

EVENTS + HAPPENINGS

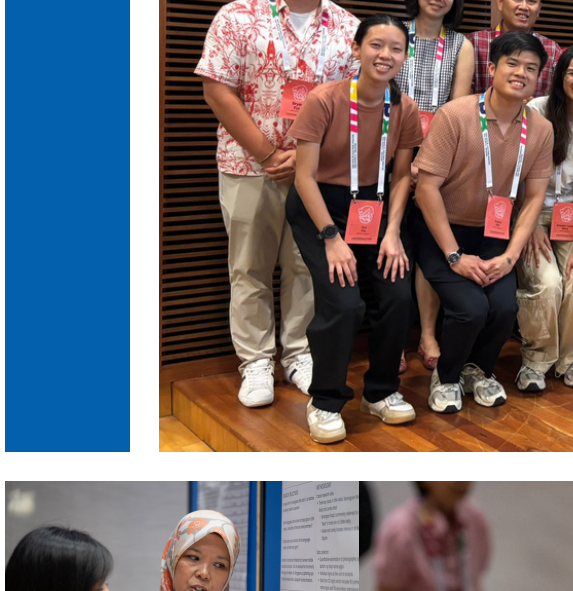


Photo credit: Sim Joo Jin, NIE ELL PhD Candidate

EVENTS HIGHLIGHT: NEW WAYS OF ANALYSING VARIATION — ASIA PACIFIC 8

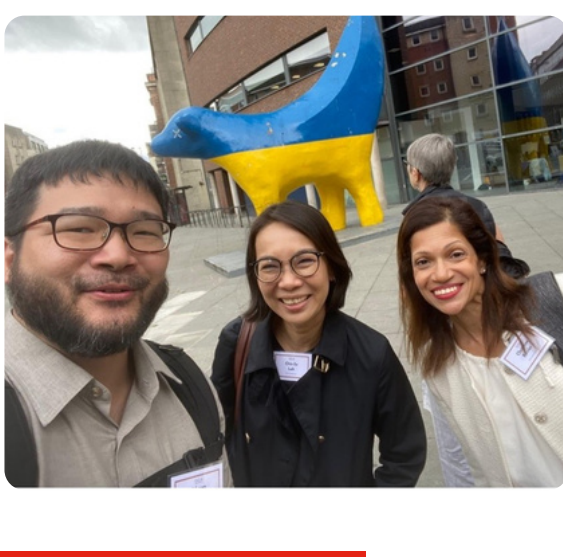
4 – 7 August 2025

NIE ELL hosted the 8th NWAV-AP conference at NTU@one-north. This international sociolinguistics conference, which focused on language variation and change, brought together **107 participants from 66 institutions worldwide**. Over four days, the conference featured **four keynote addresses, 71 oral presentations, three special sessions, and 10 poster presentations**. Participants and organisers alike enjoyed a stimulating and rewarding experience—sharing research, exchanging perspectives, and building new professional and personal connections. Together, the NWAV-AP community continues to play a vital role in advancing our understanding of language and variation in the Asia-Pacific region, contributing meaningful insights into its languages, cultures, and people.



ELL FACULTY AND STUDENTS AT INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES IN THE NETHERLANDS AND THE UK

A delegation from ELL participated in the ARLE SIG-ROLE 2025 Seminar held at Radboud University, Nijmegen, the Netherlands, from 25-27 June 2025. Faculty member **Dr Dennis Yeo** and PhD candidates **Dominic Nah**, **Ow Yeong Wai Kit**, and **Farah Vierra** presented their research and contributed to discussions centred on the theme of "Legitimising Literature in an Evolving Media Landscape".



A/P Loh Chin Ee, **Dr Christine Xavier**, and PhD student, **Edmen Leong**, presented their papers at the United Kingdom Literacy Association Conference at the Liverpool John Moores University in July 2025. Dr Xavier presented on "Inclusive Grammar Teaching for Diverse Learners in the Writing Class", Edmen presented on "Key Factors that Foster Reading Motivation Among Readers with Dyslexia", and A/P Loh participated in two panels on adolescent and young adult reading.

AWARDS



SIM JOO JIN

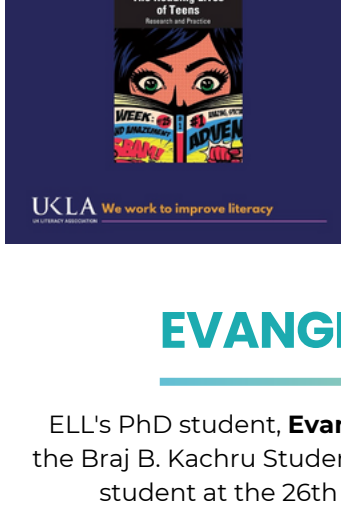
ELL's PhD student, **Sim Joo Jin**, was awarded the prestigious Christopher Brumfit Essay Prize 2024 for his essay "The GALL of it all: Grading and teaching in the age of GenAI-assisted language learning". Created to honour one of the founding editors of the journal *Language Teaching* by Cambridge University Press, the award recognises and showcases unique ideas regarding foreign language acquisition. Mr Sim will be nominated for a one-year period as a member of the Language Teaching Editorial Board, and his winning essay will be published in the journal.

Read his award-winning article here!



FARAH VIERRA

ELL's PhD student, **Farah Fazirah Vierra** received the Outstanding Paper Award for her work, "Redefining Literacy in a Post-Truth Age", at the 2025 International Postgraduate Roundtable and Research Forum cum Summer School (IPRRFSS) held at The Education University of Hong Kong. This award was established to recognise the originality of research papers presented at the conference.

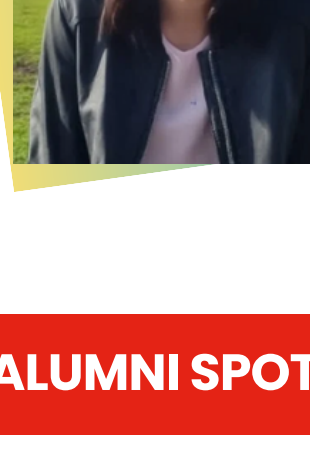


A/P LOH CHIN EE

A/P Loh Chin Ee won the 2025 UK Literacy Association Academic Book Award for her edited book, "The Reading Lives of Teens: Research and Practice," published by Routledge.

EVANGELINE MING'EN LIN

ELL's PhD student, **Evangeline Ming'En Lin**, was awarded the Bräij B. Kachru Student Award for the best paper from a student at the 26th International Association of World Englishes conference (IAWE26) at the Justus Liebig University of Giessen in Giessen, Germany, 25-27 July 2025. Evangeline's award-winning paper reported her doctoral research findings, and was entitled "Grassroots Attitudes towards World Englishes in Cambodia". A committee composed of IAWE officers and editorial board members of the journal *World Englishes* selected Evangeline's paper for this prize, along with that of another student presenter, with whom Evangeline shared the award.



ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

KISHAN KANNAN



Kishan with friends

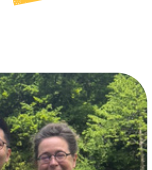
Kishan Kannan studied English Literature and English Language in NIE on the Teaching Scholars Programme (TSP) from 2016- 2020. He was the winner of the Lee Kuan Yew Gold Medal for Bachelor of Arts (Education) in 2020. He recently completed his Masters degree in Modern Literature and Culture at King's College, London, under an MOE scholarship. He notes how the time abroad allowed him "to work with and learn from people of vastly different backgrounds, experience novel modes of assessments (one of my modules had us write archival reports after visiting museums and archives, for instance), and constantly make links back to my own dispositions as a learner and teacher of Literature. I certainly enjoyed revisiting and honing my conceptions of literary theory, how it has evolved (as seen from a Western standpoint), and how it differs from, is challenged by and coalesces with my own training in NIE." His MA dissertation focused on gendered violence on women's bodies in war fiction.



FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

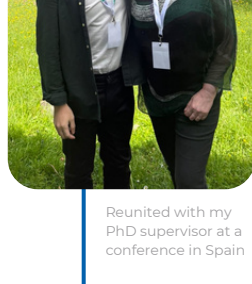
ASST/P JASPER SIM

Fifteen years ago, I was an undergraduate at NIE, studying English Language and Chemistry—a pairing that, on hindsight, made perfect sense. I was interested in studying accents: the way Singaporeans could sound so different from who we are before we even finished a sentence, and how our voices evolve and shift over a lifetime.



A decade later, when the chance came to pursue a PhD, I didn't hesitate. Today, my research mainly traces how children growing up in multilingual, multi-accented environments like Singapore come to master the sound systems of their language(s). I'm drawn to questions rooted in the everyday: How varied is the speech that children hear around them? How do caregivers' voices reflect their own linguistic experiences, and how do they adjust their speech as they move through different types of activities with their children? How does diversity shape a child's linguistic system, when does a caregiver's accent begin to become the child's own, and when does it stop?

What I love most about linguistics is how deeply it's entangled with people. My work takes me into homes filled with laughter and constant chatter, and into conference halls halfway across the world, where ideas cross borders as effortlessly as language does. Every project, every conversation, reminds me that speech, in all its variation, is what makes us human.



Reunited with my PhD supervisor at a conference in Spain



Reunited with my PhD lab mates at a conference here in Singapore

Breakfast in SG with my UK-based collaborators



With NIE ELL and ALC colleagues at a conference in KL

TEACHING HIGHLIGHTS

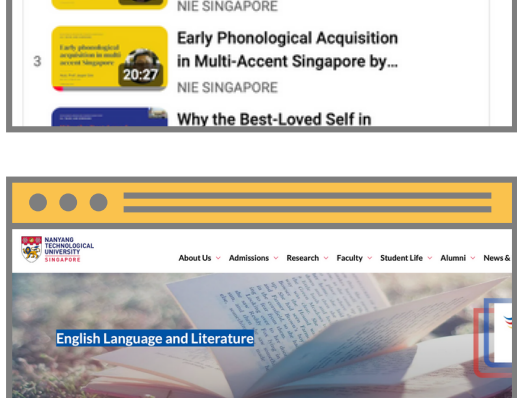


Dr Anitha with her students

Year 3 undergraduate students undertaking ELL's Educational Research course went on a field trip study in Madurai, India, to explore translanguaging practices and the use of English and Tamil in bilingual classrooms. Under the supervision of ELL faculty, **Dr Anitha Devi Pillai**, this hands-on experience allowed students to observe how language practices and pedagogy can be adapted to suit language learner needs across CBSE, IGCSE, and State Board classrooms. The field trip also encouraged the students to be reflective educators and researchers, equipping them to contribute meaningfully to Singapore's language education landscape while deepening their understanding of how translanguaging can support diverse learners in multilingual classrooms.

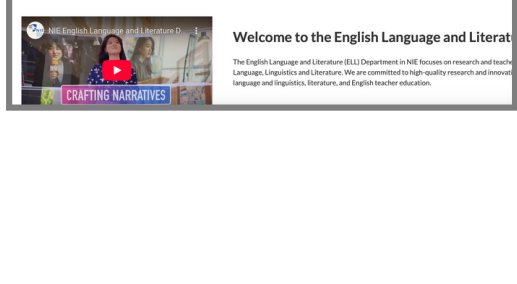


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