LEXICAL AND SEMANTIC VARIATION IN A MALAYSIAN ENGLISH NEWSPAPER

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ABSTRACT

This is a survey of lexical and semantic variation in an English Language newspaper, The New Straits Times. The data was taken from the national news pages of the New Straits Times and it mirrors the way Malaysians use the English Language. The usage of these lexical items shows that Malaysian English has deviated from the parent source, namely, Standard British English. These lexical items are categorized as follows:

a) Acronyms

b) Ellipsis

c) Semantic Extension

d) Lexico-semantic duplication

e) Coinages

f) Transfer

g) Semantic Underdifferentiation

h) Analogy

This study also attempts to identify some causes for the variation such as:

- Social and cultural differences between cultures
- The influence of local languages
- The changing role of English in Malaysia
- Institutionalized terms

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