

## Cantonese as an English Language

I am weirdly attached to my mother tongue  
and not my mother's tongue.  
It's strange, *kei guai*, and kind of...  
embarrassing.  
I drink *au lai* (milk) every morning from American cows  
and say *zhou son* (good morning),  
but I write *z-h-o-u s-o-n*.  
I know *kui day deem yung gong ye dan hai* (how they speak, but) it does not show on paper.  
I never drank my mother's breast milk.  
Only formula from American producers.  
Grew up by solar years. But celebrated *sun lin* (Lunar New Year),  
characters rolling off my tongue, letters etched into my fingers,  
Cantonese settling in my ears.  
But they sometimes make me *gung zheung*, nervous.  
Do I know enough? Should I have done more when I was little to *hok sik*?  
Or has merging my mother tongue and my mother's tongue brought me together?