

lecturer's Contribution

Malaysian Slang Words in Conversation By Nazima Versay Kudus & Wan Noorli Razali

Introduction

Manglish or Malaysian street language or occasionally referred to as Bahasa Rojak is resulted from unique combination of colloquial phrases, vocabulary and slang drawn from several vernaculars in Malaysia such as Malay, Tamil, Hokkien and Cantonese and also the English language which can result in a single sentence including three or more languages and dialects. Here is a dialogue between two friends exhibiting the usage of Malaysian slang words:

Conversation

(At the campus)

- Irfan: Danish, *watpe* 2? *Jom* go for a *yum cha* at the *mamak*, I am so *pishang*.
Danish: Why do you want to *belanja* me?
Irfan: I am so stressed out with the calculus assignment. It is so difficult. During the quiz last time, I just *taram*, you know. Calculus and me, so *unsangkarable!*
Danish: Calculus is *kacang*. You need to *pulun* a bit, then *settle!*
Irfan: *Sap sap sui?* *Walawei*, can you teach me?
Danish: Sure can. I will teach you later. Now, to *mamak*. *Kia!*



(Irfan drives Danish to the restaurant)

- Irfan: While I park the car, can you go in to *chup* seats for us first?
Danish: Wei, *gostan* the car properly! This is not your *kapcai*.
Irfan: Relax, okay. I won't *lenjan* my own car.

(At the restaurant)

- Irfan: *Macha*, 2 roti canai *banjir*.
Danish: One teh-tarik *kaw-kaw* for me.
Irfan: Me... I want to *pekena* 1 *kopipeng* and capati.

(After a while...)

- Danish: Why the roti canai so *lambert*?
Irfan: *Haiya*. So slow la.

(The food is served.)

- Danish: Finally...look at this roti canai. *Gedabak!*
Irfan: Wow. That is what I call *tiptopmeletop*.

(While eating)

- Danish: Look at the *ang moh awek* in a pink dress. She is so *jambu*.
Irfan: Be careful, she may have a *balak* already.
Danish: *Alamak!* She just smile at me *Eksyen!* *Shiok* for no reason!
Irfan: *Potong stim lah* you!
Danish: She must be smiling at me. I am the *leng chai* between us.
Irfan: Don't *perasan lah!* *Sekeping* like you, no *ketak-ketak*, you think she will be interested ah?
Danish: The roti is delicious. I think I want to *tapau* some for my parents. Can you please put it on your bill?



- Irfan: What, you just *balun*, like this I can go *bungkus!*
Danish: My family is *kipas susah mati* of roti canai. *Cincai la*, we are friends! Anyway this is not a *bishe-bishe* roti.
Irfan: Okay. I know you *pekena* me but thankfully, we are *kamcheng*. So, I *payung* you!



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Conclusion

Slang words should be celebrated as they add to multicultural understanding of not only certain languages but also to its people. Most may not be listed as entries to the formal lexicology of a dictionary but it enriches the informal everyday spoken discourses.

References

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