

Forms of address in the Chinese and Malay communities

Chinese community

- The oldest grandaunt is referred to as the first grandaunt.
- The second oldest grandaunt is referred to as the second grandaunt and so on.

This way of addressing family members is also used for uncles, aunts, cousins, brothers and sisters.

'Return to Malaya' – Lee Kok Liang

My *first grand-aunty* sat on a low mahogany bench. She was a shapeless bundle in the dark. She turned round and saw me. Then her greeting reached me like an echo, distant and reverberating.

My *second grand-aunty* had walked in swiftly from the back of the house, hurrying along a small child with shrill commands. She had grown very thin; the bones stuck out in her face, her small grey bun was held by a large hair-pin. She wore a sombre-coloured sarong and her thin arms were covered by a long-sleeved blouse.

Malay community

- The Malay forms of address in a family are used in the second extract. Forms are abbreviated to make them sound more colloquial – *kak* is an abbreviation for *kakak* (sister), *bang* for *abang* (brother) and *mak* for *emak* (mother). The forms of addresses for brother and sister in Malay are also used for non-family members for a person who is older than the speaker.

Khairunnisa: A good woman

– Ellina Abdul Majid

Sam and *Kak Ida* and *Bang La*, too only spoke with them in a very general way and it was obvious they were worried that Danny might try to touch one of them for a loan or some form of financial assistance, not that such an idea occurred to him at all.

Meanwhile *Mak* couldn't help observing (from a safe distance) that the twins had evidently outgrown the outfits she'd had given them and she didn't like the present ones they were wearing at all.

'Money in green packets' – This is a practice of giving money to children during *Hari Raya* whereby the money is placed in little green envelopes. The practice was adopted from the Chinese tradition of giving red packets containing money during Chinese New Year. While red is the favoured colour of many Chinese, green is the Islamic colour and is favoured by the Malays. The Malay word *salam* which means clasp of hands, a Malay form of greeting, is used with the English progressive aspect in the second extract.

There had been quite a lot of money in green packets at *Hari Raya*, though Adam and Rafiq had endeared themselves to relatives by looking adorable in their *baju Melayu* with miniature matching sampin and enthusiastically *salam-ing* everyone in sight.

And *Hari Raya* itself had been very enjoyable with plenty of feasting and goodwill; except that Caroline regarded herself as participating in the celebrations under false pretences because she was still breastfeeding the twins herself and hadn't been able to fast.

End of Presentation 4

- Presentation 5 – Pronunciation