

2025年度

大学院文学研究科博士課程後期3年の課程入学試験

(冬期・一般選抜) 問題

筆記試験 言語学 専攻分野

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筆記試験 (言語学 専攻分野)

問題I. 以下の文章を読み、問 (i) ~ (iii) に答えなさい。

In Singapore, English is one of several languages which, together, form a linguistic landscape of considerable complexity. Four languages have official status: English, Malay, Mandarin, and Tamil. These are the four languages whose legends appear side by side on coins, train tickets, danger signs, and other such places. However, of these four languages, two enjoy privileged status: English, as the primary language of administration, is the language of road signs, university instruction, recording of law, and so on, while Malay, as the so-called “national language”, is the language of the national anthem and of ceremonial military orders.

Whereas English is not associated with a particular ethnicity, the remaining three official languages, Malay, Mandarin, and Tamil, represent the three major ethnic groups from which the population of Singapore is constituted. Thus, Chinese, mostly of Cantonese, Teochew or Hokkien origin, account for a little under 80 % of the population; Malays, the most homogeneous community, comprise roughly 15 %; while Indians, of whom over one half are Tamils, make up somewhat over 5 %.

With respect to communication within each of the three major ethnic groups, the situation is as follows. Amongst the Chinese population, the Singaporean government has, for the last two decades, been forcefully and quite successfully promoting the use of Mandarin. As a result, the use of other Chinese languages is on the wane, and is now associated with persons of older age brackets and/or lower socio-economic status. Younger or upwardly mobile Chinese people typically speak Mandarin, and sometimes have difficulty communicating with their older relatives who may only be familiar with some other Chinese language. Unsurprisingly, the variety of Mandarin current in Singapore differs from the Mandarin spoken in China in a number of respects, displaying the influence of the southern Chinese languages that were, until recently, in widespread use. Amongst the Malay community, the situation is much more straightforward: Malay is almost invariably used, in a dialect quite distinct from the Standard Malay as prescribed by the academic establishment in neighboring Malaysia. Finally, amongst the Indian population, Tamil is the only language that is holding ground; other Indian languages are being replaced with Tamil or with a non-Indian language.

In the case of communication between speakers of different ethnic groups, two languages are generally used: English and Malay. The choice between these two languages is, for the most part, governed by two factors: age and socio-economic status. Specifically, younger people, or people of higher socio-economic status, are more likely to use English; while older people, or people of lower socio-economic status, would more probably use Malay. For example, my students, when in an ethnically mixed group, invariably spoke English, while in the three plumbers who came regularly to fix my blocked drains – one Chinese, one Malay, and one Indian — always spoke Malay. The Malay used for communication between ethnic groups, sometimes referred to as Bazaar Malay, differs substantially from Standard Malay and the Malay used by Singaporean Malays amongst themselves.⁽¹⁾

The use of English in Singapore has increased dramatically over the last few decades, not only as a lingua franca, but, in addition, as a vehicle for communication within ethnic groups. Given that Singapore achieved its independence in 1965, it is ironical that the rise of English has taken place largely in a post-colonial setting. Indeed, the use of English in Singapore is actively promoted by the Singaporean government. The ascendance of English is perhaps most striking amongst the Chinese community, for whom the switch to English is part of a general tendency towards cultural westernization. The rise of English has taken place at the expense of most other Singaporean languages – with the partial exception of Mandarin, amongst the Chinese community. As a result, Singapore has effectively become yet another English-speaking country: by one estimate, “nearly 70 % of the current generation of children” in Singapore are native speakers of English (Gupta 1994: 27). Some recent general studies of the use of English in Singapore include Platt & Weber (1980), J. Foley (ed.) (1988), Ho & Platt (1993), and Gupta (1994).

Singaporean English spans a wide range of registers, which constitute a continuous lectal cline. The acrolect, Formal Singaporean English, bears a close resemblance to standard varieties of English such as those spoken in the United States and Great Britain. In contrast, the basilect, Colloquial Singaporean English, or Singlish, exhibits many of the characteristics of an Asian language. More specifically, Singlish shares many of the features of the other languages spoken in Singapore, primarily Cantonese, Teochew and Hokkien Chinese, and Singaporean and Bazaar Malay. Phonetically, Singlish is syllable timed, with a greatly reduced syllable structure and, possibly, lexical tone: a newcomer to Singapore, hearing it for the first time, is likely to mistake it for Chinese. Morphologically, Singlish is considerably simplified: many of the inflections characteristic of Standard English are either optional or completely absent. Syntactically, Singlish would seem to bear little or no resemblance to Standard varieties of English, instead appearing much more similar to the other Singaporean languages. And lexically, Singlish draws mostly from Standard American and British English, but is peppered with loan words from the various substratum languages. Interestingly, though, some features of Singlish differ not only from Standard English but also from all of the potential substratum languages.

thereby belying a simplistic characterization of Singlish as “Chinese/Malay syntax with English words”.⁽ⁱⁱ⁾ (The phenomenon whereby a “new variety” of English acquires features not present in Standard English or any of the other contact languages is discussed by Kandiah 1987, who refers to this as “fulguration”).

As a basilectal, or low-prestige linguistic variety, Singlish is at the receiving end of many prejudices.⁽ⁱⁱⁱ⁾ At the political level, Singlish is officially frowned upon by the Singaporean government, and in 1993 was banned from Singaporean television. Recent ongoing efforts to eradicate it have included the establishment of an official governmental *Speak Good English Movement*. Even among linguists, Singlish is occasionally considered to be something less than a full fledged language system. Thus, it has been characterized as a “non-native” variety (Platt & Weber 1980), a “semi-pidgin” (Valdman 1983: 227), or simply as broken, incorrect or “adulterated” English (Thomas & Fam 1984: 33). However, such characterizations are clearly at odds with the existence of a substantial population of native speakers of Singlish. Taking such facts into account, other scholars accept Singlish as a bona fide variety or dialect, proposing various terms such as “creoloid” (Platt 1975, 1977). Whatever the label, though, Singlish clearly constitutes a full-blown language system, one that is acquired in early childhood in the usual ways; as such, it is an object worthy of investigation just like any other language.

(David Gil. 2003. English goes Asian: Number and (in)definiteness in the Singlish noun phrase. Frans Plank. Ed., *Noun phrase structure in the language of Europe*, pp. 467-514, Mouton de Gruyter. を一部改編して抜粋)

問 (i) 下線 (i) について、Bazaar Malay は Standard Malay とどのような違いがあると考えられるか。具体的に考察しなさい。

問 (ii) 下線 (ii) について、Singlish が他の English の変種に比べ特別であるのはなぜか。本文の内容などを踏まえて具体的に説明しなさい。

問 (iii) 下線 (iii) のような現象を科学的に検証するためにどのような研究が有用と考えられるか。この文章の内容を踏まえて調査研究案を示しなさい。

問題 II. 自分の関心ある言語事象について概説し、それを研究する意義、目的、方法、予測される結果を具体的に述べなさい。その研究の特徴を、一般言語学および関連領域の文脈の中に位置づけながら説明しなさい。

問題 I と II の回答は次ページ以降にまとめて記すこと。

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