LEXICAL AND SYNTACTIC FEATURES
OF MALAYSIAN ENGLISH
IN A LOCAL ENGLISH MOVIE

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Field of Study: Variety of English (Malaysian English)

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ABSTRACT

As the second language of the country, English is used by Malaysians in various domains such as administration, education, business and communication. The multi-ethnicity of Malaysian citizens contributes to the unique characteristics of English as spoken by Malaysians, and this is known as Malaysian English. Malaysian English, like the other varieties of English around the world, has unique features that significantly distinguish it from the standard variety. Linguistically, the differences could be seen in terms of phonology, morphology (vocabulary), syntax, semantics and pragmatics; all of which have been subjects of investigation amongst linguists since decades ago. This study examines lexical as well as syntactical structures of Malaysian English as used in a locally produced English movie. The dialogues used in the movie are carefully transcribed in order to collect the data relevant to the study, i.e. the utterances (vocabulary and syntax) of Malaysian English. The data analysis is qualitatively done based on some features of Malaysian English established in previous studies, within which comparison with standard British English is made, where necessary. The comparison is not intended to prove that Malaysian English is a sub/non-standard language, but rather to establish its uniqueness as a variety of English that warrants some linguistic explanation. Although the selected movie is not to be seen as a representative of all local English movies, it does serve the purpose of this particular study based on the setting, characters and script it carries. Being one of the media of popular literature, it is hoped that more Malaysian produced English movies are to function as a useful source in the future study of Malaysian English.
ABSTRAK

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