LEXICAL AND SEMANTIC VARIATION IN A MALAYSIAN ENGLISH NEWSPAPER

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DISSERTATION SUBMITTED IN FULFILMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE

FACULTY OF LANGUAGES AND LINGUISTICS UNIVERSITY OF MALAYA KUALA LUMPUR

MAY 2003

Perpustakaan Universiti Malaya

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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
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I would like to express my gratitude to my supervisor Associate Professor Dr Kamila Ghazali for her invaluable assistance and guidance in preparing this dissertation. I would not have succeeded in this endeavor without her guidance and patience. I would also like to thank my wife, Resham, and my sons, Manveer and Gulraj who kept me company and motivated me as I sat through late nights, working on this dissertation.
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