

Siew Imm Tan

Malaysian English

Language Contact and Change

**DUISBURGER ARBEITEN ZUR SPRACH-
UND KULTURWISSENSCHAFT**

**DUISBURG PAPERS ON RESEARCH
IN LANGUAGE AND CULTURE**

Band/Volume 98



PETER LANG
EDITION

Table of Contents

List of figures	XIII
List of tables.....	XV
Abbreviations	XVII

1. English in Malaysia

1.1 Introduction.....	1
1.2 Roles and functions of English in Malaysia	3
1.3 Earlier studies of Malaysian English	7
1.4 Contact-induced change in Malaysian English: A corpus-based study	12

2. The Historical Background of Malaysian English

2.1 Introduction.....	17
2.2 The Peninsula before the arrival of the English language	20
2.3 The English language in the Archipelago: 17 th to 18 th century	24
2.4 Language contact during the EIC administration: 1786 to 1867.....	25
2.5 Language contact in British Malaya: 1867 to 1957.....	29
2.6 Language contact in postcolonial Malaysia: 1957 to present.....	35
2.7 Conclusion.....	38

3. The Malaysian English Newspaper Corpus

3.1 Introduction.....	39
3.2 Construction of the MEN Corpus	40
3.2.1 Selection of newspapers	40
3.2.2 Sampling procedure.....	42
3.2.3 Corpus size and selection of issues	43
3.2.4 Compilation of data	45
3.3 Analysing the MEN Corpus.....	47

4. Lexical Borrowing and Lexical Creation

4.1 Introduction 53

4.2 Terminology 54

 4.2.1 Defining lexical borrowing..... 54

 4.2.2 Defining lexical creation 60

4.3 Lexical borrowing in Malaysian English 61

 4.3.1 Influences of Malay 71

 4.3.1.1 Loanwords..... 73

 4.3.1.2 Compound blends 79

 4.3.1.3 Loan translations 80

 4.3.2 Influences of Chinese 83

 4.3.2.1 Loanwords..... 84

 4.3.2.2 Compound blends 85

 4.3.2.3 Loan translations 85

 4.3.3 Motivations for lexical borrowing..... 87

4.4 Lexical creation in Malaysian English..... 91

4.5 Borrowing and creation: Concluding remarks 97

5. Group Second Language Acquisition

5.1 Introduction 101

5.2 Defining group SLA..... 102

5.3 Syntactic variation..... 105

 5.3.1 Reclassification of common nouns..... 105

 5.3.1.1 Pluralisation of noncount nouns using
 the -s inflectional morpheme 106

 5.3.1.2 Reclassification of uninflected
 noncount nouns to singular count nouns..... 107

 5.3.1.3 Reclassification of uninflected
 noncount nouns to plural count nouns 109

 5.3.1.4 Use of the general partitive construction,
 a piece of, with singular and plural count nouns 110

5.3.1.5	SLA strategies and processes of change	112
5.3.2	Multi-word verbs	118
5.3.2.1	Nativised prepositional and phrasal verbs	119
5.3.2.2	SLA strategies and processes of change	120
5.4	Lexical variation	123
5.5	Sociolinguistic ecology and group SLA	130
6.	A Theoretical Model of Contact-induced Change in Malaysian English	
6.1	Introduction	133
6.2	Contact-induced change in Malaysian English: Towards a theoretical model	134
6.2.1	Linguistic outcomes	137
6.2.2	Intent and motivations	139
6.2.3	Agentivity	142
6.2.4	Historical and social settings of Malaysian English	146
6.3	Conclusions and future explorations	150
	Appendix A: Lexical Items Borrowed from Malay	155
	Appendix B: Lexical Items Borrowed from Chinese	189
	Appendix C: Creations Using English Morphemes	201
	Appendix D: Hybrid Creations	205
	References	207
	Author and Subject Index	223
	Malaysian English Feature Index	235