

## **Singlish as she is Spoke – Then and Now**

**Debbie G.E. HO**

Universiti Brunei Darussalam

debbie.guan@ubd.edu.bn

Motivated by the claim that Singlish has changed over the years, this paper seeks to explore the question of whether Singlish has indeed changed or evolved over the thirty years or more since it was first documented in the early 1980s. While the research literature on Singlish has been well-documented in terms of its pronunciation, vocabulary, grammar and speech patterns, there has so far been no study that looks into the extent to which it has changed, if so, over the years. Based on a small corpus of data taken from two periods – the 1980s and present day – a comparison of Singlish between these two periods is carried out. Specifically, the study focuses on two distinguishing Singlish features - the use of particles and the phenomenon of code-switching - and compares the frequency and types of both these features between Singlish in the 1980s and Singlish today. The data yielded a number of interesting findings, all of which indicate significant differences between Singlish in the 1980s and Singlish today.