

CHAPTER 5

LEXICO-SEMANTIC REDUNDANCY

In this chapter the researcher will describe and analyze Lexico-semantic Redundancy, which is the second category which has been adapted from Anthony (1997). While Anthony (1997) perceived Lexico-semantic Redundancy as a single category, the present researcher has sub-divided it into three sub-categories, based on semantic groupings, namely:

- 5.1 Redundant Synonyms**
- 5.2 Redundant Superordinates**
- 5.3 Redundant Expressions**

5.1 Redundant Synonyms

Almost all the examples of Redundant Synonyms were taken from spoken discourse. In fact redundancy seems to be a common feature of spoken ME. A Redundant Synonym is a relexicalization of a word which was already mentioned earlier, often in the same sentence. In other words, native English words are used non-natively, or redundantly from the viewpoint of native speakers. The first sub-category of Redundant Synonym follows a semantically similar word which means the same thing. The second category of Redundant Synonym precedes the semantically similar word.

In the following examples the Redundant Synonym follows the semantically similar word:

5.1.1 but unfortunately

A fourth example of redundancy which occurs after the semantically similar word is the use of 'unfortunately' after the conjunction 'but'. Both 'but' and

'unfortunately' have the same semantic function, namely to introduce an opposing idea. In this example, the conjunction 'but' is not redundant as it comes first, but the word following it can be considered a Redundant Synonym:

'Computers relieve the drudgery of simple tasks, **but unfortunately** it still cannot do your homework for you.'

Note that in the above sentence, the pronoun 'it' has been used non-natively, as 'it' is singular but refers to 'computers' in this sentence.

5.1.2 cash money

Another example of a Redundant Synonym in the data which followed a semantically similar word is the word 'money' after 'cash': 'cash money'. In ME 'cash' is a word which is seldom used on its own, unlike native usage. It always occurs with 'money'.

5.1.3 craving for desires

The following expression was heard after a Sai Baba prayer meeting:

'Second, he says, **'craving for desires...'**

The speaker, who was talking about the teachings of Buddha, used two words 'craving' and 'desires' which are synonymous. A native speaker would have said: 'craving for material things' or 'desire for material things'. The non-native speaker has combined the two to say 'craving for desires'.

5.1.4 utter dire suffering

In the following sentence which was heard at a Sai Baba women's fellowship, 'dire' can be considered a Redundant Synonym as the word

'utter' conveys the same sense:

'When you are in **utter dire suffering**, are you going to say, "Why am I an unlucky woman?"

5.1.5 emphasizing...stress on

In the following sentence recorded at a Sai Baba AGM, the word 'stress' can be regarded as a Redundant Synonym as the word 'emphasizing' already conveys the same sense:

'The chairman started his welcoming address to the devotees **emphasizing** the aim of the Sai organization which **stress on** the unity of faiths.'

5.1.6 exact same

An example of the redundant use of 'exact' which precedes its synonym 'same' was heard in the following utterance:

'This time he had six pauses in the **exact same** question addressed to the witness.'

The word 'same' would be sufficient in this context. In this context, the speaker, who was a paper presenter at a conference, was saying how a defense lawyer used language strategies to intimidate a witness for the prosecution.

5.1.7 fasting diet

One day the researcher's husband declared:

'I will go on a **fasting diet**.'

The word 'fasting' seems to be redundant here as the word 'diet' implies to some extent, the concept of 'fasting'. In fact, 'fasting' could be considered a 'diet' unto itself!

5.1.8 final conclusion

The following expression was recorded from a Masters dissertation:

'as a **final conclusion....**'

In native English a 'conclusion' is definitely 'final' and thus it is redundant to describe it as such.

5.1.9 future ahead

In the following entry in the Interactive Journal of an undergraduate, the expression 'future ahead' was seen to contain a redundant synonym, namely 'ahead':

'It had taught me what was life about, to face the **future ahead**.'

The word 'future' already has the sense of 'ahead'.

5.1.10 future generations citizens

The following sentence was seen in the examination script of an undergraduate:

'As we know, our children are our **future generations citizens**.'

The expression 'future generation' is synonymous with 'future citizens'.

Hence the word 'citizens' is redundant in the above sentence.

5.1.11 global widely accepted

In the following sentence seen in the examination script of student, the word 'global' seems to be redundant as it is followed by a synonym namely 'widely accepted':

'It is **global widely accepted** that reading is the most important skill one should have in order to get knowledge.'

5.1.12 have got

The following was heard during a Toastmaster's AGM:

'Take heart. We don't **have got** to adopt it straightaway.'

The word 'got' is clearly redundant in the above sentence, and for a native speaker, 'have' is sufficient to convey the meaning.

5.1.13 huge immense

The following statement made during a colloquium at the end of a conference contains a Redundant Synonym:

'...and how English has transformed itself in the **huge immense** period of the twentieth century.'

The adjectives 'huge' and 'immense' are synonyms in the above sentence. The redundant synonym here would be 'huge' rather than 'immense' simply because 'huge' does not collocate as well as 'immense' with the subject 'the twentieth century'.

5.1.14 main important

A Speech-craft seminar is focussed on training individuals to be better speakers and it is organized by Toastmaster's clubs. At such a seminar the following comment was recorded:

'You are trying - that is the **main important** thing.'

The word 'main' already conveys the sense of 'important', hence 'important' can be considered a Redundant Synonym.

5.1.15 importance emphasized

In the following sentence seen in a Masters thesis, the word 'importance' seems to be a Redundant Synonym because of its juxtaposition with

'emphasized' which is synonymous:

'The reason for choosing written data as the corpus of analysis is because of the **importance emphasized** on the writing component in SPM exam.'

A native speaker would either say: 'because of the importance of' or 'due to the emphasis on', and would not use both structures together.

5.1.16 it oils, it greases

In another sentence, two Redundant Synonyms were used one after the other after a semantically similar word as can be observed in the following sentence heard during a conference presentation:

'...so that it facilitates, **it oils, it greases** the process of negotiation.'

The repetition of synonyms of 'facilitates' such as 'greases' and 'oils' make these Redundant Synonyms. In this context they may have been used for dramatic emphasis. In addition, these are also examples of Adapted Idiom. The usage of 'oils' and 'greases' is figurative in this context.(See the same examples under 'Adapted Idiom')

5.1.17 moral values...good values

During an Oral Interaction Test an undergraduate made the following comment about Moral Education as a subject in school:

'It will teach us lots of **moral values...good values.**'

There also seems to be Redundant Synonym in the above sentence. The term 'moral values' is synonymous with 'good values'.

5.1.18 posture position

The following was heard at a Toastmaster's speech contest::

'You can notice that she displayed very good **posture position.**'

A native speaker would have omitted the synonym 'position' after 'posture'. The juxtaposition of 'posture' and 'position' could also be considered an example of 'Root-Sound Reduplication'(see Root-Sound Reduplication').

5.1.19 qualified trained

In the Interactive Journal of an undergraduate who is also a primary school teacher, the following sentence was seen:

'I am a **qualified trained** teacher who has taken his oath before the teachers' code of ethics.'

The word 'qualified' is synonymous with 'trained' in this sentence. A native user would have omitted one of these two words. In addition to this non-native redundancy, the expression 'taken his oath before the teachers' code of ethics' seems non-native as well(see 'Similar Expression Substitution').

5.1.20 recommended put forward

In a student's exam script the following sentence was read:

'Personally I am grateful of what has been **recommended put forward** by the researchers.'

In the above sentence, the word 'recommended' functions in the same way as 'put forward'. Hence the expression 'put forward' is redundant here.

5.1.21 repeat again

Another example of a Redundant Synonym in the data is the word 'again' in the following sentence:

'Do you want to **repeat again**?'

In this example 'repeat' has the sense of 'say again' so though 'repeat'

and 'again' are not actual synonyms, 'again' can be considered redundant when used in this way. This type of redundancy was seen in the written work of some undergraduates who are actually in-service teachers:

'This will create an awareness for the parents about their responsibilities as a parent and what they should do to avoid the crimes were **repeated** by their children **again**.'

Nair, U.G.(1999) observed that 'repeat again' is a common type of redundancy in ME. She interviewed both teachers and non-teachers as to the acceptability of this expression, and 85% of the teachers and 68% of the non-teachers rejected it in written work.

5.1.22 repeat the same

Another example of this type of redundancy is given below:

'We don't want to **repeat the same** mistake that we made last year.'

In this sentence, 'repeat' already indicates that it is 'the same' mistake, hence 'same' can be considered a Redundant Synonym.

5.1.23 replace/return/refer/resumed back

'Back' is often used non-natively as a Redundant Synonym in Malaysian English, and there are three examples of this in the data, namely: 'replace **back**', 'return **back**' 'refer **back**' and 'resumed **back**'.

In the following sentences, it can be observed that 'back' is often used as a Redundant Synonym that is always juxtaposed with another word which functions in the same way:

'You can actually **refer back** at your leisure.'

'You have to **replace back** the library book which you have misplaced.'

Shelley(1995) mentions the Singapore English expression which is similar

to the above type of redundancy: 'I'll **call** you **back**' which he explains as meaning: 'I'll return your call' or 'I'll call you later.' He says this expression is 'so ingrained in Singaporeans' that even a reputable Singapore newspaper which maintains a high standard of Acrolectal Singapore English, such as 'The Straits Times' reports in an article on 13 May 1992:

'Michael Jackson had **called him back** after watching his video which contained his illusions.'

5.1.24 A statement...said

In the last example below, the Redundant Synonym does not immediately occur after the semantically similar word, but later on as shown in the sentence below:

'A **statement** Bass's regional headquarters in Singapore **said** SPMC acquisition was part of a five-year strategy.'

In the above sentence, which was taken from a Business news article, the word 'said' can be considered a Redundant Synonym as a statement' obviously does the same job!

From all these examples it is clear that Redundant Synonyms are a common feature of spoken Malaysian English discourse.

5.1.25 solely...only

The following sentence was seen in the Interactive Journal of a student:

'This precious moment is also **solely** for oneself **only**.'

A native speaker would consider the word 'only' to be redundant here as it is synonymous with 'solely'.

5.1.26 whole entire

During a conference presentation, a paper presenter made the following

comment which seems to contain a Redundant Synonym:

'That was where I audiotaped the **whole entire** session.'

A native speaker would have omitted either 'whole' or 'entire' as either one of them are sufficient to express the intended idea.

5.1.27 **withdraw away**

The following was recorded at a Toastmaster's meeting:

'Communication terminated and the person will **withdraw away** from you.'

The word 'withdraw' already conveys the sense of 'moving away' in the above sentence. Hence 'away' can be considered a Redundant Synonym when it is juxtaposed with 'withdraw'.

In all the examples above, the words in bold are redundant as the words preceding them have already conveyed the same sense. In the examples in the next section, the Redundant Synonyms are linked to the words that function in the same way by the conjunction 'and'.

5.1.28 **Redundant Synonyms after the conjunction 'and'**

A common tendency for ME speakers is to link two synonyms with the conjunction 'and' whereby the second word automatically becomes redundant. The following section describes examples of this feature in the data arranged according to alphabetical order.

5.1.28.1 **as and when**

'The programme is however subject to change **as and when** necessary.'

In the above ME expression, 'when' is redundant, and this expression is synonymous with another one, namely 'if and ' in which 'when' is also

redundant, as the word 'if' covers the sense of 'when' as well.

5.1.28.2 attractive and pretty

'The producer, described as **attractive and pretty** was rescued five hours after her friend promptly informed the police.'

In the above example, seen in a news article, 'attractive' is synonymous with 'pretty' so 'attractive' would have been sufficient in this sentence.

5.1.28.3 conversation and dialogue

'You really made everybody included in the **conversation and dialogue**.'

The sentence above was heard at a Toastmaster's meeting. The speaker has linked two synonyms 'conversation' and 'dialogue' with 'and'. Hence the second synonym, namely 'dialogue' is redundant. In addition, there is Ellipsis as native speakers would say 'made everybody feel included' and not just 'made everybody included' (See 'Ellipsis').

5.1.28.4 dealt and reconciled

'How can this be **dealt and reconciled**?'

In the example above, 'reconciled' is redundant as in native usage, 'dealt with' would be considered synonymous with 'reconciled'. The ME speaker here has omitted 'with' after 'dealt'. This shows that ME speakers have a general tendency not only towards redundancy but also towards ellipsis, sometimes combining both in the same sentence.

5.1.28.5 do and initiate

Another example of a Redundant Superordinate was seen in an Interactive

Journal entry of an in-service teacher:

'I realize now that I have to **do and initiate** something in order to place myself on the par along with others.'

In this sentence, 'do' is redundant due to the presence of the more specific word, 'initiate'. In addition, the word 'along' seems to be a redundant preposition due to the expression 'on a par with'.

5.1.28.6/5.1.28.7 **each and everyone/properly and effectively**

The sentence below was seen in an Interactive Journal entry of an undergraduate who is also a primary school teacher undergoing a conversion course:

'Therefore it is very important to give a clear picture to the students that English is also an important subject and **each and every one** of them should master the language **properly and effectively**.'

In this sentence there are two examples of synonyms linked with the conjunction 'and' shown in bold. In the first example, the second word 'every one' is redundant while in the second example, 'effectively' is redundant.

Another example of Redundant Synonym similar to 'each and everyone' was seen in the Interactive Journal of a student:

'We have to emphasize **each and every** detail.'

As there are two examples of the 'each and every' structure in the data, it can be assumed that this is a common redundancy among ME users.

5.1.28.8 **enough and proper**

The following example of redundancy was seen in the Interactive Journal of

an undergraduate:

'However the average ones could perform well if they were given **enough and proper** guidance.'

The undergraduate, who was also a Primary school teacher, was writing about giving free tuition and guidance to students in a rural school where the percentage of students passing the government examinations was rather low. The first adjective 'enough' is sufficient to convey the intended meaning of the writer. The second adjective is definitely redundant as 'guidance' is already 'proper' in the above context.

5.1.28.9 good and smart

The following was heard at a meeting held at a school:

'Wilson is a very **good and smart** kid.'

The word 'good' here is redundant due to the presence of the more specific word, 'smart'. Then again, these two words may not be synonyms here. 'Good' could be a comment on the behaviour of the child in school, while 'smart' could be a comment on his intelligence or school performance.

5.1.28.10 nervous and anxious

The following sentence was seen in the Interactive Diary of an undergraduate:

'Although my presentation is not bad but I always feel **nervous and anxious** when I have to present.'

There are two examples of redundancy in the above sentence. The first one is 'nervous and anxious' whereby, the first adjective 'nervous' would be considered sufficient here. The second example of redundancy is the use of

`but' in the same sentence in which `Although' occurs at the beginning.

5.1.28.11 nice and interesting

The following sentence was read in the Interactive Journal of a student:

'It was **nice and interesting** to visit our neighbour country and to know their lifestyle.'

The writer, who was also a Primary school teacher attending a conversion course in UM, was commenting on her visit to Medan. The two words `nice' and `interesting' can be considered synonyms in the above context.

5.1.28.12 routinized and habitualized

Another example of a Redundant Synonym is `routinized and habitualized' in the following sentence:

'What has become habitual will eventually become **routinized and habitualized**.'

The above utterance was made by a paper presenter at a recent conference. A native speaker would probably say:

'What has become habitual will eventually become routine.'

Hence instead of using three words, a native user of English may only use one word. In addition to being redundant, the words `routinized' and `habitualized' are both non-native derivatives and can be considered to be examples of another category of non-native lexis - Derivational Variation (See `Derivational Variation').

5.1.28.13 so tired and exhausted

'He was **so tired and exhausted**.'

In the sentence above a native speaker would consider 'so tired' to be redundant as it is a synonym of 'exhausted'.

5.1.28.14 suit and adapt

'I had to **suit and adapt** myself to the environment.'

In the sentence above, which was also seen in the Interactive Journal of a primary school teacher-cum-student, the second synonym, namely the word 'adapt', is redundant as the word 'suit' already conveys the same sense.

5.1.28.15 talk and discuss

The sentence below was also recorded from the Interactive Journal entry of a primary school teacher-cum-undergraduate:

'They should come forward to **talk and discuss** their problems freely to teachers.'

A native speaker would consider 'talk' as a synonym of 'discuss', hence the second word, 'discuss' would be considered redundant. In the following section, the present researcher will discuss the second sub-category of lexico-semantic redundancy, namely 'Redundant Superordinates'.

5.2 Redundant Superordinates

In the case of 'Redundant Superordinates' there is juxtaposition of superordinate and subordinate words, whereby the superordinate word may be considered redundant from the viewpoint of native English.

The first group of Redundant Superordinates are superordinate monetary words such as 'price' and 'cost'. In the examples below, both the superordinate and subordinate words have been highlighted:

'Even though the **cost** is a bit **expensive**...'

'There are many burglar alarms offering a cheaper **price**.'

'expensive **payment**/expensive **price**

'Their **fee** is **free**.'

In the first example, the subordinate term 'expensive' covers the superordinate term 'cost'. From a native view point the superordinate word is redundant and can be replaced with an empty 'it' as in 'Even though it is too expensive.....'.

In the second, third and fourth examples the superordinate terms 'price', 'payment' and 'fee' are redundant in native English when they follow the subordinate words or adjectives 'cheaper', 'expensive' or 'free'. Native speakers would have used adjectives such as 'high' and 'low' to collocate with superordinate words such as 'cost', 'price', 'payment' and 'fee'. Unlike their native counterparts, ME speakers have a tendency towards redundancy, and in these examples the redundancy concerns the use of superordinate words where the subordinate terms such as 'cheaper' and 'expensive' are self-explanatory and do not need to be followed or preceded by superordinates.

The second group of Redundant Superordinates in ME consist of hyphenated adjectives. One example is the expression 'big-sized'. This was used to describe a gunman in a news article - 'big-sized gunman'. This expression may be considered non-native as in native English it would be redundant to use the lexeme '-sized' after 'big'. In other words, while the lexeme 'big' is not redundant the lexeme '-sized' is a non-native addition which is redundant from a native viewpoint.

Perhaps ME speakers use it to intensify the effect of 'big'. In the above example the adjective 'big' is used in a literal sense, to indicate physical size. However the expression 'small-sized' was used in an idiomatic sense

in a Business news article, as shown in the following sentence:

'MMM is a niche-player in the **small-sized** vessel segment.'

Here 'small-sized' means 'comparatively undeveloped', rather than the usual literal usage of 'physically small'. From this example, it can be deduced that the non-native lexeme '-sized' has also been semantically extended to include a figurative sense in written ME particularly that of the acrolectal variety mentioned by Platt and Weber(1980).

The third group of Redundant Superordinates consist of the redundant use of 'year' before a definite year as in 'Year 2002', the redundant use of 'number' before a definite number such as **Number One** and the redundant use of 'colour' after a definite colour such as 'red in colour'.

This type of redundancy may be a result of Semantic Transfer from Mother tongue as such Redundant Superordinates occur in both Malay and Tamil. In Tamil 'white' would be 'velai naram'(white colour) and seldom plain 'velai'(white) while in Malay 'white' is 'warna putih' and seldom just 'putih' (See 'Semantic Transfer from Mother tongue'). With regards to colour, Leo(1995) who has compiled a list of Singapore English lexis, wryly comments that where native speakers are concerned, 'the colour speaks for itself.'

Other examples of this type of Redundant Superordinates are: 'role play **drama**', 'sawmill **drama**', 'percentage **points**', **final** fifth section' and 'girl daughter'.

Another example of a Redundant Superordinate was heard during an Oral Interaction test: 'They will ask the volunteer **people** what they need in

order to survive.'

The volunteers are already in the superordinate category 'people' so the word 'people' appears to be redundant here.

In all these examples, Leo would have said the subordinate words would 'speak for themselves' as commented by Leo, and the superordinate words would be considered redundant in native English. Thus the ME user, like the user of Singapore English, has a tendency to use redundant superordinates.

5.3 Redundant Expressions

This seems to be a new sub-category of redundancy, where elements of native expressions are combined or embedded non-natively which creates some lexico-semantic redundancy. The following examples have been arranged according to the alphabetical order of the first word of the redundant expression.

5.3.1 all the whole world

'Apparently **all the whole world** it is the flattest in the world.'

In the above sentence, the words in bold are clearly redundant, as when the speaker says 'it is the flattest in the world' he does not need to repeat by saying 'all the whole world.'

5.3.2 and all/and all that

The expression 'and all' seems to be redundant in the following sentence heard during an Oral Interaction Test:

'First of all, we must have a discount **and all** from the hotel.'

The expression 'and all that' was seen as a Redundant Expression in the

sentence 'Besides stacking **and all that....**'

5.3.3 a kind of

In the following comment, which was heard during an Oral Interaction Test, the expression 'a kind of' could be considered a Redundant Expression: 'Students is **a kind of** investment for the nation.'

The word 'students' is treated as a singular unit in the above comment, even though it is a pluralized noun.

5.3.4 a little louder

The next example was heard during a Toastmaster's Speech Evaluation Contest:

'Perhaps you can practise throwing your voice **a little louder.**'

In native usage, 'throwing your voice' already means 'speaking in a louder voice'. Hence there is no need to add 'a little louder' after the expression 'throwing your voice'.

5.3.5 and so on

During an Oral Interaction Test, the following statement was heard:

'Haze brings problems such as asthmatic **and so on.**'

In the above sentence, the expression 'and so on' can be regarded as a Redundant Expression as it does not add anything to its meaning.

5.3.6 be able to

The next example of a Redundant Expression is shown in bold in the following sentence seen in the Interactive Journal of a student:

'How can they be able to face this phenomenon?'

In the above example, the modal verb 'can' is synonymous with the expression 'be able to'.

5.3.7 call him to come

The next example of a Redundant Expression in the data is:

'Call him to come here.'

The native version of the above expression could be either 'Call him here' or 'Ask him to come here.' However, the non-native expression seems to be a combination of the two synonymous expressions, one embedded in the other.

5.3.8 given to be

The following sentence was seen in the Interactive Journal of a student:

'I was given to be in charge of scouts.'

The clause 'given to be' seems to be an example of a Redundant Expression in the above sentence. A native user of English would simply have written: 'I was in charge of scouts' and not 'I was given to be in charge of scouts'.

5.3.9 'If the rule of speaking....

The next example of a Redundant Expression seems to be a repetition of the semantic sense rather than the expression:

'If the rule of speaking is not followed, then it will be misguided.'

In a linguistic sense, there is no one rule of speaking but several. Hence an informed native speaker would have said:

'If the **rules** of speaking are not followed....'

It goes without saying that if one does not follow rules, one will be misguided.

5.3.10 in a homesick situation

The next example was seen in the Interactive Journal of a student:

'Actually, before my sister gave me a visit, I was in a moody mood because I am still **in a homesick situation**.'

The sentence contains a Redundant Expression, namely 'still in a homesick situation'. A native speaker would have said: '...because I am still homesick.'

In addition, 'gave' does not collocate with 'visit', from the native viewpoint.

A native speaker would have said 'paid me a visit'.

In addition, the above sentence also contains 'moody mood', which can be considered to be an example of 'Root-Sound Reduplication'(see 'Root-Sound Reduplication').

5.3.11 in which

The following instruction was seen in the Oral Test paper for undergraduates:

'You and other committee members discuss ways **in which** to enhance recycling habits among Malaysians.'

The expression 'in which' is redundant in the above sentence.

5.3.12 Let's say for instance

ME speakers are fond of using the expression 'let's say for instance' which consists of a linker and an expression which are synonymous. The expression 'let's say' has the same sense as the linker 'for instance'.

5.3.13 my foot

The next example of a Redundant Expression was seen in the Interactive Journal of an undergraduate:

'This is not the first time I stepped **my foot** in UM but it seemed like one.'

The expression 'stepped my foot' also seems to be an example of 'Semantic Transfer from Mothertongue'(see 'Semantic Transfer from Mothertongue').

5.3.14 one of the best of my favourites

The next example of such embedding was heard at a recent conference when one expression had another synonymous expression that was embedded within it:

'Of course, **one of the best of my favourites** I like to use.'

In the above example a native speaker would have said 'One of my favourites' and the expression 'the best of' would have been considered redundant. This type of embedded redundancy is not easy to spot due to the speed of such utterances but it is a common feature of spoken ME.

5.3.15 On top of

The next example of a Redundant Expression was 'On top of' in the following sentence recorded from a Toastmaster's speech:

'**On top of** the highway a car broke down.'

A native speaker would have said: 'On the highway....'

5.3.16 or not

The next example of a Redundant Expression immediately follows a synonymous expression as shown below:

'Do you understand **or not** the question?'

In native English, the question would be either: 'Do you understand or not?' or 'Do you understand the question?' The non-native version is an embedded combination of the two. In native usage 'or not' would be considered redundant if there is an object such as 'the question'. Here the researcher would agree with Nair, U.G. (1999) who says that an interesting feature of ME is the conversion of statements to interrogative forms by adding 'yes or not' or 'or not' tags at the end. She says this could be due to language transfer from Bahasa Malaysia. She gave the following examples to illustrate this possibility:

ME example: 'You want to come or not?'

BM version: 'Awak hendak datang atau tidak?'

ME example: 'I want to come, can or not?'

BM version: 'Saya hendak ikut, boleh tak?'

5.3.17 other than their own

The following sentence was seen in the instructions for an Oral Test:

'You suggest that there be more inter-faculty activities so students can be exposed to the culture in faculties **other than their own**.'

Here the expression 'other than their own' is redundant as the word 'other' before 'faculties' would have been sufficient.

5.3.18 prevent...from occurring

The next example of a Redundant Expression is 'prevent...from occurring' in the following sentence seen in an Oral Test situation which

had been prepared by some lecturers of the Faculty of Languages and Linguistics:

'You, as a conscientious citizen of Malaysia, would like to suggest the following **to prevent** the haze that blanketed parts of Southeast Asia in the middle of last year **from occurring**.'

In native usage, 'prevent' is used to mean 'to stop an incident from happening' (OALD, 2000). Here the haze is not an incident. It is a condition, so a more appropriate word would be 'avoid'. In any case, 'from occurring' is redundant here.

5.3.19 making you to be

'It is also **making you to be** more healthy.'

In the above sentence the expression 'making you to be' is non-native. A native speaker would have probably said: 'making you healthy.' Hence the expression 'to be' is redundant here.

5.3.20 something like that

During an Oral Interaction Test, the following was heard:

'Instead of using turtle eggs, they can use alternative eggs such as duck eggs, **something like that**.'

In the above utterance, the expression 'something like that' appears to be redundant as it does not add anything new to the intended meaning of the sentence.

5.3.21 the statistics point of view

In a group report written by undergraduates, the following sentence was seen:

'This can be seen from **the statistics point of view** which is 1000 people to one police.'

The writers were explaining that there was shortage in the police personnel in a particular town in the US, and this could hamper the implementation of any programme to curb teenage crime. However, the expression 'the statistics point of view' could be considered redundant as a native speaker would merely substitute the expression 'the statistics point of view' with the single word 'statistics'.

5.3.22 to progress forward

In the next example the word 'prosper', which is used earlier in the sentence, is synonymous with the Redundant Expression 'to progress forward':

'We must be industrialized to prosper, to **progress forward**.'

In this example, 'to progress forward' would be considered a Redundant Expression from a native viewpoint. In addition, the word 'forward' is also redundant here as it is understood that one makes progress forward and not in any other direction!

5.3.23 to be given

In the following sentence seen in the instructions of an Oral Test situation, the expression 'to be given' appears to be redundant due to the word 'donate':

'You suggest asking students to donate old clothes and other usable items **to be given** to the squatters who need them.'

5.3.24 to themselves

The next example of a Redundant Expression is 'to themselves' in the

following sentence, which expresses the same meaning as 'reserved': 'They are mostly reserved to themselves.'

5.3.25 we were heading for

The next example has a similar semantic sense:

'We were not sure of the future **we were heading for**

The expression 'we were heading for' is redundant as the word 'future' already implies the same sense.

5.3.26 while...at the same time

The next example of a Redundant Expression was recorded from a Business news article:

'Every operator is struggling to keep its existing subscribers **while** trying hard to attract new ones **at the same time**.'

From a native viewpoint, 'at the same time' is redundant due to another word which is semantically similar earlier on in the sentence, namely the linker or conjunction 'while'. However, in Malaysian English, such redundant expressions are accepted as the norm in both written as well as spoken discourse. Thus 'Lexico-semantic Redundancy' consists of three sub-categories, namely 'Redundant Synonyms', 'Redundant Superordinates' and 'Redundant Expressions'.

5.4 Quantitative Analysis of Lexico-semantic Redundancy

The breakdown of non-native lexis under each of these three sub-categories is shown in Table 5.1 on the next page:

Table 5.1

Sub-categories under Lexico-semantic Redundancy

Sub-categories	Numbers	Percentages
Redundant Synonyms	43	51%
Redundant Super ordinates	15	18%
Redundant Expressions	26	31%
Total No. of Non-Native Lexis	84	100%

The largest sub-category is Redundant Synonyms in which the redundancy is juxtaposed with semantically similar words. This sub-category comprises two further sub-categories, namely Redundant Synonyms, and Redundant Synonyms which are linked by the conjunction 'and'. There are altogether 28 examples of Redundant Synonyms and also 15 Redundant Synonyms which were linked by the conjunction 'and', making a sub-total of 43. This is more than half the total number of non-native lexis under Lexico-semantic Redundancy, namely 51% of the total number, as seen in Figure 5.1.

As in the case of Lexico-semantic Reduplication, one of the reasons for Redundant Synonyms seems to be to indicate a sense of intensity. This seems to be the case for examples such as 'so tired and exhausted', 'huge immense', 'whole entire', 'main important' and 'exact same'.

The second sub-category, Redundant Superordinates, does not consist of straightforward redundancy as is the case of the first sub-category. It is slightly more complex in that the redundant words are all superordinates which are juxtaposed with subordinates which have already done the job of conveying the intended meaning. An example of this is 'expensive price',

whereby the superordinate 'price' is redundant.

There are altogether 15 examples thus making a total of 18% of the total number of non-native lexis in this category. Though the number may not be as large as that of Redundant Synonyms, it is an important new sub-category, as it reveals a certain pattern of redundancy in ME which could be the subject of further research.

The third sub-category, that is, Redundant Expressions comprises 26 examples of non-native lexis, which is 31% of the total number under Lexico-semantic Redundancy as can be seen in Table 5.1. It is the most complex sub-category as the redundancy is often embedded within the sentence and is not apparent at first glance. An example of such embedding is 'Call him to come here.'

The native version of the above expression could be either 'Call him here' or 'Ask him to come here.' However, the non-native expression seems to be a combination of the two synonymous expressions, one embedded in the other. One could describe this complex redundancy as a feature of Non-native Syntax rather than Non-native Lexis.

5.5 Reasons for Lexico-semantic Redundancy

As in the case of Lexico-semantic Reduplication, the main reason for redundancy seems to be to indicate a sense of intensity. This seems to be the case for examples such as 'so tired and exhausted', 'huge immense', 'whole entire', 'utter dire (suffering)', 'main important' and 'final conclusion'.

The second reason is to reinforce the meaning to the listener. Sometimes this is done through parallel structures or words which are repetitive, such

as 'it oils, it greases' and 'moral values and good values'.

For some of the examples, the meaning is reinforced through the use of a 'poetic rhyme' effect. This refers to the use of similar vowel and/or consonant sounds. Examples of these are: 'solely for oneself only', 'each and everyone', 'routinized and habitualized', 'suit and adapt' and 'posture position'. Three of the above examples are also categorized under sub-categories of other categories.

'Posture position' has also been categorized under 'Root-Sound Reduplication'(see 'Root-Sound Reduplication') while 'each and 'everyone' and 'solely for oneself only' has been categorized under 'Lexical Double Effects', both of which fall under 'Lexico-semantic Reduplication'.

Some examples of Redundant Superordinates can also be categorized under 'Semantic Transfer from Mothertongue' as in the case of the redundant use of 'colour' after a definite colour such as 'red in colour'. The use of such superordinates is common in the Chinese dialects as well as in Malay and Tamil. Hence, redundant superordinates in ME could be the result of language transfer which is a regular feature of local languages.

Some of the Redundant Expressions are what the present researcher calls 'verbal appendages', namely vague redundant expressions that do not add anything to the meaning of what was said earlier. Examples of these are: 'and all that', 'a kind of', 'and so on' and 'something like that.' These expressions are probably used subconsciously to 'buy time' for the speaker to organize his or her thoughts before saying something else.

Other Redundant Expressions are synonymous with a more complex or

uncommon word or expression said earlier, as shown in the following sentence: 'Do you mind throwing your voice **a little louder?**'

Here the meaning of 'throwing your voice' is to speak loudly, so the expression in bold is redundant. By using the Redundant Expression, the speaker wanted to be crystal clear that the listener understood what he meant by the uncommon expression 'throwing your voice.'

Other examples are the expressions 'global widely accepted' and 'qualified trained' in which the ME user uses synonyms immediately after 'global' and 'qualified' just to make sure that the listener really understood the concept.

5.6 Conclusion of Lexico-semantic Redundancy

While 'Lexico-semantic Reduplication' involves lexical repetition mainly of a phonological nature, 'Lexico-semantic Redundancy' involves repetition at the lexico-semantic level.

The largest sub-category is Redundant Synonyms in which the redundancy is juxtaposed with semantically similar words. Some of the semantically similar words were linked by the conjunction 'and'. The main effect of this is to create a dramatic effect similar to Shakespearean expressions such as 'storm and fury'.

For the second category, the redundant words are all superordinates which are juxtaposed with subordinates which would have been considered sufficient in conveying meaning on a native level.

Redundant Expressions, the third sub-category, involves the repetition of semantically similar expressions on a syntactic level rather than on a merely lexical level. While all the Redundant Synonyms and Redundant Superordinates involve juxtaposed redundancy, not all the Redundant

Expressions involve juxtaposed redundancy. Some involve non-juxtaposed redundancy.

If one totals all the examples of Lexico-semantic Redundancy, there will be 84 examples altogether. This is adequate proof that ME users are an expressive group of language users who frequently resort to redundancy.

In conclusion, judging from the data analyzed under Lexico-semantic Redundancy, ME users have many verbal habits which are redundant. There seem to be both creative as well as practical reasons for such redundancy.