值恁處 (23.400/401 光緒 Guangxu)

gun²_to¹_u⁷_nai⁷tsi¹_ti⁷_lin²_ter³
 we.EXCL_TO_have_lychee_at_you_place
Why is the lychee that belongs to me at your place.

(37) 爾都有手不來牽 (23.303 光緒 Guangxu)

lir²_to¹_u⁷_tshiu²_m⁷_lai⁵_khan¹
 you_TO_have_hand_not_come_hold
You have hands, and you don't even want to hold me.

(38) 牆外都有人做聲 (13.037 順治 Shunzhi)

tshiunn⁵_gua⁷_to¹_u⁷_lang⁵_tsoh⁴_siann¹
 wall_outside_TO_have_perosn_make_sound
There is someone making a sound outside the wall, though.

All the cases of 都 *to*¹ featuring the sense of concession, preceding negatives (2.2), modals (2.3), the VoiP (2.4), the aspect marker (2.5) or verbs (2.6), occupy the specifier of the concessive project in complementizer CP in line with Rizzi's fine structure of the left periphery. Negation, modality, voice, and aspect are the functional projection in TP.

3 X + 都 *to*¹

The second type of the structural position of 都 *to*¹ is its occurrence after other functional elements such as 盡 *tsin*⁷, 不 *m*⁷, and 是 *si*¹. Various types of constructions result from such combinations. 都 *to*¹, along with a preceding synonym, 盡 *tsin*⁷, yields a compound maximality operator. When preceded by 不 *m*⁷, 都 *to*¹ occurs in a tag question. 都 *to*¹ functions as an intensifier when followed by the focus marker 是 *si*¹.

3.1 盡都 *tsin*⁷ *to*¹

盡都 *tsin*⁷ *to*¹ entirely TO 'all' is a case of juxtaposed synonyms or rather hypercharacterization.^m The compound is good for disambiguating the potential uncertain meaning

of the monosyllable 都 to^1 and narrowing it down to the function of a maximality operator. There is either a quantifier noun phrase like 百姓人 $peh^4-sinn^3 lang^5$ 'hundred name person 'the folks,' as in 39, or a plural determiner noun phrase like 許賞燈人 $hu^2 siunn^2 ting^1 lang^5$ 'those lantern-viewing people,' as in 40, which serves as a restrictor bound by 都 to^1 .

- (39) 百姓人盡都歡喜 (38.015嘉靖 Jiajing)
 $peh^4sinn^3_lang^5_tsin^7_to^1_huann^1hi^2$
 hundred.surname__person__all__TO__happy
The folks are all in a merry mood.

- (40) 看許賞燈人盡都歡喜 (7.029嘉靖 Jiajing)
 $khuann^3_hir^2_siunn^2_ting^1_lang^5_tsin^7_to^1_huann^1hi^2$
 look__that__view__lantern__person__TSIN__TO__happy
We can see those lantern-viewing throngs are all quite in a merry mood.

The juxtaposition of 盡都 $tsin^7 to^1$ is useful to disambiguate 都 to^1 and narrows down its meaning to 'all,' as in 伊人琴棋書畫盡都曉通 $i^1 lang^5 khim^5 ki^5 su^1 ui^7 tsin^7 to^1 hiau^2 thong^1$ 'he person chess zither calligraphy painting exhaustively TO know through 'He excels at all of the skills of music, chess, calligraphy and painting' (26.010 嘉靖 Jiajing) where 盡都 $tsin^7 to^1$ functions as a maximality operator. Still another way to narrow down its meaning is for 都 to^1 to co-occur with a wh-word, as in 趁我興, 乜都度你 $than^3 gua^2 hing^3 mih^4 to^1 thoo^7 li^2$ 'follow I fancy what TO give you 'Everything will be given to you if you suit my fancy' where the universal quantifier 'whatever, everything' is built on the combination of the wh-word 乜 mih^4 'what' and the operator 都 to^1 (16.061 順治 Shunzhi).

3.2 不都 $m^7 to^1$

According to the functional architecture of the languages proposed in Rizzi (1997, 2004), there are three layers: the VP layer (viz. the lexical layer headed by the verb), the IP (or rather TP) layer (viz. inflectional layers headed by functional categories such as agreement, modality, voice, tense, aspect, among others), and the CP layer (the complementizer layer hosting kinds of force such as interrogative, imperative, and exclamative mood).ⁿ There may be recursive topics but only a single focus between Force P and FinP. Later version of this approach entertains the idea of split-up Force. The function of 不 m^7 in the construction featuring 不都 $m^7 to^1$ not TO can be given an explicit and motivated account in terms of this theoretical framework.

When the negative word 不 m^7 occurs before 都 to^1 , the sentence changes its mood from the indicative to the interrogative mood, realized as a tag question in this construction. 不 m^7 is higher than 都 to^1 in the hierarchy of functional categories as proposed in Rizzi (1997, 2004). That may be the reason why the sentence takes on the interrogative mood. 不都 $m^7 to^1$ seems to be similar to a negative tag question 'isn't it?, right?'; as in 41, each of which is interpretable given the cross-sentential elements as shown in previous or following sentences. What follows are three dialogs: (a) 41a–b, (b) 42a–b, and (c) 43a–d. This clause-initial 不 m^7 is on a par with one type of the tag question particle *eh* in

Canadian English.⁹ The common implication of these four dialogs conveyed by 都 *to*¹ involves the subjectivity on the speaker concerning the contradiction of two propositions.

In the first dialog, most probably Chen San hopes that his singing will be listened to but worries that there will be no one listening. He uses 41 as a tag question to convey his worry in the hope that the addressee will confirm it.

- (41) a. 生:不都無人聽 (9.167 順治 Shunzhi)
 Sing¹: m⁷_to¹_bo⁵_lang⁵_thiann¹
 ML: not_TO_not.have_person_listen
Male lead: Nobody will listen, right?
- b. 貼:唱那好,伊便有人聽 (9.168 順治 Shunzhi)
 Thiap⁴: tshiunn³_na⁷_ho²_i¹_pien⁷_u⁷_lang⁵_thiann¹
 SFC: sing_if_good_he_then_have_person_listen
If you sing well, you will be listened to.

In the second dialog, the speaker takes for granted the proposition that the landlord has returned from a trip to collect rents, a proposition contradicting the latter's pretension that he has not returned yet. He uses 42b as a tag question to secure confirmation from the landlord for his supposition.

- (42) a. 外:你去共伊說,叫:我收租未返來 (37.025 道光 Daoguang)^P
 Gua⁷: Lir²_khi³_kang¹_i¹_serh⁴_kio³_gua²_siu¹_tsoo¹_ber⁷_tng²_lai⁵
 SECMC:You_go_with_he_speak_quoth_I_collect_not.yet_return_come
Go and tell him, "I have not returned from a trip to collect rents."
- b. 淨:你不都返來勞? (37.026 道光 Daoguang)^Q
 Tsing⁷: Lir²_m⁷_to¹_tng²-lai⁵_loo⁰
 COM: you_not_TO_return_come_SFP
Haven't you return home?

In the third dialog, as in 43a–d, a buffoon (BFN) asks the maid Yichun whether Emperor Ming of Tang is a man or woman. She replies, 'The emperor is a man. Him a woman?' The original sentence for *Him a woman?* is 乜孜娘人? *mih⁴ tsu¹ niu⁵ lang⁵* what woman person, where 乜 *mih⁴* what is a wh_word functioning as a rhetoric marker. The sentence, therefore, can be taken to mean, what reasons can there be for the emperor to be a woman? The inference will be that surely enough, the emperor is not a woman. Based on the textual evidence of other versions of the Romance of the Lychee Mirror, such as in the 道光 Daoguang and 光緒 Guangxu editions, the missing link for 不都有月宮 *pu⁴ dou¹ you³ yue⁴ gong¹* not TO have moon.palace 'Isn't there Moon Palace?' is the given fact that the emperor is a man. So we can rephrase it as follows: Granting that the emperor is a man, there should be a moon palace, right? This reading is made possible or plausible by the legend of the Emperor Ming of Tang's visit to the moon palace, a common shared knowledge among the Chinese. 不都有月宮 can also be taken as a pun exploiting the homophony of 月宮 *geh⁸-king¹* Moon Palace 'Moon Palace' and 月經 *geh⁸-king¹* moon menstruation 'periods'. Again, this interpretation is corroborated by the appearance of 月經 *geh⁸-king¹* in lieu of 月宮 *geh⁸-king¹* in parallel passages in other versions. It befits the role of the BFN to make such a jocular

utterance with double entendre. On the one hand, it is perfectly logical that the legend of the Emperor Ming of Tang is associated with the moon palace. On the other hand, one runs into an absurd assumption: 不都有月經? ‘Should the emperor be a male, could he be expected to have periods, eh?’ The speaker is concerned with the confirmation of his assumption that can be elicited from his addressee.

- (43) a. 丑:唐明皇是乾埔人啞是孜娘人? (4.392-3順治 Shunzhi)^f
 Thiu²: tong⁵bing⁵_hong⁵_si⁷_ta¹poo¹_ang⁵_a⁷si⁷_tsu¹niu⁵_lang⁵
 BFN: Tang.ming_emperor __COP__man__person__or__woman__person
Is Emperor Ming of Tang a man or a woman?
- b. 貼:唐明皇是乾埔人,乜孜娘人? (4.394-5順治 Shunzhi)
 Thiap⁴: tong⁵bing⁵_hong⁵_si⁷_ta¹poo¹lang⁵_mih⁴_tsu¹niu⁵_lang⁵
 SFC: Tang.ming_emperor __COP__male__person__what__woman__person
Emperor Ming of Tang is a man. Is he a woman?
- c. 丑:不都有月宮 (4.396 順治 Shunzhi)
 Thiu²: m⁷_to¹_u⁷_geh⁴king¹
 BFN: not __TO__have__moon.palace/period
There is a moon palace (periods), eh?
- d. 旦:正是月宮 (4.397 順治 Shunzhi)
 Tuann³:tsiann³ si⁷ geh⁴-king¹
 FM: exactly __COP__moon.palace
Exactly. There is a moon palace.

不都 m^7 to^1 in this section merits a comparison with 都不 to^1 m^7 in Section 2.2. The interpretation of each sequence can be arrived at by putting together the pieces and following the manner in which they are built into a whole. The former functions in a tag question, whereas the latter participates in a concessive sentence. The occurrences of 都 to^1 in both sequences are related. 都 to^1 in 不都 m^7 to^1 still retains its sense of exhaustivity and maximality in that 都 to^1 in 41a evokes the interpretation that the singer is worried that whenever he sings nobody will listen. He relies on 不 m^7 functioning as a tag question particle to ask his addressee to tell him whether his worry is valid. The latter gives a positive response to dispel his worry. Likewise, an interpretation prompted by 都 to^1 emerges in 43c that whenever Emperor Ming of Tang is mentioned, it inevitably conjures up an image of his visitation to the moon palace. The negative element 不 m^7 heading the clause functions as a tag question particle and is used by the speaker to seek confirmation of his supposition with the addressee. As shown in 43d, the addressee gives an emphatic positive answer where the copula 是 si^7 is preceded by $tsiann^3$ 正 ‘exactly’.

3.3 是都 si^7 to^1

As shown in 44, 45, and 46, 是 si^7 , when coupled with 都 to^1 , functions as a focus marker making salient the truth of what has been stated in a previous sentence. The function of intensification of 都 to^1 seems to be derived from its original function of maximality and exhaustivity.

- (44) a. 貼:只牆外都親像乜人做聲 (24.079嘉靖 Jiajing)
 Thiap⁴:tsi²_tshiunn⁵_gua⁷_to¹_tshin¹tshiunn⁷_mih⁴_lang⁵_tsue³_siann¹
 SFC: this__wall__outside__TO__look.like__what__person__make__sound
Someone seems to make a sound outside the wall.
- b. 旦:益春,是都親像人做聲 (24.081嘉靖 Jiajing)
 Tuann³: Iah⁴ tshun¹, si⁷ to¹ tshin¹-tshiunn⁷ lang⁵ tsoh⁴ siann¹
 FL: Yichun__COP__TO__look.like__person__make__sound
Indeed someone seems to make a sound, Yichun.
- (45) 是都聽見了 (24.272嘉靖 Jiajing)
 si⁷_to¹_thiann¹_kinn³_liau⁰
 COP__TO__listen__see__SFP
You indeed heard it.
- (46) 是都不打婆仔了 (5.343順治 Shunzhi)
 si⁷_to¹_m⁷_phah⁴_po⁵kann²_liau
 COP__TO__not__beat__old.woman__SFP
You sure don't want to beat me.

4 Conclusions

In this paper, I propose that 都 *to*¹ as attested in earlier Southern Min texts features two basic functions, either as a maximality operator or a modal particle carrying concessive meaning or both. The maximality operator 都 *to*¹ binds its restrictor vis-à-vis the nucleus scope. The concessive meaning of the modal particle 都 *to*¹ is arrived at by asserting an at-issue proposition induced by the particle 都 *to*¹ in conflict with a presupposition. The sense of unexpectedness conveys the surprise on the part of the speaker at the occurrence of a situation. It can be viewed as resulting from incompatibility of two eventualities or a comparison of two propositions or two properties in a scalar situation. This is a case of conventional implicature rather than pragmatic inference. The paper also shows the relationship that the semantic functions of 都 *to*¹ have with its structural position in the hierarchy of functional categories and tries to pin down the theoretical importance of such a relation (Cinque 1999). I take the concessive meaning as the default interpretation in the sentences featuring 都 *to*¹, unless this interpretation is overridden by the interpretation of 都 *to*¹ as a maximality operator. The latter interpretation is made possible by the presence of the quantifier noun phrase that 都 *to*¹ binds as its restrictor vis-à-vis the nucleus scope, and no further additional conventional implicature such as concessivity is involved. A point worth mentioning is that the concessivity of 都 *to*¹ takes on the default function due to its robust existence despite its being the further development of the original sense of maximality and exhaustivity.

5 Endnotes

^aEarlier Southern Min texts comprise five editions of playscript featuring the Romance of the Lychee Mirror (Wu, 2001a, b, c, d; Quanzhoushi 2010). Time frame of each edition is 嘉靖 Jiajing (1522–1566), 萬曆 Wanli (1573–1619), 順治 Shunzhi (1644–1661), 道光 Daoguang (1821–1850), and 光緒 Guangxu (1875–1908).

^bI borrow the term at-issue meaning from Potts (2012). Unlike the conventional implicature, the at-issue meaning involves the current content that the speaker takes as primary in interaction with his addressee before it is accepted into the common ground.

^cFor the notion of conventional implicature see Karttunen and Peters (1979) and Potts (2012).

^dThe spelling of Southern Min in this paper is based on the Church Romanization given in Douglas (1873). Some modifications have been made. In particular, the diacritic tone marks have been replaced by numerical superscripts. No distinction is made between *ch* and *ts* or *chh* and *tsh* as they do not involve phonemic contrast. Open *o* and closed *o* are rewritten as *oo* and *o*, as in 古 *koo*² ‘old’ and 稿 *ko*² ‘draft’. Nasalization of vowels is signaled by a double *n*, as in 天 *thinn*¹ ‘sky’. /ɿ/ and /ʌ/ are rendered as /er/ and /ir/ respectively.

^e袂 *bue*⁷ is a fusional word of two morphemes: 毋 *m*⁷ + 解 *ue*⁷. Its positive counterpart is 解 *ue*⁷ (may, can), which is often rendered as 會, a loan character of 解. Note that the nasal onset *m- has to be denasalized when the final is not nasalized in modern Southern Min.

^fThe term maximality operator encompassing both maximality and exhaustivity is due to Giannakidou and Cheng (2006) and Cheng (2009). It was previously termed generalized distributive operator (Lin 1998). We can see that the function of quantification 都 *to*¹ in Southern Min is quite similar to 都 *dou*¹ in Mandarin in this respect.

^gAbbreviations used in the paper: ACC accusative marker, BFN buffoon, male or female, CLF classifier, COM comic character, male or female, COP copula, EXCL exclusive, EXP experiential aspect Marker, EXT extent marker, FL female lead, INCH inchoative aspect marker, INCL inclusive, M Mandarin, ML male lead, MOD modal, PERF perfective aspect marker, PL plural, SECMC secondary male character, SFC secondary Female character, SFP sentence-final particle, SUBMC subsidiary male character, and SUF suffix The rendition of the names of various roles in the play is due to van der Loon (1992: 38).

^h否 *fou*³ and 不 *bu*⁴ in modern Mandarin come from 不 *pK, a departing tone word, and 弗 *pKt, an entering tone word, in Old Chinese, respectively. See Yang (1971) for the insight on the etymological origin of 否 *fou*³ (<*pK) and 不 *bu*⁴ (<*pKt 弗) which is in turn due to Fangkuei Li. Note that Old Chinese reconstruction is based on Baxter and Sagart (2014: 330). See Norman (1995) for the idea that negatives with *p- initial and negative *m- initial are an important grammatical criterion on which northern and southern Chinese dialects can be distinguished. Note that apart from *m*⁷, *put*⁴ often written as 不 (<*pKt 弗) occurs only in the literary stratum in Southern Min, as in 伊真不孝 *i*¹ *tsin*¹ *put*⁴ *hau*³ he very not dutiful ‘He is not dutiful (to his parents)’. There is no reflex of 不 *pK in the colloquial and indigenous layer of modern Southern Min, whereas it has developed into 否 *fou*² in modern literary Chinese. Admittedly, there are problems of textual mix-up of the reflexes of 不 *pK and 弗 *pKt due to obliteration of the latter character perhaps prompted by taboo considerations.

ⁱHere, silent is taken in Kaynean sense (Kayne 2005). As I understand it, uncovering silent elements from a comparative perspective is an important means of establishing language universal patterns.

^jIt is noteworthy that 沒 *mei*² resulting from the convergence of 無 and 未 in Mandarin is ambiguous between negation of existence and negation of perfectives or inchoatives, as in 他沒腳 *ta*¹ *mei*² *jiao*³ he not.have leg ‘he has no legs’ and 他

沒繳 he not.yet pay 'he has not paid (e.g., taxes) yet'. The two interpretations are realized as 伊無骹 *i¹ bo⁵ kha¹* he not.have leg and 伊 (猶) 未交 *i¹ (iah⁴) ber⁷ kau¹* he not.yet pay in Southern Min.

^kImmediately after 官 *kuann¹* 'official', there may be a missing morpheme 儂 *lang⁵* 'person, humans'. So 官儂 *kuann¹ lang⁵* means 'master' as opposed to 官儂 *kuann¹ lang⁰* 'Mandarin'

^lBowers (2010) posits three primary argument types, Ag(ent), Th(eme), and aff(ectee). An innovative element of his approach is that Ag merges first with a root verb in actives or passives, and the Ag occupies the lowest hierarchical position. VoiP is sandwiched by T, PrP, and various argument types. PrP or T and VoiP bearing EPP feature are responsible for assigning the structural cases, viz. nominative and accusative case, respectively. An exploration of passives in Southern Min along these lines will be quite fruitful. However, I will leave it for future endeavor, as it will go far afield from the present concern.

^mHypercharacterization involves co-occurrence of two synonyms redundant to each other. (Malkiel 1957; Lehmann 2005) The excessive morphological marking has the effect of mutual reinforcing. It bears on the notion of strengthening of informativeness (Traugott and König 1991) as well as layering and persistence as phenomena of grammaticalization (Hopper 1991).

ⁿCf. Wiltschko's Universal Spine hypothesis where layers such as CP (linking), IP (anchoring), AspP (point of view), and vP (classification) are distinguished. (Wiltschko 2014: 75)

^oSee Avis (1972) for the function of the sentence-final particle *eh?* in Canadian English and Tubau (2014) for discussion of the confirmatory pragmatic particle *innit* in English. See also Columbus (2010) for various functions including confirmation check carried by invariant tags such as *eh*, *yeah*, *no*, and *na* in three varieties of English, viz. New Zealand, Indian, and British English.

^p𠵼 *kio³* is a quotative marker showing what follows is a direct quote (see Lien 2013). This quotative function of 𠵼 *kio³* is to some extent similar to *like* in English, except that the former only occurs alone immediately preceding the quoted speech. See, for example, Barbieri (2005) for the use of *like* as a colloquial quotative marker.

^q*Loo⁰勞* as well as *liau⁰了* as a SFP denotes inchoative aspect.

^r乾 *ta¹* 'dry' in 43b is adopted in place of 幹 *kan³* 'do', an obvious typo, in the text. 乾 is admittedly not an etymologically viable character, in that 乾 *kuann¹*, as in 牛肉乾 *gu⁵ bah⁴ kuann¹* 'cattle meat dry 'beef jerky'', is a semantic loan character for 焦 *ta¹* 'dry' in Southern Min. But the sense of dry is totally unrelated to the sense in the disyllabic word 乾埔 *ta¹ poo¹* 'dry plain 'male (person)''.

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