



TGIF: The NTU Linguist Chatroom



**Join us! Friday, 4 November 2016, 3.30pm
@ HSS Conference Room (HSS-05-57)**

Language, social networks, and the use of discourse particles in 'Singapore English'

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In this presentation I discuss the preliminary findings of a research project on language and social networks among university students in Singapore. One important aspect of this study involves language variation research and considers how meaningful social information is conveyed through the use of discourse particles in the social networks investigated in this study. One key argument made in this talk is that the social meanings of these particles are a potential for indicating speaker identity in Singapore. The research presented in this talk draws on an adapted form of social network theory, and uses vernacular data to capture the dynamics underlying particle variation. This study tentatively considers such social constraints as gender, modality (medium of communication), and ethnicity as influencing the distribution and use of particles in 'Singapore English'.

Speaker



WERNER BOTHA is Assistant Professor at Nanyang Technological University in Singapore. He is currently researching language use in the social networks of university students in Singapore. Another aspect of his academic research explores the spread and use of English in Asian higher education. His research interests include language variation and change, educational linguistics (language planning, language policies and blended learning), as well as multilingualism among university students in the Greater Asia region. He has published research articles on language variation, and the sociolinguistics of English in higher education in Singapore and China.

The TGIF seminar series is organised by
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