

Tongue-Tied

A Language Symposium



20
23



Project Director's Message

Same, same, but different. You've probably heard this phrase uttered in your day-to-day conversations to imply that two things may seem different but are actually the same, or vice versa – again up to the context of the conversation. A truly ambiguous phrase that could denote both negative and positive meanings, yet in a region of such diversity, I find it a rather apt description to acknowledge the nuanced differences in the languages spoken across the region.

To the untrained ear, many languages in the region may sound remarkably similar. For instance, the various 'Bahasa's like Bahasa Melayu and Bahasa Indonesia may sound similar such that one could mistake them for the same language, yet upon closer inspection one can derive various lexiconic differences between the two. We tend to see this phenomenon in languages of societies that lived close to each other, presumably due to a shared history or perhaps increased interaction. Yet in some cases, language variations may not even be of a language that originated from the region, rather a language that was adopted by the society, like how English is spoken across Singapore or the Philippines.

Amid rising tensions across ASEAN regions, diversity could be either a blessing or a curse. Yet the issue of diversity is never really about diversity but the lack of understanding of another's culture and heritage. With language as a key tenet of a culture, understanding the history of a language provides a glimpse into the history of a people and how they have evolved in time.

In this symposium, we aim to explore the linguistic histories of languages in the region and why they are the way that they sound today. With a panel of academics, professionals, and our student researchers, we hope to provide a platform for students and enthusiasts alike to learn more about lesser common languages while also asking questions to deepen their understanding of shared histories in Southeast Asia.



Date:
Time:
Location:

2 September 2023
2:00pm-5:30pm
FASS, NUS

Tongue-Tied is the second iteration of the NUS (National University of Singapore) Southeast Asian Society's flagship language symposium. Following an in-depth look into heritage languages last year, this year's language symposium examines how languages (or dialects or creoles) emerge from similar backgrounds and unique histories.

We are reaching out to all students, teachers, and members of the public from different backgrounds to join us, especially those who already have an interest in linguistics and the literary / art scenes.



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After participating in the symposium, we hope that participants and speakers will:

- Have a greater awareness and appreciation for the diversity and complexity of languages
- Better understand the connections between language and culture, especially of how cultural contexts and influences shape pronunciation, grammar, and vocabulary
- Be inspired to explore new languages and cultures, and embrace linguistic diversity
- Be able to interact with and engage in insightful discussion with other language enthusiasts and practitioners



Timeline of Events

Time	Programme
1400-1415	Welcome Address
1415-1445	Spoken English in Pageant Circles by Dr Gene Segarra Navera
1445-1515	Historical developments of Mainland Southeast Asian Languages by Dr Titima Suthiwan
1515-1530	Break & Networking
1530-1600	The Interrelations between Cham and Malay by Dr Mohamed Effendy Abdul Hamid
1600-1630	Student Researcher Presentation
1630-1700	Dialogue
1700-1715	Closing Address
1715-1730	Informal Discussion Time & Networking



Senior Lecturer

Dr. Gene Navera

*Dr Gene Segarra Navera is Deputy Director and Senior Lecturer at the Centre for English Language Communication of the National University of Singapore (NUS). He has over twenty years of experience in university teaching, research, and service. Gene has written and published papers on Philippine presidential rhetoric, critical discourse studies, and writing and speech communication pedagogies. He is the author of the book *The Rhetoric of PNoy: Image, Myth and Rhetorical Citizenship in Philippine Presidential Speeches* (2018). One of his current projects critically examines pageant fan culture and the spectacle of beauty in the Philippines.*

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Lecturer

Dr.
Mohamed Effendy
Abdul Hamid

Dr Mohamed Effendy Abdul Hamid is a lecturer at the Department Of Southeast Asian Studies, National University of Singapore. Trained as a historian, his primary research interests are in the areas of the scholarship of teaching and learning, Asian history, World History and Pre-colonial and Colonial Southeast Asian history of both Mainland and Maritime Southeast Asia. A second area of interest is study and preservation of ancient Southeast Asian manuscripts and Martial Art studies.

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Assoc. Professor



Dr.
Titima Suthiwan

Dr Titima Suthiwan holds a BA (Hons) in Thai language and literature from Chulalongkorn University, Thailand, and a PhD in Linguistics from University of Hawaii, U.S.A.. She was recruited by the Southeast Asian Studies Programme at NUS in 1998 to set up and coordinate the Thai language program, which is now a part of the Centre for Language Studies, and the world's largest and fastest growing Thai as a foreign language program. Prior to joining NUS, she taught in and coordinated Thai language program at various universities in the U.S., including University of Hawaii, University of Washington, Arizona State University, as well as University of Oregon where she also coordinated the Laos and Khmer language programs. Her publications are in the areas of Southeast Asian historical linguistics research, poetry, and translation.

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Registration

For Schools

For school registrations, kindly fill in the spreadsheet sent to you, and send it back to us by 24 August 2023. Further details will be emailed when registration closes.

For the General Public

For public registration, kindly fill in the form at the link attached in our broadcasting channels or social media pages. Registration closes 29 August 2023. Further details will be emailed when registration closes.

Contact Details

For further enquiries, feel free to reach out to us on the following platforms:

Instagram: @nusseasoc

Email: josephkhoo@u.nus.edu or e0564132@u.nus.edu



Department of Southeast Asian Studies
Faculty of Arts & Social Sciences

More Information

For more information on NUS Southeast Asian Society and NUS Department of Southeast Asian Studies, check out our Instagram pages @nusseasoc and @nus.seas

You may also head on down to our department's official website at <https://fass.nus.edu.sg/sea/>



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