

***You Know* in ASEAN ELF Discourse**

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The expression *you know* is oftentimes chided because a great majority believes that it manifests unclear thinking, lack of confidence, inadequate social skills and arrange of other undesirable speaker traits. The overall aim of this study is to investigate the uses of this expression among ASEAN nationals who use English as a lingua franca (ELF). The selected samples culled from the Asian Corpus of English revealed that the principal functions of *you know* are to mark explanations, lexical/content search and approximations. While “native speakers” of English similarly exhibited these functions, there were some considerable variations. The data also shows two emerging functions of *you know*: to signal references and evade frankness. The latter function relates to face-saving mechanisms typical of ASEAN culture.