

ABSTRACT

This study is an intensive attempt to study and describe the characteristics of the lexis of the variant variety of English commonly known as Malaysian English. A total of 781 lexical items were collected from both spoken and written English used by Malaysians, which were verified as non-native usage using two British dictionaries, the Oxford Advanced Learners' Dictionary(2000) and the BBC English Dictionary(1993). For each lexical item the original context of use was carefully recorded. The data was then divided using categories developed by adapting and amalgamating common categories used by earlier researchers, namely Baskaran (1987), Yen(1990) and Anthonysamy (1997) from Malaysia, Platt and Weber (1990) and Crewe (1977) from Singapore, Pandharipande (1987) and Dubey(1991) from India, and Adegjiba (1989) from Africa. A total of 13 categories were adapted from these researchers.

In the course of analysis, three of the categories were further sub-categorized to 10 new sub-categories using lexico-semantic criteria, while 9 of the categories were sub-divided into 42 types using largely grammatical criteria such as parts of speech and occasionally, semantic criteria such as denotative and connotative variation. The three categories that were sub-categorized into 10 sub-categories are 'Lexico-semantic Reduplication', 'Lexico-semantic Redundancy' and 'Non-native Idioms'. 'Lexico-semantic Reduplication' has been sub-categorized into 'Juxtaposed Reduplication', 'Non-juxtaposed Reduplication', 'Root-Sound Reduplication' and 'Lexical Double Effects'. 'Lexico-semantic Redundancy' has been sub-categorized into 'Redundant Synonyms', 'Redundant Superordinates'

and 'Redundant Expressions'. 'Non-native Idioms' has been sub-categorized into 'Non-native Metaphors', 'Local Idioms' and 'Adapted Idioms'.

The categories which have been analyzed into types are 'Similar Expression Substitution', 'Semantic Shift', 'Semantic Transfer from Mother tongue', 'Collocational Variation', 'Derivational Variation', 'Variation of Reciprocals', 'Local Compound Coinages', 'Ellipsis' and 'Semantic Extension'.

After this analysis, common trends and features among all the categories were carefully studied to ascertain non-native patterns of use. This study has established that there are four main non-native patterns of usage of Malaysian English lexis, namely 'Substitution', 'Semantic Transfer', 'Language Transfer' and 'Language Creativity'. These non-native patterns of use are not confined to only one category each but are common to groups of categories, and often more than one pattern of use is found in any single category.

ABSTRAK

Kajian ini merupakan satu usaha yang mendalam untuk membahagikan ciri-ciri lexis Bahasa Inggeris yang dikenali sebagai 'Malaysian English'. Sejumlah 781 patah lexis telah dicatat dari pertuturan dan penulisan warganegara Malaysia dan untuk memastikan bahawa ianya 'Malaysian English' yang tulen, setiap data dirujuk didalam dua naskah kamus Bahasa Inggeris iaitu Oxford Advanced Learners' Dictionary(2000) dan BBC English Dictionary. Konteks penggunaan yang asal setiap patah lexis juga dicatat. Data dibahagikan kedalam bahagian-bahagian yang telah diubahsuaikan daripada bahagian-bahagian yang telah digunakan oleh beberapa penyelidik lain, iaitu Baskaran (1987), Yen (1990) dan Anthony Samy(1997) dari Malaysia, Platt dan Weber (1980) dan Crewe(1977) dari Singapura, Pandharipande(1987) dan Dubey(1991) dari India, dan Adegjiba dari Africa. Sejumlah 13 bahagian telah digunakan.

Dalam peroses analisa ciri-ciri yang baru dikenalpasti dan tiga bahagian telah dibahagikan lagi kepada 10 bahagian kecil dengan menggunakan criteria lexico-semantic, dan 9 bahagian dibahagikan kepada 42 jenis mengikut kriteria sintaks dan semantik. Tiga bahagian yang dibahagikan kepada 10 bahagian kecil ialah 'Lexico-semantic Reduplication', 'Lexico-semantic Redundancy' dan 'Non-native Idioms'. 'Lexico-semantic Reduplication' dibahagikan kepada 'Juxtaposed Reduplication', 'Non-juxtaposed Reduplication', 'Root-Sound Reduplication' dan 'Lexical Double Effects'. 'Lexico-semantic Redundancy' telah dibahagikan kepada 'Redundant Synonyms', 'Redundant Superordinates' dan 'Redundant Expressions'. 'Non-native Idioms' yang telah dibahagikan lagi kepada 'Non-

native Metaphors', 'Local Idioms' dan 'Adapted Idioms'.

Bahagian-bahagian yang telah dianalisa kepada jenis ialah 'Similar Expression Substitution', 'Semantic Shift', 'Semantic Transfer from Mothertongue', 'Collocational Variation', 'Derivational Variation', 'Variation of Reciprocals', 'Local Compound Coinages', 'Ellipsis' dan Semantic Extension.

Selepas analisa ini, ciri-ciri yang sama didalam beberapa bahagian telah dikenalpasti. Kajian ini telah menentukan empat jenis corak pengubahsuaian di dalam lexis Bahasa Inggeris yang digunakan di Malaysia iaitu 'Substitution', 'Semantic Transfer', 'Language Transfer' dan 'Language Creativity'. Satu corak pengubahsuaian tidak terhad kepada satu bahagian lexis sahaja. Didalam beberapa bahagian lexis didapati lebih dari satu jenis corak pengubahsuaian.

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