

Sociolects of Singaporean English

1. Acrolect

= _____

- There is no difference from the features of Standard British English (EBE)

2. Mesolect

= _____

- It has some features distinct from SBE.

Features:

a. May I ask where is the toilet?

b. May I apply for car licence?

c. He always go to the shopping centre.

3. Basilect

= _____

- It is similar to a creole language since it mixes languages together. It is a fully-functional language unlike a pidgin language.
- It is used as an identity marker.

Features:

a. You are coming today, is it?

b. My handwriting not good, lah.

c. It's ok, lah.

d. Hurry lah, I need to go now!

Examples:

Acrolect (SSE)

This person's Singlish is very good.

Mesolect

Dis guy Singlish damn good eh.

Basilect (Singlish)

Dis guy Singrish si beh zai sia.

Questions:

1. Who would use the acrolect (SSE)? When would they use it?
2. Who would use the basilect (Singlish)? When would they use it?
3. Why is there a mesolect?
4. What is code switching?