

# World Englishes And Miscommunication In View Of English As An International Language

Malaysian English

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# PRESENTATION 1:

- HISTORY
- PEOPLE
- ROLE OF ENGLISH

# Malaysia – multiethnic, multicultural and multilingual

- Malay – national and official language
- English – official language from 1957-1967
- After the language Act of 1967 – English became the second most important language
- Independence from the British in 1957

More than 60% -- Malay  
Less than 30% -- Chinese  
About 10% -- Indians

# National identity:

- National identity – Malaysian Ethnic and cultural identities – Malay, Chinese, Indians and others
- Islam – Malays
- Buddhists/Christians – Chinese
- Hindus/Christians – Indians

# Language:

- English – a dominant second language used for a variety of functions in professional and social transactions among Malaysians as well as with the international community

# History of English in Malaysia

- British colonialism and the expansion of the British empire in the region in the 19<sup>th</sup> century.
- English established itself as the language of administration and law and was also used in other domains.
- Daily English newspaper, The Straits Times, 1845
- English educational system

# Language:

- Malay – language of Malays
- Chinese – one of the Chinese dialects (Cantonese, Hakka, Hainannese, Hokkien, Teochew), language of the Chinese
- Tamil – language of the Indians

Language of communication – either Malay or English with codeswitching between the two:

Malay with other ethnic groups: Malay or English

Chinese with other ethnic groups: Malay or English

Indian with other ethnic groups: Malay or English



# Language:

- Verbal repertoire of an individual – usually 2, 3 or more languages and varieties of the same language.
- Each language brings with it its own set of rules and conventions related to grammar, lexical items, pragmatics and socio-linguistics.

# End of presentation 1

## Presentation 2: Lexical borrowing