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UW ILP NEWSLETTER  
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## The Interdisciplinary Linguistics Program (ILP) at the University of Winnipeg (UW)

Born and raised in Singapore to a working-class family, one cannot help but pick up on the colloquial language that is spoken in day-to-day life. Like the country it originates from, Singapore English (Singlish) is multicultural. Born out of Bazaar Malay, Singlish comprises a mixture of the official languages of Singapore and their dialects. Due to the origins of the language, Singlish is extremely complex with unique morphological and phonological traits.

With Singlish being an oral language, learning it would require one to pay extra attention to the phonology of the language. There are certainly a lot of unique phonological features in Singlish, especially in the area of tone. There a



Every year in April, after the exam period, the Annual Student Colloquium is held, offering to students an opportunity to present the results of their research to the audience of their colleagues.

Please contact a Faculty member if you would like information on how to submit an abstract for the Annual Student Colloquium.



LING-1001-770 Introduction to Linguistics (ONLINE)	6:00 - 9:00 Tu/Th	TBA
LING-4004-001 Honours Thesis	2:30 - 5:15 F	TBA
LING-2002/ANTH-2402/ENGL-2805 Morphology	11:30 - 12:45 Tu/Th	I. Roksandic
LING-2103-001/ANTH-2404-001 Languages of the World	13:00 - 14:15 Tu/Th	I. Roksandic
LING-2104-050/ANTH-2407-050/IS-2407-050 Language Revitalization (ONLINE)	18:00 - 21:00	H. Souter
LING-2301-770/FREN-2202-770 Phonetics (lab required)	– M/W	L. Rodriguez
CLAS-2850-001 Classical Roots of Medical Terminology	– Tu/Th	TBA
PSYC-2620-001 Psycholinguistics	– Tu/Th	A. Desroches
LING-3103-050/ANTH-3408-050 Sociolinguistics	– Tu	S. Tulloch
LING-3105-780/DEV-3300-780 Speech & Language Disorders (ONLINE)	17:30 - 20:30 Th	A. Friedman
RHET-3139-001 Rhetorics of Visual Representation	14:30 - 15:45 MW	TBA
ENGL-3812-001 History of the English Language	11:30 - 12:45 Tu/Th	Z. Izydorczyk

\*Courses Subject to Change



Singapore skyline (public domain)

(Continued from page 1)

situations of fricatives and affricatives (Wee 270).

Whilst this process of constant deletion also occurs with words derived by the suffix *-ed*, it is important to note that consonant deletions of this sort do not occur when the stops are no longer in the final position through derivation like adding the affix *-ing* (Wee 271).

Because of how Singlish as a language was created, a large portion of its lexemes come from borrowing; incorporating Chinese dialect (particularly Hokkien) and Malay lexical and grammatical elements. Due to the correlation between how often a language is borrowed from and the population of said language speakers, most of the discourse particles found in Singlish are mainly borrowed from Cantonese and Hokkien (Ler 35). Singapore has about 10 particles of varying origins, they include lah [l̩], ah [a], what [wɔd], hah [h], lor [l], hor [h], nah [n], leh [le], ma [m], and meh [me] (Ler 36).

As mentioned, Singaporeans have a tendency to speak incredibly efficiently. Apart from the phonological methods mentioned prior, Singaporeans also make use of clipping and initialism to quicken their speech. No-

[d s w n z k m f m wæ w n] Where did this come from?

[j l n sp k ntju so t s f w d] What are you speaking in such proper and sophisticated English for?

tably, Singaporeans clip words like air-conditioner into air-con (Deterding 76-77). Furthermore, Singaporeans make extensive use of initialization, for instance calling the flats built by the Housing and Development Board, HDB [hej t d b]. It is also worthwhile to note that much of the initialism that occurs in Singapore is used in both day-to-day conversations and official governments (Deterding 78).

Throughout the years, there have been many debates regarding Singlish as a language and its existence in the official capacity. To many Singaporeans, Singlish represents unity, a language that connects the four predominant races together. To a government that was determined to make something out of the young country of Singapore, Singlish would do nothing but hinder Singapore's growth. During the National Day Speech of 1999 made by former Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong, Mr. Goh made clear that Gurmit Singh, a talented actor who played the character of Phua Chu Kang, a Singlish-speaking contractor, was not doing a service for Singaporeans who saw themselves represented on television. Evidently, Mr. Goh's remarks went a long way as the Speak Good English Movement (SGEM) was created the next year. Whilst the SGEM now states that they acknowledge the existence of Singlish and that there is a difference between Singlish, English, and broken English, it did not start out that way.



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Emily Fedora, Major in Bioanthropology

Hominid language is an interesting yet difficult topic to study due to the rapidly fading quality of spo-

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Butler, R. S. (2022). Are there differences in the cranial base of humans and apes? *Journal of Voice*.

Benninger *et al.* explore the theory that changes to the basicranium in Plio-Pleistocene hominids contributed to human language emergence by lowering the larynx. Midline skull base angles and pharynx muscle attachment measurements of modern humans to those of apes and hominids are compared, with modern humans presenting more acute angles than hominids and apes. The authors address that this study can not prove that basicranium changes lowered the larynx without studying soft-tissue structures, however, this study promotes that correlations between multiple vocal tract changes should be studied to gather a better understanding of how these changes occurred.

Gentilucci, M., & Corballis, M. C. (2006). From manual gesture to speech: a gradual transition. *Neuroscience and Biobehavioral Reviews*, 30

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Gentilucci and Corballis discuss the idea that the vocal-auditory channel of spoken language may have evolved from a manuo-visual system. This theory is supported in the following ways: iconic gestures have evolved into arbitrary symbols, the evolution to bipedalism in primates has allowed for hands to be used for gesturing, and that mirror neurons in the brain have evolved in primates to allow for one individual to replicate another s movement. It is then argued that with the evolution of vocal tract anatomy and the FOXP2 gene, there was a gradual shift from gesturing to vocalization in later human ancestors.

Hillert, D. G. (2015). On the evolving biology of language. *Frontiers in Psychology*, 6.

Hillert critiques the theory that human language occurred after a spontaneous mutation in *Homo Sapiens* and instead argues that human language resulted from multiple mutations over the span of 4 million years. The mutations of genes ARHGAP11B and SRGAP2 beginning in the genus *Pan*





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jected the idea that mimetic sound symbolism was the root of all language (Moor 313-314). With the decline in interest around the aforementioned

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Sasamoto and Jackson (2016) consider how onomatopoeia works on the level of signification and examine it as a potentially extralinguistic process. For these authors, onomatopoeia works by gesturing towards a relevant connotation via sound association, like how one may gesture with one's hands (42). This is opposed to a lexical word which would have a direct relationship from signifier to signified. This reframing is important for the authors as it explains how novel onomatopoeic utterances may be understood (39). All onomatopoeia may be ranked on a scale of lexicality. Novel onomatopoeia such as English *hjkrrh*, coined by Lewis Carroll for *Alice in Wonderland*, has no lexical o

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convergence of said languages, with the grammar, semantics, and isomorphisms practically experiencing a full replication. This is what has been witnessed between the Tariana and Tukanoan languages.

The Vaupés river basin is an important headwater of the Rio Negro, which itself is an offshoot of the Amazon river, and this is where we find a large multilingual language continuum (Aikhenvald, 2013; 2014). The Vaupés river basin inhabits regions of Colombia and Brazil, with language groups in these areas sharing in the bounty of several languages. East Tukanoan, Arawak, and Maku, belonging to three genetically independent groups, are spoken in the river basin (Aikhenvald, 2013). However, while these groups are not genetically linked to our knowledge, we do see a shared societal characteristic that is denoted by the language being spoken (not including the Maku). This multi-linguistic region of the Amazon follows the mechanism of linguistic exogamy, leading to an obligation towards multilingualism (Aikhenvald, 1996; 2013; 2014). Linguistic exogamy is a societal mechanism to increase genetic variation; to prevent the marrying of someone to whom one could be related (Aikhenvald, 1996; 2013; 2014). In this particular version of exogamy, one cannot marry someone who speaks the same language as them, and rather must marry someone who speaks a different language (Aikhenvald, 1996; 2013; 2014). As a result of this rule, one inherits their patrilineal language, the language of their father and uses the language as a means of identification (Aikhenvald, 1996; 2013; 2014). A Tariana elder named Leonardo Brito explains this mechanism as not marrying one's sister, as when someone speaks the same language as another, they are considered brothers (Aikhenvald, 2013). A common saying, in reference to linguistic exogamy, shared



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Considering the American native languages in South America, we see that there are approximately 11.2 million speakers (Lyovin 2017). However, not enough studies were carried out about them, and their genetic classification is poorly understood. In Brazil, the largest South American, the estimative is of 150 - 160 Indigenous languages, subdivided into some 19 linguistic families (Nikulin and Carvalho 256).

One of the larger language family in South America is the Tupian language family (Galucio 2015), consisting of 40 to 45 languages, classified into ten branches: Arikém, Awetí, Jurúna, Mawé, Mondé, Mundurukú, Puruborá, Ramaráma, Tuparí, and Tupí-Guaraní

There is not a definite agreement about the phylogenetic classification of the South American languages and families (Galucio et al 2015). Many researchers divide Tupí-Guaraní languages into two big groups: Tupí in eastern Brazil and Guaraní in Paraguay and Argentina (Britannica Encyclopedia, Tupí-Guaraní Languages). This would be just a very generalization about the Tupí-Guaraní languages, and

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26). According to Cardoso (2008 01), Kaiowá (also

vowels – have an oral and nasal variant defined by the spreading of the nasal feature;

- voiceless stops are always oral and are transparent to nasal harmony;
- voiced stops are inherently nasal and are pre-nasalized when an accented [-nasal] vowel occurs to its right;
- accented [+ nasal] vowels spread nasality in both directions (bidirectional);
- there are two nasal autosegment spreading rules – a rule of Deep Scattering and another Surface Scattering (Cardoso 2008 222-223).

On vowel phonemes, Cardoso (2008 242) highlights that Kaiowá (Guaraní) language has binary features [± nasal]. These are the vowels for the specific language: /a/, /e/, /i/, / /, /o/, /u/ and also /ã/, / /, / /, / /, /õ/, / /.

On consonant phonemes, Cardoso (2008) explains that the bilabial phoneme /p/, the alveolate one /t/, the velate one /k/, the lip-velate /kw/, and the glottal phoneme / / only occur in syllable formation/attack and they are "transparent to the scattering of nasality from vowel segments" (243).

An important feature in the Guaraní-Kaiowá Morphology, is that there are not definite or indefinite articles (Ramires and Vicente 2018 60). The authors

explain that sometimes this sort of language is called neutral or ambiguous due to its indefiniteness ,



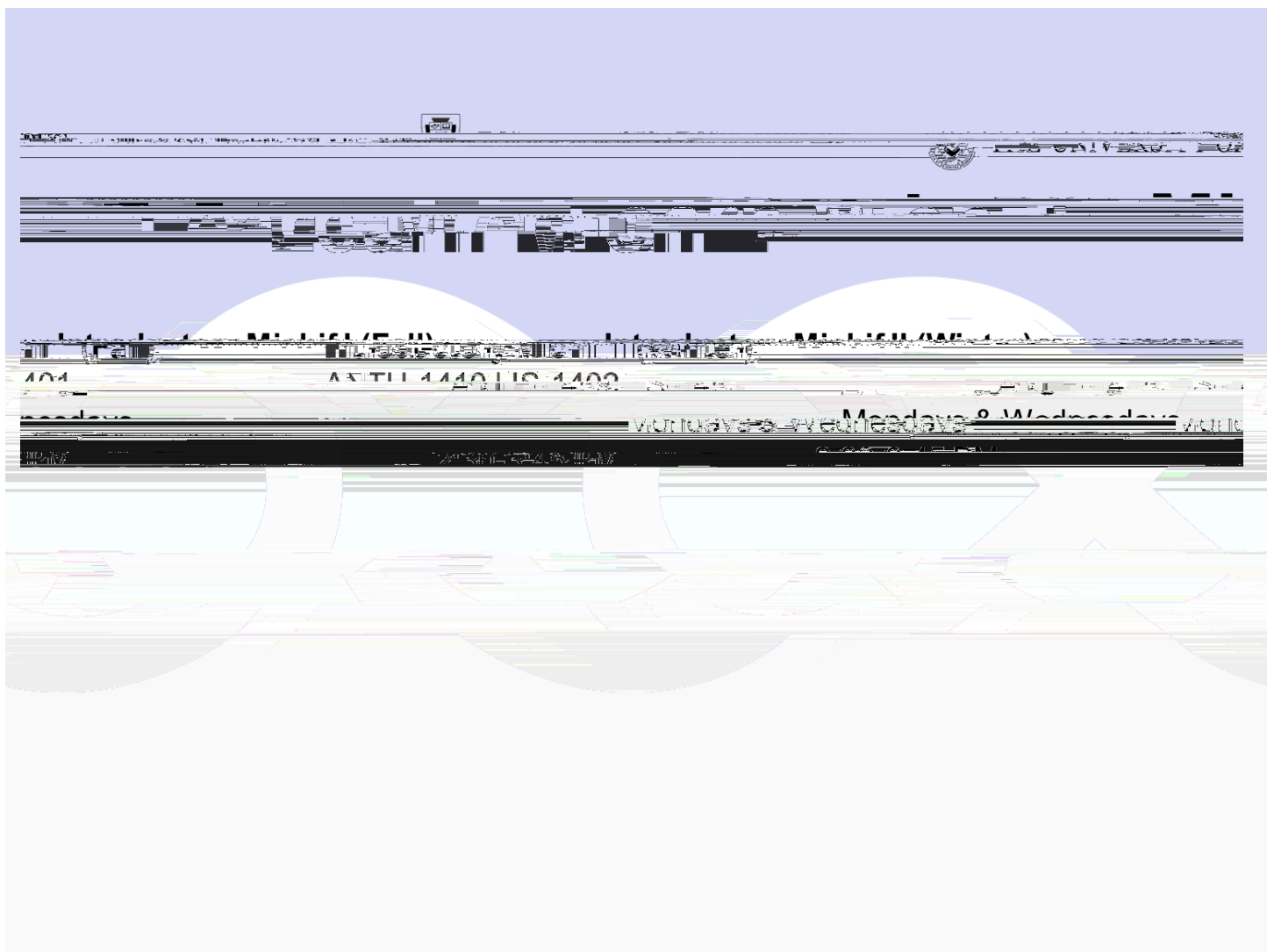
- personal prefixes connected to verbs;
- relational prefixes connected to dependent nouns, verbs or postpositions;
- casual suffixes connected to nouns;
- negative suffixes, "which do inflections for verbs and nouns according to the sentence predicates" (Carvalho 2018 18).

Nevertheless, morphological derivation is not so common in Guaraní-Kaiowá language, and its usage is "controlled by the speaker". Carvalho (2018 18-21) emphasizes that there are cases where specific expressions or other structures can be used in lieu of derivational morphemes. Carvalho presents three ways of morphological derivation in this language: internal derivation, for having new structures keeping the same word class from the original one; external derivation, where there are new structures but changing the word class from the original one; and mixed derivation, having both possibilities. Examples:

*i-porã-kwe* (beautiful+ *-kwe-(n)guer* derivational morpheme for 'retrospective state of existing') = what had been beautiful.

*o-mombo-a-kwe* (throw+

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The magic of the tongue is the most dangerous of all spells. (E. G. Bulwer-Lytton)

Language is an organism. To digest it one must be, paradoxically, swallowed up by it. (Shemarya Levin)

When I cannot see words curling like rings of smoke round me I am in darkness, I am nothing. (Virginia Woolf)

Language is a finding-place, not a hiding-place. (Jeanette Winterson)

Personally I think that grammar is a way to attain beauty. (Muriel Barbery)

Language has no legs but runs over thousands of miles. (Korean proverb)

Language is the main instrument of man s refusal to accept the world as it is. (George Steiner)

Man was given the gift of language in order to be able to hide his thoughts. (Talleyrand)

The limits of my language mean the limits of my world. (Ludwig Wittgenstein)

Language is a poor bull s-eye lantern wherewith to show off the vast cathedral of the world. (R. L. Stevenson)

Language is man s deadliest weapon. (Arthur Koestler)

Language is half-art, half-instinct. (Charles Darwin)

Language is a city to the building of which every human being brought a stone. (R. W.Emerson)

Language is the house of Being. In its home man dwells. (Martin Heidegger)



Pieter Brueghel the Elder (1526-1569), *The Tower of Babel*

