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Citation

Lin, C. H. (2014, October 2). *Utterance-final particles in Taiwan Mandarin: contact, context, and core functions*. *LOT dissertation series*. Retrieved from <https://hdl.handle.net/1887/29022>

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Issue Date: 2014-10-02

STELLINGEN

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Utterance-final particles in Taiwan Mandarin: contact, context, and core functions

1. Taiwan Mandarin simplex *la*, which cannot be analyzed as a fusion of *le* and *a*, is an “imposed” UFP from Southern Mǐn. (this dissertation)
2. The Taiwan Mandarin UFP *ê* decreases the strength of a disagreement as it implies an invitation for the addressee to respond. (this dissertation)
3. The Taiwan Mandarin UFP *a* serves to mark the activation of either the speaker’s or the addressee’s knowledge. (this dissertation)
4. Attaching *y[j]* to an onsetless UFP (i.e. *a*, *o* and *ê*) in Taiwan Mandarin lengthens the syllable and entails an “emphatic” connotation. (this dissertation)
5. UFPs belong to a category known in Dutch as *kleine woordjes* ‘small words’. Although they are small, their proper analysis requires big conversational contexts. (discipline)
6. The general categorization of UFPs and other linguistic features as “Mandarin” obscures important regional differences within Mandarin. (discipline)
7. Taiwan Mandarin is very often considered the result of language contact involving Southern Mǐn and Mandarin. Since the Mandarin spoken by first generation mainlanders displayed features of different Sinitic varieties, this two-dimensional view is too limited. (discipline)
8. It is common practice in linguistics publications in Chinese to present examples in Chinese characters only. Since Chinese characters conceal the actual pronunciation, such examples contribute little to an analysis of spoken interaction. (discipline)
9. A professional Chinese language teacher has a fair view towards variation in Mandarin. (personal)
10. Singing in a choir, like all other collective activities, can never succeed without common ground and mutual assumptions of all the participants. (personal)