

# International Linguistic Association

## *Monthly Lecture Series*

**Saturday, October 1, 2022. 11 AM - 12 PM (EST)**

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### **Singaporean English in Action**

#### **Abstract**

Singaporean English (aka ‘Singlish’) has been described at length at various linguistic levels, including phonetic/phonological, morphological and syntactic, and semantic/pragmatic. Holistically, there is little disagreement among linguists that Singaporean English is readily recognizable as a distinct form of speech, with its own accent, grammar and usage patterns. It is also generally acknowledged that this distinctiveness is largely the outcome of a long history of contact between a number of contributing languages and cultures, including Chinese (multiple varieties), Malay (multiple forms), Indian (multiple languages) and other sources. This substantial literature on the linguistic features of ‘Singlish’ notwithstanding, relatively little is known about the fascinating ways in which the language is used by speakers in everyday interactions to achieve a multitude of communicative goals. In this paper we zoom in on talk-in-interaction in Singapore and examine at close range snippets of social interactions in the form of video recordings, using an Ethnomethodological and Conversation Analytic approach. By approaching these interactions as ‘culture in action’ (Hester & Eglin 1997), I will unpack the localisms and distinctive forms of expression in an attempt to document and celebrate a rich kaleidoscope of creative practices that constitute Singaporean English.

**Date & Time: October 1, 2022 at 11:00 AM Eastern Time (US and Canada)**

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**K.K. Luke** is President's Chair Professor of Linguistics at Nanyang Technological University, Singapore. His research is on talk and social interaction using Ethnomethodology and Conversation Analysis. He has done work with data collected from China and Hong Kong, mostly of interactions in informal settings of family and friends. His more recent work focuses on doctor-patient interaction in a number of clinics in Singapore, where issues of empathy, multi-party consultations, and patient-centred care are explored.

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