A STUDY OF STIPULATIVE TERMS IN CONVERSATIONAL MALAYSIAN ENGLISH

by

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A dissertation submitted to the University of Malaya in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Master of English as a Second Language

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Kuala Lumpur
2001
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

This thesis would not have been possible without the help and guidance of a number of people whom I shall always feel indebted to.

Firstly, I would like to say a big “thank you” to my supervisor, Miss Kan Ngat Har for her patience and understanding. Throughout the course of my thesis work, she has given me a wealth of wisdom and guidance that have helped me immensely. Words will never be adequate for me to express my deepest gratitude and appreciation for all the help that she has given to me. Her appointment as my supervisor was indeed a blessing in disguise to me!

I would also like to say “thank you” to my brother, Andrew for giving me a multitude of ideas before I embarked on this field of study. It was through his ideas that this study came into fruition.

My gratitude also goes out to my colleagues, Grace, Vinder, Yew Meng, Miss Chew, Ai Ming, Siew Fong, Dr. Chan, Rani and Michael who have selflessly and patiently given their time, energy and resources to ensure the successful completion of this thesis. My “thank you” also goes out to Tommy who voluntarily lent a helping hand to assist me in my fieldwork.

I would also like to thank my parents, grandma and siblings for their love and support and for being patient with me as I was struggling to complete my thesis. My “thank you” also goes out to sister Vinvin and sister Siew Koon for their prayers.

My acknowledgement would not be complete without saying “thank you” to Timothy, who continued to show love, patience and understanding throughout the course
of my thesis work, especially during those times when I was extremely busy and I suffered terribly from writer’s block.

Last but not least, I would like to say “thank you” to my Father in heaven for His constant love for me and for giving me the determination and perseverance to finish the “race” although I found it a great struggle initially and hence, almost gave up.

I would like to dedicate this thesis to all my colleagues who have graciously allowed me to tape-record their conversations. We certainly had fun! Hopefully, this thesis will be an enjoyable read for all of them.
ABSTRACT

Malaysian English as a new variety of English is constantly changing and evolving due to the influence of culture and ethnicity in Malaysia. Although fast developing and expanding into various domains such as home, office and recreation, it has not gained recognition in the international arena of Linguistics since it is still a relatively new field. Regardless of the researches that have been conducted on Malaysian English, this new variety of English has not exactly been viewed in a positive light. Foreigners and Malaysians alike have regarded Malaysian English as a substandard variety of English, often equating it with broken English, namely its uniqueness and usability have not been given due attention by the researchers. To ensure that Malaysian English will continue to grow and develop in terms of its speakers and users so that ultimately, a standardization of Malaysian English could be achieved, its positive aspects should be taken into consideration as well.

This research investigated the stipulative terms used by Malaysian English speakers in informal spontaneous conversations. Stipulative terms are widely used by Malaysians and there are several factors that motivate the speakers to use stipulative terms. To identify the various stipulative terms used, tape-recording of lecturers’ informal, spontaneous conversations were conducted in a private academic institution of higher learning. To ensure the reliability and validity of the findings from the tape-recording, a questionnaire was also administered to the lecturers. The terms identified were then explained at length.

The use of stipulative terms is a creative way for speakers to accurately and efficiently express themselves in informal situations. A long list of stipulative terms have
been identified in this research and it will continue to grow with the ever-increasing and expansive use of Malaysian English by educated and uneducated speakers alike especially in the informal and familiar domains.
ABSTRAK

Bahasa Inggeris Malaysia (Malaysian English) ialah satu variasi bahasa Inggeris yang baru. Dari aspek linguistik, ia sentiasa mengalami perubahan dan perkembangan disebabkan oleh pengaruh budaya dan bangsa di Malaysia. Namun begitu, ia masih belum mendapat pengiktirafan antarabangsa sebagai satu variasi bahasa Inggeris yang mempunyai kedudukan yang sama dengan bahasa Inggeris standard (Standard English). Bidad kajian tentang Bahasa Inggeris Malaysia masih baru dan ia tidak banyak diberikan perhatian oleh para penyelidik. Walaupun beberapa penyelidikan telah dijalankan mengenai Bahasa Inggeris Malaysia, variasi bahasa Inggeris ini masih menerima pandangan yang negatif daripada bangsa asing dan juga bangsa Malaysia. Bagi mereka, Bahasa Inggeris Malaysia adalah satu variasi bahasa Inggeris yang substandard dan dengan itu, ia sentiasa disamakan dengan “broken English” atau bahasa Inggeris yang digunakan oleh mereka yang tidak berpelajaran. Aspek positif bahasa Inggeris Malaysia, iaitu keunikan dan kegunaannya tidak diberikan perhatian yang sepenuhnya. Untuk memastikan bahawa penggunaan bahasa Inggeris Malaysia terus berkembang dengan pesatnya supaya ia akan distandardisasikan pada masa hadapan, aspek-aspek positif bahasa Inggeris Malaysia juga harus diberi pertimbangan dalam penyelidikan.

Penyelidikan ini mengkaji penggunaan kata-kata penentuan (stipulative terms) semasa interaksi tidak formal dalam Bahasa Inggeris Malaysia. Kata-kata penentuan banyak digunakan oleh bangsa Malaysia dan ini disebabkan oleh beberapa faktor. Faktor-faktor ini telah memotivaskan mereka untuk menggunakan pelbagai kata penentuan dalam situasi tidak formal. Untuk mengenalpasti kata-kata penentuan ini, rakaman interaksi tidak formal sekumpulan pensyarah di sebuah institusi pengajian tinggi swasta
telah dijalankan. Selain daripada itu, satu daftar pernyataan telah didedahkan kepada pensyarah-pensyarah ini untuk memastikan kesahan dan kebolehpercayaan dapan penyelidikan ini. Seterusnya, penjelasan yang terperinci mengenai setiap kata penentuan telah diberikan setelah kata-kata penentuan ini dikenalpasti.

Penggunaan pelbagai kata penentuan ialah satu cara yang unik dan kreatif untuk menyatakan sesuatu dengan tepat dan jelas terutamanya dalam situasi tidak formal. Melalui penyelidikan ini, pelbagai kata penentuan yang digunakan dalam bahasa Inggeris Malaysia telah dikenalpasti. Bilangan kata penentuan yang wujud dalam bahasa Inggeris Malaysia akan terus meningkat dengan penggunaannya yang cukup luas oleh bangsa Malaysia, baik yang berpelajaran atau yang tidak berpelajaran. Senario ini terbukti jelas dalam interaksi tidak formal.
# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chapter/Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ACKNOWLEDGEMENT</td>
<td>i</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ABSTRACT</td>
<td>iii</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TABLE OF CONTENTS</td>
<td>vii</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LIST OF TABLES</td>
<td>xiv</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.0 Introduction</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.0.1 English in Malaysia</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.1 Statement of the Problem</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.2 Purpose of the Research</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.3 Significance of the Research</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.4 Research Questions</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.5 Definition of Terms</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.5.1 Stipulative Definition</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.5.2 Lexical Definition</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.5.3 Nativization</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.5.4 Acculturation</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.5.5 Fossilization</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.5.6 Interlanguage</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.5.7 Approximation</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
CHAPTER TWO: REVIEW OF RELEVANT LITERATURE

2.0 Introduction 16

2.1 Terms Used by Other Researchers 16

   2.1.1 Loanshift 17
   2.1.2 Semantic Shift 19
   2.1.3 Semantic Extension 22
   2.1.4 Meaning Changes 23
   2.1.5 Polysemic Variation 24

2.2 Causes for the Emergence and Development of Stipulative Terms

   2.2.1 To Create Solidarity among its Speakers 25
   2.2.2 To Meet the Expressive Needs of the Speakers 26
   2.2.3 Influence of the Local Language and Mother Tongue 28
   2.2.4 Inadequate Exposure to Standard English 31
   2.2.5 Obeying the Principle of Least Effort and Economy of Expression 32

2.3 Views on Stipulative Terms 33

   2.3.1 Views of Native Speakers of English 33
   2.3.2 Views of Non-native Speakers of English 38

CHAPTER THREE: RESEARCH METHODOLOGY AND DESIGN

3.0 Introduction 41

3.1 Data Collection Procedures 41

3.2 Subjects 42
3.3 Research Instruments

3.3.1 Tape-recording
3.3.2 Questionnaire

3.4 Process of Data Analysis

3.4.1 Localized Features

3.4.1.1 Descriptions of Time
3.4.1.2 Local Terms
3.4.1.3 Fillers
3.4.1.4 Figurative Expressions
3.4.1.5 Question Forms
3.4.1.6 Expressions of Emphasis

3.4.2 Grammar Items

3.4.2.1 Adjectives
3.4.2.2 Verbs

3.5 Limitations of the Research

CHAPTER FOUR: DATA ANALYSIS

4.0 Introduction

4.1 Localized Features

4.1.1 Descriptions of Time
4.1.1.1 Last Time

4.1.2 Local Terms

4.1.2.1 Rojak
4.1.3 Fillers

4.1.3.1 Anything
4.1.3.2 Something
4.1.3.3 Man
4.1.3.4 Everything

4.1.4 Figurative Expressions

4.1.4.1 Vomit Blood
4.1.4.2 Big Boy
4.1.4.3 Hormones

4.1.5 Question Forms

4.1.5.1 Yes-ah?
4.5.1.2 Really-er?
4.1.5.3 Actually-her?
4.1.5.4 How-ah?
4.1.5.5 Then How?

4.1.6 Expressions of Emphasis

4.1.6.1 What
4.1.6.2 Please
4.1.6.3 Also
4.1.6.4 Already
4.1.6.5 Never

4.2 Grammar Items

4.2.1 Adjectives
4.2.1.1  Okay  
4.2.1.2  Blur  
4.2.1.3  Good  
4.2.1.4  Cute  
4.2.1.5  Complex  
4.2.1.6  Corrupted  
4.2.1.7  Shy  
4.2.1.8  Hot  
4.2.1.9  Easy  
4.2.1.10  Rough  
4.2.1.11  Bitter  
4.2.1.12  Pink  
4.2.1.13  Open  
4.2.1.14  Close  
4.2.1.15  Big  
4.2.1.16  Shame  
4.2.1.17  Ugly  
4.2.1.18  Horrible  
4.2.1.19  Faster  
4.2.1.20  Brand  

4.2.2  Verbs  
4.2.2.1  Stay  
4.2.2.2  Crash
4.2.2.3 Poked
4.2.2.4 Disturb
4.2.2.5 Wallop
4.2.2.6 Gone
4.2.2.7 Fight
4.2.2.8 Finish
4.2.2.9 Touch
4.2.2.10 Fetch
4.2.2.11 Tackle
4.2.2.12 Tape
4.2.2.13 Go After
4.2.2.14 Move
4.2.2.15 Die

CHAPTER FIVE: SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

5.0 Introduction

5.1 Summary and Implications of Findings

5.1.1 Background of the Subjects

5.1.2 Stipulative Terms Identified

5.1.2.1 Features of the Stipulative Terms

5.1.2.1.1 Influence of the Mother Tongue and Bahasa Malaysia
5.1.2.1.2 Economy of Expression 108
5.1.2.1.3 Creating an Impact 109
5.1.2.1.4 Preservation of Lexical Definitions 110
5.1.2.1.5 Usage of Stipulative Terms within Malaysian Contexts 110

5.2 Recommendations 111
5.2.1 Compilation of a Malaysian English Dictionary 111
5.2.2 A Guidebook on Malaysian English 112
5.3 Suggestions for Further Research 113

BIBLIOGRAPHY

APPENDIX A
LIST OF TABLES

Table 5.1: Localized Features Identified in the Data Collected  108
Table 5.2: Grammar Items Identified in the Data Collected  109