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***Neither fish nor fowl? An examination of Singapore's policies towards non-standard language varieties and an assessment of its impact on language attitudes***

Although it is not uncommon for a country to have several official languages, the small island city-state of Singapore presents itself as a rather unique case study, particularly with its official policy of bilingualism. With economic pragmatism on the one hand and socio-cultural developments on the other, Singapore's language policies tend to result in language varieties considered non-standard being marginalised – this is especially so the rise of an English-based creole affectionally referred to by locals as Singlish. As a consequence, the linguistic landscape of the city-state has rather drastically changed within a short span of 50 years. This consequently presents a two-fold question: What are the implications of Singapore's language policies in terms of education policy and social mobility, and what wider impact does it have on the on-going quest of nation-building, especially for a relatively young country trying to forge a common identity amongst its multi-ethnic and multilingual citizens? Through the use of both quantitative and qualitative data, this presentation seeks to discuss these issues in an interactive manner, particularly with a non-Singaporean audience.