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The Culture of Singapore English

This book provides a fresh approach to Singapore English by focusing on its cultural connotations. The author, a native Singaporean, explores a range of aspects of this rich variety of English – including address forms, cultural categories, particles and interjections – and links particular words to particular cultural norms. By using the Natural Semantic Metalanguage (NSM) approach, which is free from technical terminology, he explains the relationship between meaning and culture with maximal clarity, and an added strength of this study lies in its use of authentic examples and pictures, which offer a fascinating glimpse of Singaporean life. Through comparisons with Anglo English, it also explores some difficulties associated with Standard English and cultural misunderstanding. Lending a unique local perspective and written with an incisiveness that makes it ideal for both academic and non-academic readers, this book will appeal to all those interested in Singapore English and its cultural values.

JOCK O. WONG is a lecturer at the Centre for English Language Communication, National University of Singapore (NUS).

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Jock O. Wong
Frontmatter
More information

Contents

List of figures *page* xii
List of tables xiii
Acknowledgements xiv

1 English in Singapore 1
1.1 General remarks 1
1.2 Standard English in Singapore 7
1.3 Singlish and Singlish culture 11
1.4 History of English in Singapore 14
1.5 Social status of and attitudes towards Singlish 16
1.6 Varieties of Singapore English 24
1.6.1 Previous models 24
1.6.2 A more descriptive model of the use of English in Singapore 28
1.6.3 Ethnic varieties 31
1.7 Characteristics of Singapore English 33
1.7.1 Formal and lexical features 34
1.7.2 Pragmatic features 35
1.8 A cultural analysis of Singlish 36

2 The language of culture and the culture of language 38
2.1 Introductory remarks 38
2.2 The cultural context of language 39
2.3 Semantics matters 45
2.4 The 'paraphrastic' approach 47
2.5 A maximally clear metalanguage 48
2.6 A minimally ethnocentric metalanguage 49
2.7 An insider perspective 50
2.8 An ideal metalanguage 51
2.8.1 The lexicon: semantic primes and universals 51
2.8.2 Universal 'grammar' of combinability 54
2.8.3 A choice metalanguage 55
2.9 Concluding remarks 56

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CAMBRIDGE

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978-1-107-03324-5 - The Culture of Singapore English
Jock O. Wong
Frontmatter
More information

3 Singlish forms of address 57
3.1 Introductory remarks 57
3.2 The importance and culture-specificity of address forms 57
3.3 The reduplication of names 63
3.3.1 Heterotonal reduplication of names 64
3.3.2 Homotonal reduplication of names 67
3.4 The prefix *Ah* 68
3.5 The social honorific *aunty* 71
3.5.1 The bare form 74
3.5.2 The non-use of one's personal name as an address form 78
3.5.3 *Aunty* + [personal name] 81
3.6 The Singlish speech act verb *call* 82
3.7 The 'secrecy' of names 84
3.8 The older the better? 85
3.9 Concluding remarks 92

4 Cultural categories and stereotypes 94
4.1 Cultural categories, stereotypes and biases 94
4.2 Aunties and uncles: who are they? 96
4.2.1 Syntactic properties: from noun to adjective 96
4.2.2 'What makes an aunty?' Seniority in age 101
4.2.3 Education 103
4.2.4 Appearance and behaviour 105
4.2.5 The meaning of *aunty* and *uncle* 111
4.3 *Tai*33 *tais*35 113
4.4 The *Ah Béngs* and the *Ah Liáns* 116
4.4.1 Appearance 118
4.4.2 Education and behaviour 118
4.4.3 The meaning of *Ah Béng* 119
4.5 The sarong party girls (SPGs) 121
4.6 What the categories stand for 124
4.6.1 The aunties and uncles 125
4.6.2 The *Ah Béngs* and *Ah Liáns* 127
4.6.3 The *tai tais* 128
4.6.4 The SPGs 134
4.7 Concluding remarks 137

5 The discourse of *can* in Singlish 139
5.1 The Singlish *can* 139
5.1.1 The meaning of *can* 139
5.1.2 A few examples of the Singlish *can* 142
5.2 The *can*-declarative 144
5.2.1 'You/We/They can do this' 144

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CAMBRIDGE

Cambridge University Press
978-1-107-03324-5 - The Culture of Singapore English
Jock O. Wong
Frontmatter
More information

5.2.2 'I can do this' 147
5.2.3 'Can do this' 148
5.2.4 'It can/cannot be like this' 151
5.3 The *can*-interrogatives 152
5.3.1 'Can you do this?' 153
5.3.2 The tag *can?* ('Do this, can?', 'Like this, can?') 154
5.4 *Can* as a single-word response 158
5.4.1 *Can* as a response to a directive or a *can*-interrogative 158
5.4.2 *Can* as a response to a proposition, a suggestion and an offer 160
5.4.3 *Also can* 165
5.4.4 *Can* as a response to a question that is not formulated with *can* 167
5.5 The use of *can* to describe people and things 169
5.6 Some scripts governing the use of *can* 170
5.6.1 The *can*-interrogative 171
5.6.2 'You can do this' 175
5.6.3 The single-word response *can* 177
5.6.4 The use of *can* in a positive comment 178
5.7 Concluding remarks 179

6 Expressions of certainty and overstatements 180
6.1 Presenting what one knows and what one thinks 180
6.2 English word, Chinese meaning: the Singlish particle *one* 180
6.2.1 Some preliminary examples 181
6.2.2 Homonymy 182
6.2.3 The meaning of particle *one* 185
6.3 The reduplication of nominal modifiers 191
6.3.1 A common approach to the study of reduplication 191
6.3.2 The reduplication of adjectives in Anglo English 192
6.3.3 An earlier interpretation of the Singlish reduplication of nominal modifiers 193
6.3.4 The meaning of the Singlish reduplication of nominal modifiers 195
6.4 The Singlish 'invariant' tag *is it?* 198
6.4.1 Anglo English question tags 198
6.4.2 The Singlish tag *is it?* 205
6.4.3 The Singlish tag *right?* 209
6.4.4 Singlish *right?* vs Anglo English *right?* 209

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CAMBRIDGE

Cambridge University Press
978-1-107-03324-5 - The Culture of Singapore English
Jock O. Wong
Frontmatter
More information

6.5 Contrastive discourse patterns 216
6.5.1 Marking what one thinks from what one knows 216
6.5.2 Understatements vs overstatements 222
6.5.3 Imposition vs non-imposition 227
6.5.4 Scientific vs unscientific ways of speaking? 228
6.6 Concluding remarks 229

7 The tonal particles of Singlish 230
7.1 Particles: the mark of human language 230
7.2 Lexical tones 232
7.3 Particles *la* 233
7.3.1 Particle *lǎ* 234
7.3.2 Particle *là* 238
7.3.3 Particles *lǎ* and *là*: a comparison 242
7.4 Particles *á* 242
7.4.1 Particle *á* (following a question) 243
7.4.2 Particle *á* (following a proposition or a directive) 244
7.4.3 The interclausal *á* (which occurs in mid-utterance) 246
7.4.4 Particle *ǎ* (question marker) 249
7.5 Connecting people 253
7.5.1 Telling others what to think and do 253
7.5.2 Saying something obvious 257
7.6 Concluding remarks 258

8 The enigmatic particle *lōr* 260
8.1 Introductory remarks 260
8.2 Previous interpretations 261
8.3 The meaning of the particle *lōr* 266
8.4 The enigmatic particle *lōr* 276
8.5 Concluding remarks 278

9 Interjections: *aiya* and *aiyo* 280
9.1 Introductory remarks: interjections 280
9.2 *Aiya!* 282
9.3 *Aiyo!* 287
9.4 Positive evaluators in Anglo English 289
9.5 Always look on the dark side of life? 297
9.6 Concluding remarks 299

10 Making sense of Singlish 300
10.1 The inevitability of Singlish 300
10.1.1 Singapore's multilingual families 302
10.1.2 Singapore's multilingual, multicultural society 305

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Cambridge University Press
978-1-107-03324-5 - The Culture of Singapore English
Jock O. Wong
Frontmatter
More information

10.1.3 The 'non-nativeness' of English in Singapore 307
10.1.4 Singapore's racial and cultural interpenetration 308
10.2 All roads lead to Rome 309
10.3 Concluding remarks 311

References 313
Index 327

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CAMBRIDGE

Cambridge University Press
978-1-107-03324-5 - The Culture of Singapore English
Jock O. Wong
Frontmatter
More information

Figures

1.1	Young Singaporeans who speak a form of English as a dominant home language	4
1.2	Ungrammatical and 'anomalous' uses of English by a local university	20
3.1	The use of a title + surname to refer to oneself in an informal context	80
3.2	Addressing a colleague using a title (courtesy of Anne Sam)	81
4.1	A married Chinese woman's gold collection (courtesy of a friend who prefers to remain anonymous)	107
4.2a, b	A marketing campaign capitalising on the cultural significance of gold (courtesy of SK Jewellery)	109
4.3a, b	The uncles of Singapore	111
4.4a, b, c	Grandparents who look after their grandchildren (b and c courtesy of Faizal Auwlia)	130
4.5a, b, c, d, e	These aunties are no *tai tais*	132
6.1	The *circle circle* path at the Australian National University	194
6.2	The *burn burn* thing, also known as 'sparkler'	196
6.3	The use of the word *proof* in a Singapore context	220
7.1	A T-shirt with a nondescript *lah* printed on it	234
10.1	The English Islamic Bookshop	304

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978-1-107-03324-5 - The Culture of Singapore English
Jock O. Wong
Frontmatter
More information

Tables

1.1 Number and proportion of people (five and above) who speak English as the dominant home language by ethnicity 5
1.2 Percentage increase in the proportion of people (five and above) who speak English as the dominant home language by ethnicity 5
1.3 Number and proportion of people (aged 15–44) who are literate in English 5
2.1 Semantic primes in English 53
6.1 Singlish examples of *one* and their Chinese translations 181
6.2 Acceptable and unacceptable examples of use of the Singlish *one* 186
10.1 Some cultural differences between Anglo English and Singlish 301

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Jock O. Wong
Frontmatter
More information

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