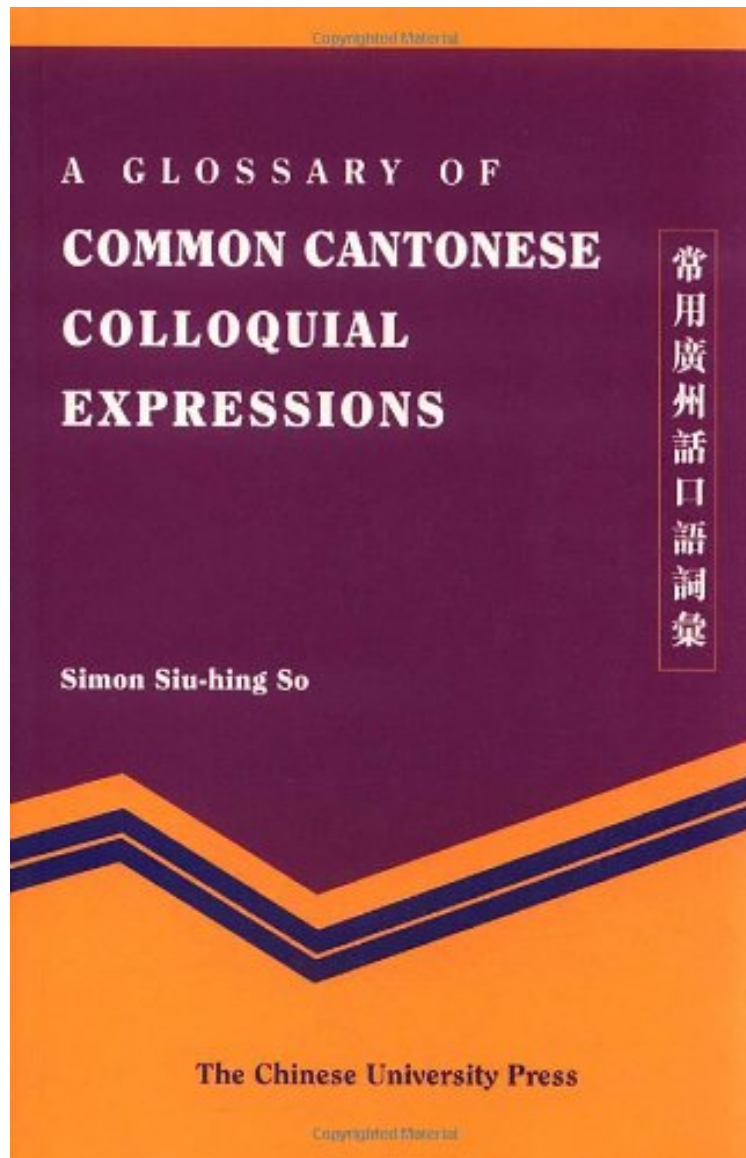


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# A Glossary of Common Cantonese Colloquial Expressions

*Simon S. H. So*

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**Simon S. H. So : A Glossary of Common Cantonese Colloquial Expressions** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised A Glossary of Common Cantonese Colloquial Expressions:

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Quintessential for serious learners of this language and culture By chunyukuo I keep coming back to Mr. So's book because it has so many different speech patterns, including the three-character adjectival expressions, (hung fet fet, yau lam lam, etc.) that are so loved by the Cantonese. What was really fascinating is to see how many of these phrases have influenced neighboring languages; my girlfriend, born and raised

in northern Guangxi, recognized many of them from her native Zhuang, which belongs to a different language family, despite the fact that she does not speak Cantonese. My Hong Kong friends found some of the phrases in this book rather alien. That's no criticism, and indeed may indicate that Mr. So has culled words from across the Cantonese-speaking diaspora. Maybe he just interviewed a lot of elderly speakers. It's a shame he does not say more about his own linguistic experiences or how he put the book together. My Cantonese teacher, a Hong Kong native, commented that some of the words I learned sounded "very Guangzhou." If Mr. So decides to produce a revised edition, I hope he could better distinguish what phrases are unique to specific regions of Guangdong. After all, even Cantonese has plenty of dialects that are barely intelligible to Shenzhen or Hong Kong natives. All in all, this book is a must-have for anyone serious about learning Cantonese. It will certainly help purge your speech of sterile Mandarin speech patterns. I bought it two years ago and still review it frequently. 9 of 9 people found the following review helpful. Must have! By Everything Stops at Half Past 3 for Tea I must commend Mr. So on this work, this is a much needed resource on traditional cantonese language. This book uses the traditional chinese format, lists the yale romanized pronunciation, literal english translation and the interpreted translation in english. There are many dictionaries which list single word definitions. The language is composed of expressions to create whole concepts. It is very necessary to know these expressions in order to interpret the concept a person is trying to make. Cantonese peoples were the first chinese people to introduce chinese culture to the world. I hope with more books like this and others the Cantonese language will survive.

A collection of over 3000 commonly-used colloquial expressions in Cantonese, with English translations. Each entry presents the expression in Chinese characters with its literal translation in English, its phonetic transcription in the Yale Romanization System, and a description of its meaning.

About the Author Simon Siu-Hing So teaches Chinese, Cantonese and Chinese-English translation at George Brown College in Toronto and the School of Continuing Studies, University of Toronto. His Chinese works include *Treaties on the Eminent Families in the Two Chins and Southern Dynasties*, *Chinese Railroad Workers for the Canadian Pacific Railway* and *Probing China's Soul*. He is also the author of two textbooks for Cantonese learners, *Say It in Cantonese*.