

Omission of expletive

- But I think better you don't put my name outside.

The expletive 'it is' is omitted in the above sentences. Expletives 'there' and 'it' together with the verb are often omitted in colloquial Malaysian English

Omission of object pronoun

She knows your writing and won't open

There is often omission of the object pronoun in colloquial Malaysian English.

Particles 'ah' and 'lah'

- See ah, my sisters brothers all, running all over the house and if I write they all ask if I'm learning and want to look. Also ah, if I go to post letter that clerk at the post office can see me.

But still, try lah!

The fillers 'ah' and 'lah' are used to convey emotive or effective attitudes speaker. By adding 'lah' the speaker in this instance is placing emphasis on his statement that he would try to get in touch with his friend. The function of 'lah' is to serve as a softener and that it can change a command to a request.

'Lah' is used in expressions which Malaysian finds rather uncomfortable to use with a fellow Malaysian. "You look beautiful in your new dress", the reply could be "No-lah, you look much prettier". It is considered immodest for a Malaysian to accept a compliment with just a thank you and that "no-lah" would reflect the speaker's humility. The particle 'ah' appears to be used to place a stress on what is said and to make the speakers appear more convincing.

Yalah *sayang*, if we can find the road, if not *tak sampai*.

Then *ada* accident pulak.

Cakaplah Mummy, our hands got hands free set.

Everyday work late like some big shot. *Tapi habuk pun takdak*.

Lexical borrowing is found in *Yalah sayang*.

Sayang is an endearment which is normally retained even in spoken English when the speakers are both *Malays*. It is a term of endearment like 'darling' or 'love'.

Tense and aspect are often not found in colloquial Malaysian English and the simple uninflected form is frequently used for the present perfect. 'Since she marry you,...' is an example . Again, there is omission of the subject pronoun in 'Everyday work late like some big shot'.

The switch to Malay when the speakers says ***Tapi habuk pun takdak*** identifies the speaker as a Malay and the pronunciation of the last word ***takdak*** (of the standard ***tiada*** or ***takda***) in the northern dialect of Kedah reveals her origin.

End of Presentation 3

Presentation 4 – Para-linguistic features and socio-cultural differences