




**MTO 27.1 Examples: Li, Cantopop and Speech-Melody Complex**

(Note: audio, video, and other interactive examples are only available online)

<https://mtosmt.org/issues/mto.21.27.1/mto.21.27.1.li.html>

**Example 1.** A tone-letter characterization of Cantonese speech tones (from Chow 2012, 12)

	<i>ping</i> 平 (level)	<i>ze</i> 仄 (oblique)		
	<i>ping</i> 平 (level tones)	<i>shang</i> 上 (rising tones)	<i>qu</i> 去 (falling tones)	<i>ru</i> 入 (entering tones)
<i>yin</i> 陰 (high)	— sing55 (星) (star)	 sing25 (醒) (awake)	— sing33 (勝) (win)	- sik5 (式) (ceremony) - sik3 (錫) (tin)
<i>yang</i> 陽 (low)	— sing21 (成) (accomplish)	— sing23 (n/a)	— sing22 (盛) (flourishing)	- sik2 (食) (eat)



**Example 4.** Table of interviewees' definitions of speech and melody

	Musicians			Non-musicians	
	Speech	Melody		Speech	Melody
1	Speaking [講嘢]	Singing [唱歌]	6	Speaking [講嘢]	Heightened/exaggerated speech [誇大咗D嘅speech]
2	A series of linguistic components [有D linguistic 嘅元素]	Concatenation of musical notes [一D musical notes夾埋]	7	Speaking normally [正常講嘢]	Normally something sounding good [通常嘢好聽嘅]
3	Semantically-centered [主要係表達D意思]	Speech with musical intervals; meaning is less important [講嘢但有music d intervals; 同埋d意思係冇咁重要]	8	Containing vowels and consonants [有vowels同consonants]	Music
4	Utterance [言辭]	High and low pitches [high同low pitch]	9	Not melody [唔係melody]	Not speech [唔係speech]
5	Spoken language [言語]	Musical performance; less natural [music嘅performance; 係冇講嘢咁natural]	10	Spoken words [講嘢d字]	Sung words [唱出嚟嘅字]

**Example 5.** Tonal target and melodic interval of 這夜



Characters:	這	夜
Tonal targets:	3	2

**Example 6.** Tonal target and melodic interval of 人的



Characters:	人	的
Tonal targets:	1	5→3?

**Example 7. Li, "Silly Woman," Chorus 1**

重飾演某段美麗故事主人  
cung21 sik5 jin25 mau23 dyun22 mei23 lai22 gu33 si22 zyu25 jan21  
飾演你舊年共尋夢的戀人  
sik5 jin25 nei23 gau22 nin21 gung22 cam21 mung22 dik5 lyun25 jan21  
再去做沒流著情淚的伊人  
zoi33 heoi33 zou22 mut2 lau21 zoek2 cing21 leoi22 dik5 ji55 jan21  
假裝再有從前演過的戲份  
gaa25 zong55 zoi33 jau23 cung21 cin21 jin25 gwo33 dik5 hei33 fan22

Translation: "Again I act as the protagonist of a beautiful story; acting as your lover who chased our dreams together; acting as a lover who does not shed a drop of tear; pretending like we could reprise the roles we had once played."

**Example 8. Li, "Silly Woman," Chorus 2**

重飾演某段美麗故事主人  
cung21 sik5 jin25 mau23 dyun22 mei23 lai22 gu33 si22 zyu25 jan21  
飾演你舊年共尋夢的戀人  
sik5 jin25 nei23 gau22 nin21 gung22 cam21 mung22 dik5 lyun25 jan21  
你縱是未明白仍夜深一人  
nei23 zung33 si22 mei22 ming21 baak2 jing21 je22 sam55 jat5 jan21  
穿起你那無言毛衣當跟你接近  
Cyun55 hei25 nei23 naa23 mou21 jin21 mou21 ji55 dong33 gan55 nei23 zip3 gan22

Translation: "Again I act as the protagonist of a beautiful story; acting as your lover who chased our dreams together. Although you still do not understand how lonely I am, I will put on your sweater, treating it as if making me closer to you."

Example 9. Hans Holbein's "The Ambassador" (1533)



Example 10. The “normal” skull seen from a “correct” perspective  
(From Strachan [1969] 1976, 103)

