SUMMARY

In Frank F-S Hsueh's opinion, the disparity between the literary and colloquial readings of the former entering-tone words in Modern Peking is a result of dialectal overlapping. Such words mostly come from the rhyme groups of Geng, Zeng, Tong, Jiang and Dang. After the spread of the standard speech of Tang dynasty into three geographical areas, different sound changes occurred and different Mandarin dialects thus appeared. The three early Mandarin dialects, Central Mandarin, Southern Mandarin and Northern Mandarin, have different chronology of sound changes and they interacted with one other.

Shi Jian Guo has examined the pronunciation of words in the four rhyme groups of Jiang, Dang, Geng (II division), Zeng (I division) in Modern Peking in reference to recent studies and the possible sociolinguistic factors. He sees different sources of the literary and colloquial strata in Modern Peking: The colloquial stratum is the local pronunciation and is closely related to the North-East Mandarin dialects; the literary stratum is the pronunciation which has been influenced by Central Mandarin and Southern Mandarin.

In general, the phenomenon described above is true in many Mandarin dialects and can be formulated by phonological rules. But there are some exceptions, especially in the former entering-tone syllables from the Tong rhyme group and the III and IV division words of the Geng rhyme group.

Between the introduction (Chapter one) and the conclusion (Chapter six) the bulk of discussion in this dissertation is organized as follows: Chapter two lays the theoretical foundation of literary and colloquial strata by reviewing the basic assumptions with emphasis on the controversy between the Lexical Diffusionist and the Neogrammariian hypotheses. Chapter three is an introduction to the phonological system of Dengyun and the three early Mandarin dialects. Various earlier views are presented and discussed. Chapter four and Chapter five introduce the five major sound change rules formulated by Hsueh and by Shi in regard to the four rhyme groups of Jiang, Dang, Geng, Zeng and the different chronology of sound changes in the three early Mandarin dialects. An interpretation is attempted to account for the sound changes of entering-tone syllables.
from the Dengyun system to Modern Mandarin dialects. The chief finding of this dissertation lies in the discovery of exceptions to Shi's interpretation.