

# The Anglo-hybrids

None of the names that crowd this issue's cover was invented for the occasion. All these blends, from *Anglikaans* to *Yinglish*, have some degree of currency – usually of a facetious or fractious nature, and some are so common that they have become technical terms, as witness the use of *Singlish* and *Chinglish* in recent issues of this journal.

As is often the case, it was luck rather than intent that brought together in this issue three very different articles about hybridization: Sam Ahulu on English mixing with the languages of Ghana, Zahra Mustafa on Arabic and English running together in Jordanian university classes, and Susan Ridder on the growth of Dutchlish. In addition, we have reprinted the introduction to a new Collins dictionary of Scots which treats the auld leed itself as a distinct Germanic language, with the logical implication that the majority of Scots today speak a hybrid of the two great offspring of Anglo-Saxon – English and Scots.

Worldwide Anglo-hybridization is a subject that language scholars have yet to address in any detail. For example, there is still an argument in India over whether English is – or should be – an Indian language, and whether Indian English as such exists – or should exist. This debate is so intense that the massive on-going miscegenation of English and many subcontinental languages receives little attention. Yet the implication of this mixing for the future is profound. Indeed, the scale of such hybridization worldwide is staggering, and is likely to be a key geolinguistic issue in the early 21st century.

Such mixes may be enjoyed, mocked, or denounced by teachers, linguists, the media, and others, but regardless of praise or blame they steamroller on: the daily usage of tens of millions of people. Ironically, they are used as freely by purists – when they relax or forget themselves – as by those whom they condemn as betraying French or Hindi or whatever. Although all such hybrids are at present often unstable, the hybridity itself is stable enough, and already deeply rooted.

Tom McArthur

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