

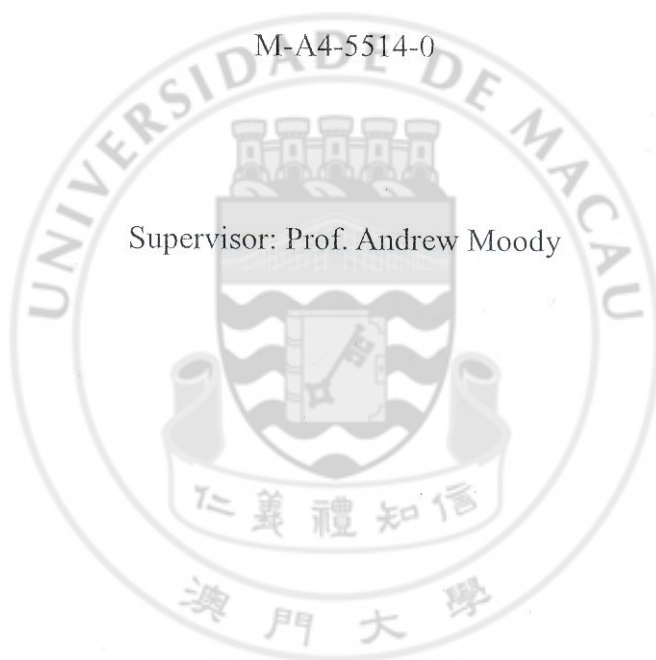
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**Chinese students' reactions towards rhoticity: A study of the language attitudes
of undergraduate students from Macao and Chinese Mainland**

by

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Abstract

This study uses the matched guise and verbal guise techniques to investigate Macao and Chinese Mainland undergraduate students' reactions towards both rhotic and non-rhotic accents as well as their possible connection with reactions towards British English and American English. In addition, this study looks at the relationship between positive attitudes towards rhoticity and exposure to media and music. The results show that attitudes towards rhoticity are far from uniform, with some students being indifferent to the difference between the two accents while others rating them in the opposite direction. The study has also found a connection between the evaluation of British English and the adoption of non-rhoticity, and a connection between the evaluation of American English and perception of rhoticity in terms of pleasantness to listen to. Some factors which may influence perception of rhoticity have been proposed, including sensitivities to language variation, regional differences, peer group influences, teachers, the type of English one is exposed to, first language, and the media. The study has also problematized the often-held assumption that language ideology is uniform and monolithic. It is recommended that teachers should allow for diversity rather than imposing a fixed norm on the students, letting them freely choose whether non-prevocalic /r/ should be adopted or not.

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