

The Pronunciation Features of Malaysian English

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Abstract

It is essential to investigate Malaysian English (MalE) in order to provide a detailed description of its pronunciation features which vary from Standard English. This study describes variation in the characteristics of the consonant and vowel realizations of MalE by studying the speech of ten educated Chinese adult speakers of MalE. The description identifies features that are i) clearly local in origin, ii) influenced by British English (BrE) and iii) influenced by American English (AE). The results reveal that local languages and dialects have the greatest influence on the realizations of consonants and vowels in MalE, but there are also influences from AE. No features that attain the inclusion criterion could be specifically attributed to influence from BrE. The unique pronunciation features of MalE make it distinct from other varieties of English. The findings of this study highlight the importance of teachers' roles in dealing with MalE in the field of language teaching.

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