

# ABSTRACT

The studies on the use of two codes, Chinese and English, in the Chinese context have been carried out in the past decades. Some works in code-switching have been done to explain this phenomenon, but most of the works are restricted in the Hong Kong context. This thesis tries to identify and survey the development, possible reasons for the use of two codes, and the spread of these English elements, which include English words, phrases and lettered words. Lettered words, which are named by some Chinese scholars, are units composed of English alphabets or the combination of English alphabets and Chinese morphemes. Chinese newspapers in Hong Kong and Macao are used as the medium in this research to observe the different acceptance and application of these elements in the two Chinese communities. The analysis shows that the English elements are not only used for convenience, gap-filling, or an appeal of interest, but sometimes function as tools for bilingual puns in the title of news, and visual elements in advertisement. Some implications of the findings are also discussed.

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