

Study on Chinese, Malay and Tamil Blogospheres in Singapore

Report

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Summary		7
Introduction		9
	arch Objectives	
Meth		
	Content Analysis	11
	Survey	13
The Chinese	e Language Blogosphere	15
Size	of the Chinese Language Blogosphere	15
Age o	of Blogs	15
Rece	ncy of Updates	16
Blogg	gers' Age	16
Blogg	gers' Gender	18
Blogg	gers' Marital Status	19
Blogg	gers' Professions	20
Blog	Types	21
Topic	s Blogged	22
Struc	tural Attributes	24
	Reach of Blogs	24
	Use of Archives and Badges	25
	Comment Function and Email Contact	27
	Use of Advertisements and Search Function	28
	Use of Calendar and Guest Book	31
	Links to Other Sites	33
Discu	ıssion	34
	Chinese Language Used in its Standard Form	34
	Preservation of the Chinese Language and Culture	35
	References to Mainstream Chinese Media	35
	Apolitical Nature of Chinese Language Blogs	36
	Blogging Alone	38
The Malay L	anguage Blogosphere	40
Size	of the Malay Language Blogosphere	40
Age o	of Blogs	40
Rece	ncy of Updates	41
Blogg	gers' Age	42
Blogg	gers' Gender	43
Blogg	gers' Marital Status	44

Bloggers' Professions	45
Blog Types and Topics Blogged	45
Structural Attributes	49
Reach of Blogs	49
Use of Archives and Badges	50
Comment Function and Email Contact	52
Use of Advertisements and Search Function	54
Use of Calendar and Guest Book	. 56
Links to Other Sites	58
Discussion	58
Formal Versus Colloquial Language	58
Code Switching	60
Displacement to Facebook	61
The Tamil Language Blogosphere	63
Size of the Tamil Language Blogosphere	63
Age of Blogs	63
Recency of Updates	64
Bloggers' Age	65
Bloggers' Gender	66
Bloggers' Marital Status	67
Bloggers' Professions	68
Blog Types	68
Topics Blogged	69
Structural Attributes	70
Reach of Blogs	70
Use of Archives and Badges	72
Comment Function and Email Contact	72
Use of Advertisements and Search Function	73
Use of Calendar and Guest Book	74
Links to Other Sites	74
Discussion	75
Size of the Tamil Blogosphere	75
Profiles of Bloggers	76
Singapore Tamil Bloggers Forum	78
Characteristics of Blog Content	78
Tamil Language Use	79
Recency of Updates	80
Survey Findings	81

Age at which Bloggers Started Blogging	81
Frequency of Blogging	
Reasons for Blogging	
Reasons for Blogging in the Dominant Language	84
Conclusion	86
References	89
Appendix A: List of Chinese Language Blogs	91
Appendix B: List of Malay Language Bogs	
Appendix C: List of Tamil Language Blogs	
Appendix D: Example of Personal-Type Blog fungtasia	
Appendix E: Example of K-Log Blog 咖啡山墓碑 (Bukit Brown Tomb)	
Appendix F: Example of Aggregator Blog 新国志 (New Country Magazine/	New
Governance)	
Appendix G: Example of Mixed Blog 安娜私房话 (Anna's Closet)	105
Appendix H: "Blog Melayu Syl" (Syl's Malay Blog)	
Appendix I: "Kahwin Khronicles" (Wedding Chronicles)	
Appendix J: Sujimy.com	
Appendix K: Welcome to RSR	
Appendix L: Abahyasir.com	
Appendix M: Rilek 1 Corner	
Appendix N: கமலகானம் (Kamala's Song)	
Appendix O: ரோஜாக் different taste (Rojak Different Taste)	113
Appendix P: சிங்கப்பூர் தமிழ்ப் பதிவர்கள் குழுமம்	
(Tamil Bloggers Forum)	114
Appendix Q: Tholkaappiyam/பதிவாளர்: மீனாட்சி சபாபதி, சிங்கப்பூர்	Г
(Tholkaappiyam/Blogger: Meenatychi Sabapathy, Singapore)	115
் பான்டியன் தமிழால், அழகிய பாண்டியன் தமிழுக்காக, தமிழால், தட	
(With Affection, Azhagiya Pandiyan For Tamil, By Tamil, With Tamil)	_
(With Allection, Azhagiya i andiyan i or ramii, by ramii, With ramii)	110
List of Figures:	
Figure 1: Age of Chinese Language Blogs	15
Figure 2: Recency of Updates in Chinese Language Blogs	16
Figure 3: Number of Chinese Language Bloggers by Age Group	
Figure 4: Gender of Chinese Language Bloggers	18
Figure 5: Marital Status of Chinese Language Bloggers	19

Figure 6: Professions of Chinese Language Bloggers	20
Figure 7: Types of Chinese Language Blogs	21
Figure 8: Topics in Chinese Language Blogs	22
Figure 9: Reach of Chinese Language Blogs	24
Figure 10: Use of Badges in Chinese Language Blogs	26
Figure 11: Use of Comment Function in Chinese Language Blogs	27
Figure 12: Chinese Language Blogs Containing Bloggers' Emails	28
Figure 13: Use of Commercial Advertisements in Chinese Language Blogs.	.29
Figure 14: Availability of Search Function in Chinese Language Blogs	30
Figure 15: Use of Calendar in Chinese Language Blogs	31
Figure 16: Use of Guest Book in Chinese Language Blogs	32
Figure 17: Chinese Language Blogs that Linked to Other Sites	33
Figure 18: Age of Malay Language Blogs	40
Figure 19: Recency of Updates in Malay Language Blogs	41
Figure 20: Number of Malay Language Bloggers by Age Group	42
Figure 21: Gender of Malay Language Bloggers	43
Figure 22: Marital Status of Malay Language Bloggers	44
Figure 23: Professions of Malay Language Bloggers	45
Figure 24: Types of Malay Language Blogs	46
Figure 25: Topics in Malay Language Blogs	
Figure 26: Reach of Malay Language Blogs	
Figure 27: Use of Archives in Malay Language Blogs	
Figure 28: Use of Badges in Malay Language Blogs	
Figure 29: Use of Comment Function in Malay Language Blogs	
Figure 30: Malay Language Blogs Containing Bloggers' Emails	
Figure 31: Use of Commercial Advertisements in Malay Language Blogs	
Figure 32: Availability of Search Function in Malay Language Blogs	
Figure 33: Use of Calendar in Malay Language Blogs	
Figure 34: Use of Guest Book in Malay Language Blogs	
Figure 35: Malay Language Blogs that Linked to Other Sites	
Figure 36: Age of Tamil Language Blogs	
Figure 37: Recency of Updates in Tamil Language Blogs	
Figure 38: Disclosure of Age of Tamil Language Bloggers	
Figure 39: Gender of Tamil Language Bloggers	
Figure 40: Marital Status of Tamil Language Bloggers	
Figure 41: Professions of Tamil Language Bloggers	68
Figure 42: Types of Tamil Language Blogs	
Figure 43: Topics in Tamil Language Blogs	
Figure 44: Reach of Tamil Language Blogs	
Figure 45: Use of Badges in Tamil Language Blogs	72

Figure 46: Tamil Language Blogs Containing Bloggers' Emails		73
Figure 47: Availability of Search Function in Tamil Language Blogs	s	74
Figure 48: Tamil Language Blogs that Linked to Other Sites		75
Figure 49: Age at which Bloggers Started Blogging		82
Figure 50: Frequency of Blogging		83
Figure 51: Motivations for Blogging		84
Figure 52: Reasons for Blogging in the Dominant Language		85

SUMMARY

Discussions on what people do online and their implications for the society permeate state, media and public discourses. Existing research on blogs focuses on those written in the English language. Little attention has been given to non-English language blogs despite Singapore's multiculturalism and the state's bilingual language policy¹, which requires all students to study English and a mother tongue language.

A first in Singapore, this study seeks to examine Chinese, Malay and Tamil language blogospheres. By examining the size of these three blogospheres; who the bloggers are; the issues they blog about; their reach and the structural attributes of their blogs, this study provides an empirical snapshot of non-English language blogs in their current form.

Through keywords searches and snowballing the sample, we identify blogs that are written in the three mother tongue languages and are related to Singapore. The blogs that met the study's criteria comprise 201 Chinese language blogs, 30 Malay language blogs and 20 Tamil language bloggers. We used content analysis to determine the characteristics of these blogs and augmented our analysis with an online survey and insights shared by participants at an IPS seminar held on 2 April 2014.

The study shows that the online space is a richly diverse one; there is a wide variation in terms of who blogs, what they blog about and how they use their mother tongue languages. Locals make up the majority in the Chinese and Malay language blogospheres while long-term non-Singapore-born residents of Singapore dominate the Tamil language blogosphere.

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^{1.} The bilingual policy requires students to take English as the first language and their designated mother tongue language as a second language. A mother tongue is the language of an ethnic group. There are three official mother tongues in Singapore: Chinese for the Chinese, Bahasa Melayu for the Malays and Tamil for the Indians. Non-Tamil Indians have the option of choosing a non-Tamil Indian Language such as Bengali, Gujarati, Hindi, Punjabi or Urdu.

While both Chinese and Malay language blogospheres are dominated by personal-type blogs, most Tamil blogs are mixed-type blogs. Personal experiences dominate both the Chinese and Malay language blogospheres. Although a small minority of Chinese language bloggers discuss politics, political discourse in the Malay language blogosphere has shifted to Facebook. Content in the Tamil language blogosphere focuses on current affairs and politics related mostly to India.

The study also found some differences in terms of language use. While Chinese and Tamil language bloggers write using the formal register that adheres strictly to the grammar in written form, the language in Malay language blogs is mostly informal.

The survey also shed some insights into the reasons why bloggers blog and do so in their mother tongue languages. Most bloggers write to share their experiences with others, record their activities, to provide commentaries and to express themselves. Some of the main reasons given for blogging in their mother tongues include the competency factor, a desire to preserve those languages and to communicate more effectively with their communities.

The study serves as a record for purposes of comparison with future stages in the evolution of non-English language blogs, and provides a starting point for further research on their significance.

INTRODUCTION

In Singapore, public discourse surrounding blogs focuses on blogs written in English, especially socio-political blogs. Several of these socio-political blogs have gained many "eyeballs" and are well known for their critiques of the government and its policies.

Besides socio-political blogs, there is a smorgasbord of non-political blogs that are also written in English, addressing topics that run the gamut of lifestyle, beauty, art, entertainment, food, travel and photography. In addition to being outlets for self-expression, blogs reach out to different communities of interest and provide spaces for like-minded people to connect with one another. Some of these blogs also play an economic role by stimulating consumer interest, encouraging transactions, and building customer loyalty for brands and products.

While much of the current debate focuses on English language blogs and their impact on Singapore's society, scant attention has been given to non-English language blogs, particularly those written in the three official mother tongue languages (OMTLs): Chinese, Malay and Tamil. To date, little is known about Chinese, Malay and Tamil language blogs, the characteristics of these three blogospheres, and their societal and cultural implications.

Research Objectives

Academic research on the local blogospheres follows these main strands: the impact of political blogs on public discourse and political participation (Ibrahim, 2009; Kluver, 2007; Skoric & Ng, 2009; Soon & Cho, 2014; Soon & Kluver, 2014); use of blogs for teaching and learning (Jyh, 2009; Sim, 2008; Tan & Tan, 2010; Ubaidullah, Mahadi & Lee, 2013); and use of blogs by diasporas residing in Singapore (He, 2007; Huang, 2009).

However, there is a paucity of analysis on blogs written in Chinese, Malay and Tamil. A first in Singapore, this study seeks to answer the following questions:

- 1. What is the number of Chinese, Malay and Tamil language blogs in the Singapore blogosphere?
- 2. Who are the Chinese, Malay and Tamil language bloggers?
- 3. What do they blog about?
- 4. What is the reach of their blogs?
- 5. What are the structural attributes of blogs written in Chinese, Malay and Tamil?

In so doing, this study provides an empirical snapshot of non-English language blogs in their current form. The study will serve as a record for purposes of comparison with future stages in the evolution of non-English language blogs, and provide a starting point for further research on their significance and contributions.

Method

The sample for this study was collected in two stages: keyword searches via commercial search engines and by snowballing the sample. Keyword searches² were conducted using Google in the three OMTLs (i.e., Google Chinese, Google Bahasa Melayu and Google Tamil), and Google English and Yahoo! to locate "seed blogs"³. The second phase of sample collection was to "snowball" the population, which involved tracing hyperlinks from each seed blog to other blogs. We repeated the snowballing process till we reached sample saturation (i.e., when we stopped finding new blogs). As we are interested in "active" blogs, blogs that have not been updated within a year prior

^{2.} Researchers conducted keyword searches in English and in the mother tongue languages for respective blogospheres. Search terms such as "Singapore Chinese/Tamil/Malay blogs", "Singapore Chinese/Tamil/Malay websites" and "Singapore blogs" were used.

^{3. &}quot;Seed blogs" are those that emerged from keyword searches and they form the first tier of the sample.

to data collection were excluded. We collected the sample from November 2013 to January 2014 (see Appendices A, B and C for the sample).

As we are studying blogs related to Singapore only, we used the following criteria to identify relevant blogs:

- At least 50% of the blog content is written in the Chinese, Malay or Tamil language;
- ii. The blogs are related to Singapore, meaning they are either started by Singaporeans, Singapore-based bloggers or bloggers located out of Singapore blogging on Singapore-related issues;
- iii. Where the nationality or residency of bloggers is unknown, at least 50% of the blog content must be related to Singapore.

We used content analysis to analyse the data. In addition to the study of the content in the blogs, we also conducted a survey among bloggers to augment our understanding of the three blogospheres.

Content Analysis

We used content analysis to determine the following:

- Size of Chinese, Malay and Tamil language blogospheres: The two-staged process described earlier enabled us to determine the number of bloggers who blog in Chinese, Malay and Tamil.
- ii. Who the Chinese, Malay and Tamil language bloggers are: We determined their age, gender, marital status and professions by studying their profile pages or, if these are not available, by drawing inferences from their blog

content (e.g., text and images). In some cases, however, there was no information and no inferences were possible.

- iii. Blogging patterns: We used the coding scheme developed by Herring, Scheidt, Bonus & Wright (2004) and analysed:
 - a. Recency of update (date of the most recent post)
 - b. Interval of update (length of time between the most recent and the previous entry)
 - c. Age of blog (the length of time from the first blog post)

iv. Blog type⁴:

- a. Personal-type blogs: The blogs serve as bloggers' online diaries where bloggers narrate and reflect on their personal life and experiences, e.g., school, work, family life and leisure.
- b. K-logs (or knowledge blogs): Knowledge management systems or repositories where the information or references blogged about are specific to the domain, e.g., food, history and weddings.
- c. Aggregators: Blogs that collate information from multiple online sources.

12

^{4.} We used categories developed by Herring, Scheidt, Bonus & Wright (2004) who conducted a baseline analysis of 203 randomly selected blogs and added aggregators (a new blog type which emerged after 2004) to the list.

- d. Filter blogs: Blogs that develop narratives or discussions based on commentaries of selected hyperlinks to other sites (e.g., other blogs, social media and YouTube).
- e. Mixed-type blogs: These bear the characteristics of two or more of the blog types mentioned above.
- v. Issues blogged about: We adopted categories of topics ("politics", "social issues" and "sports", etc.) from existing studies (Trammell, Tarkowski, Hofmokl & Sapp, 2006; Yu, 2007). To determine the topics bloggers write about, we studied the blog posts, used the frequency count method and recorded all the topics a blogger blogs on.
- vi. Reach of blog: This was measured by the number of visitors, hits and page views listed on the blog.
- vii. Structural attributes of blog: We analysed the home page of each blog for the presence of certain commonly seen features such as archives, badges, comment and email functions, commercial advertisements, search function, calendar, guest book and the blog's links to other sites.

Survey

We conducted an online survey from 24 February to 31 March 2014 to collect information on bloggers' blogging experiences, motivations and reasons for blogging in the OMTLs. Invitations were sent via email to bloggers who published their email contacts on their blogs. Where email contacts are not available, we left invitations in the comment section on their blogs. Invitations were sent to all bloggers identified through the sampling method described earlier.

This report details findings from the content analysis of blogs in each language, followed by the survey findings. Our discussion of the findings is supplemented with insights shared by participants at the IPS seminar (held on 2 April 2014)⁵.

^{5.} IPS organised a seminar on 2 April 2014 to present findings of the study. The seminar was attended by over 50 participants, comprising bloggers, policymakers, educators, academics, representatives from non-governmental and community organisations, and members of the media.

THE CHINESE LANGUAGE BLOGOSPHERE

Size of the Chinese Language Blogosphere

Through keyword searches and snowballing, we found a total of 201 Chinese language blogs that met our criteria.

Age of Blogs⁶

The mean age of the 201 blogs was five years; 50% of the blogs had been active for two to six years, while 33% the blogs were six to 10 years old (see Figure 1).

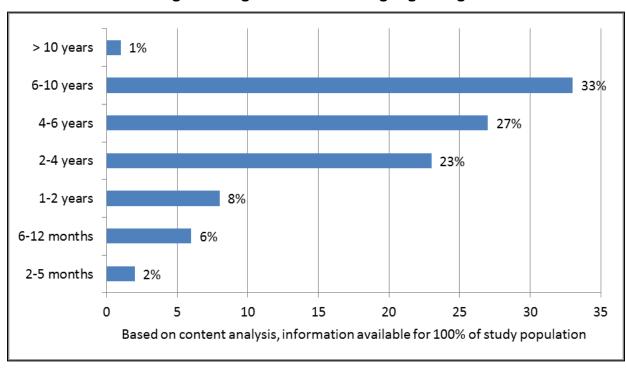


Figure 1: Age of Chinese Language Blogs

The youngest blog was two months old and the oldest blog was almost 31 years old. One possible explanation for the latter's long presence (given that blog technology emerged only in the mid-1990s) is the blogger had started writing about his experiences

^{6.} Regarding overlapping categories, blogs that were older than one year, two years, four years, six years and 10 years were grouped under "1–2 years", "2–4 years", "4–6 years", "6–10 years" and "over 10 years", respectively.

on another platform and migrated to the blogging platform when the latter was developed.

Recency of Updates

Chinese language blogs had medium activity level, with nearly half (48%) that were updated within the last three months (see Figure 2 for a breakdown of the most recent updates).

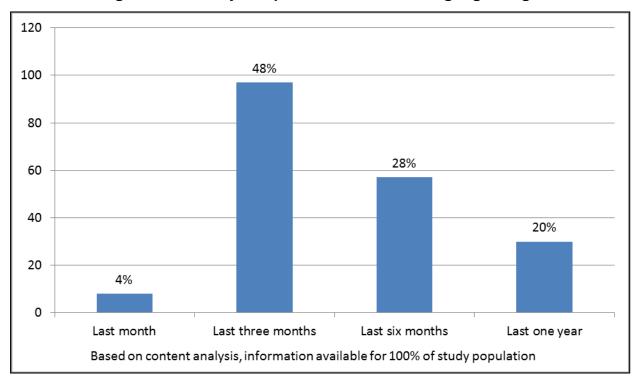


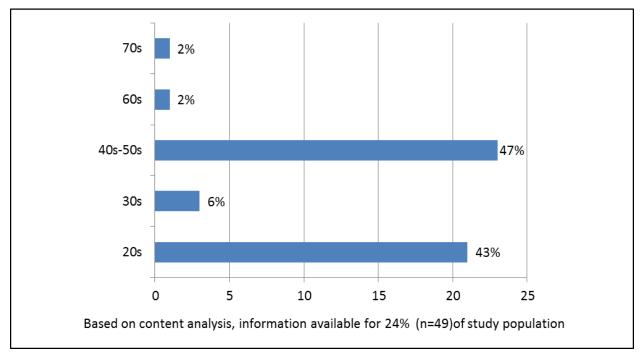
Figure 2: Recency of Updates in Chinese Language Blogs

Bloggers' Age

Based on content analysis, we were able to categorise the age of the bloggers for 49 out of 201 blogs. Of this group, 43% were in their 20s and 47% were in their 40s to 50s⁷ (see Figure 3).

^{7.} The categories were developed ground-up by researchers, with "40s–50s" being used in the general sense representing the middle-aged.





Bloggers' Gender

Out of the 137 blogs where researchers were able to determine the bloggers' gender, 42% were male and 58% were female (see Figure 4).

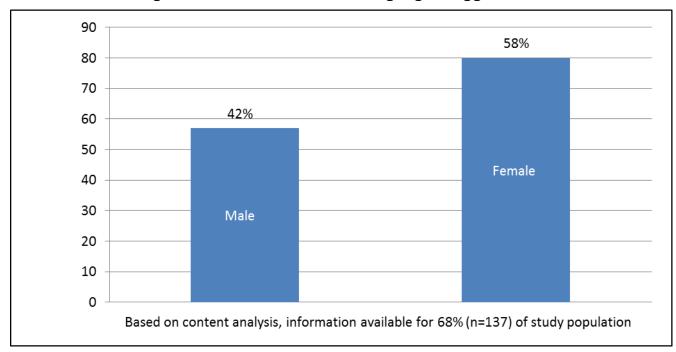


Figure 4: Gender of Chinese Language Bloggers

Bloggers' Marital Status

Information on the bloggers' marital status was either stated in or deducible from 30 of the blogs. The majority (97%) were married (see Figure 5).

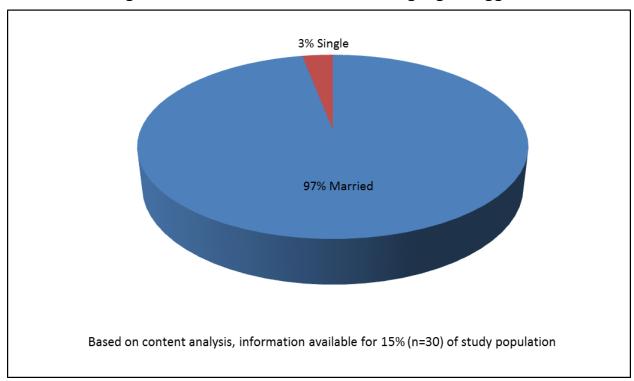


Figure 5: Marital Status of Chinese Language Bloggers

Bloggers' Professions

Information on bloggers' professions was either stated in or deducible from 40 blogs. The three largest occupational groups were media (including journalists and radio deejays at 25%); creative industries (such as graphic designers and illustrators at 20%); and education (consisting of academics, researchers and teachers at 14%; see Figure 6). The professional profiles of the bloggers show that the Chinese language formed an integral part of their professional and personal lives. Among the bloggers were radio presenters, journalists from newspapers, magazines and television, undergraduates majoring in Chinese studies, and teachers and academics doing research pertaining to the Chinese language, literature and culture.

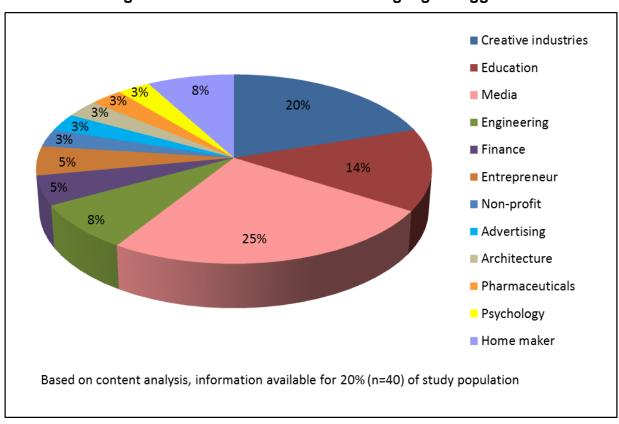


Figure 6: Professions of Chinese Language Bloggers

Blog Types

Chinese language blogs consist of personal-type blogs, k-logs, aggregators and mixed-type blogs.

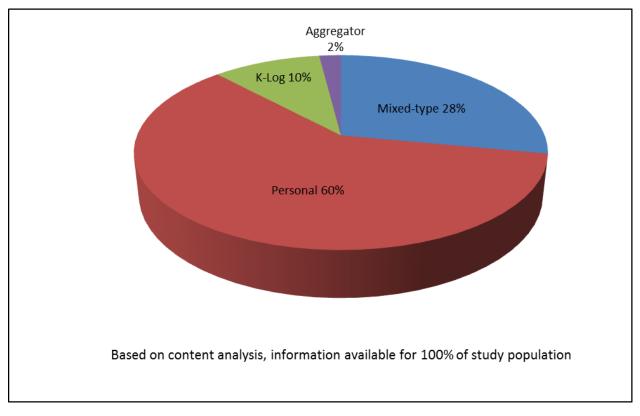


Figure 7: Types of Chinese Language Blogs

The majority (60%) were personal-type blogs that served as bloggers' online diaries, e.g., "fungtasia" in Appendix D (see Figure 7). Around 10% of the blogs were k-logs. Some examples of k-logs include blogs that focused on food, Chinese history and the Bukit Brown cemetery (e.g., "Bukit Brown Tomb" in Appendix E). Only 2% were aggregators that collated news articles on politics, the economy and culture in Singapore (e.g., "New Country Magazine/New Governance" in Appendix F). Filter blogs where bloggers developed narratives or discussions based on commentaries of selected hyperlinks to other sites did not exist in the Chinese language blogosphere.

The remaining 28% of the blogs are mixed-type blogs, which had the characteristics of two or more of the blog types mentioned above. Some of these mixed-type blogs were

personal-type blogs and k-logs that included commentaries based in hyperlinks to news websites and YouTube videos (e.g., "Anna's Closet" in Appendix G).

Topics Blogged

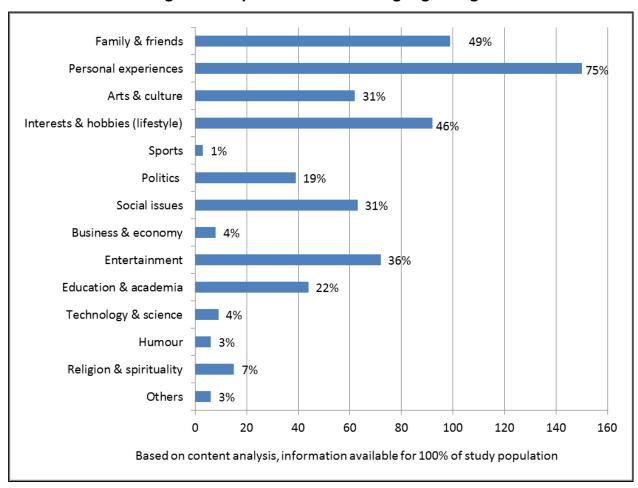


Figure 8: Topics in Chinese Language Blogs

The most common topic is "personal experiences", with 75% of Chinese language blogs containing such entries (see Figure 8). Some of these experiences included travelling overseas or dining at a popular restaurant.

Bloggers' friends and family members also featured prominently in their blog entries, evident in the blog posts and photographs taken of their family outings or at gatherings with former classmates.

The third most common topic was "interests and hobbies" (46% of the blogs) and some examples of the interests and hobbies included food, photography and collecting phone cards. Another commonly blogged topic is "entertainment", with 36% of the blogs discussing and reviewing television programmes, films and music videos.

Two categories of topics merit some discussion. When it came to arts and culture, 31% had posts related to the topic. This category includes Chinese language, culture and traditions. A dominant theme that emerged from this category is the concern over declining standards of Chinese as a mother tongue language. Some bloggers cautioned against implementing any policy of making it easier to learn Mandarin in schools, which they feared might lower its standard. Other bloggers called for greater relaxation in the use of Chinese dialects in mainstream media.

A small group of bloggers (19%) provided occasional commentaries on certain policies or political issues, ranging from media regulation to transportation policies. For example, some bloggers questioned the rationale behind the move to license online news websites while others suggested that traffic congestions could have been alleviated with better planning.

The study also established that "politics" as blogged about in the local Chinese language blogosphere was not limited to Singapore politics. Since the study includes foreigners working or studying in Singapore, there have been instances of Malaysians blogging about political campaigns and elections in Malaysia. These Malaysian Chinese bloggers did not blog about Singapore politics.

Structural Attributes

Reach of Blogs

Chinese language bloggers used three methods to track the reach or popularity of their blogs: visitors, hits or page views⁸ (20%, 18% and 24%, respectively). Of the 41 blogs that counted the number of visitors, each received an average of 155,200 visitors (see Figure 9). Thirty-six blogs measured the number of hits, with the average at about 237,400 hits. Finally, only 10 blogs tracked the number of page views received and each blog had an average of about 88,300 page views.

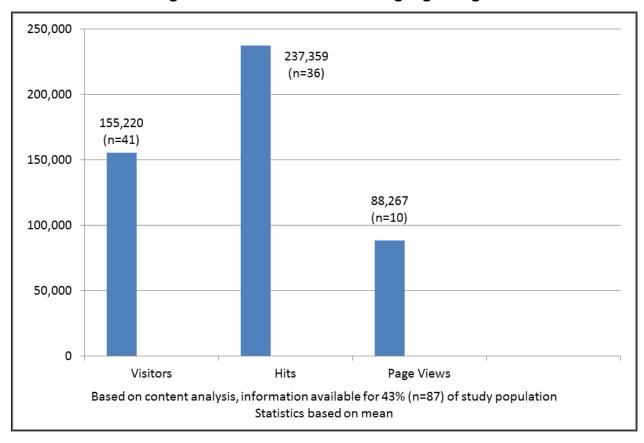


Figure 9: Reach of Chinese Language Blogs

^{8.} Based on the definitions from Open Tracker, visitors are measured by the number of browsers which accept a cookie, and since only humans use browsers, visitors here refer to the people who visit the sites. Hits are files sent to a browser by a web server. The number of page views a site receives is the number of times visitors view a single page on the site.

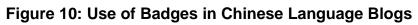
The "Sally top three blogs in terms of page views are Just (http://sallyjuslin.blogspot.sg/), "Wang Zuo Sen" (http://nvms.blogspot.sg/) and "5am Bento" (http://5ambento.blogspot.sg/). A common topic in these three blogs was food and recipes. In terms of visitors count, the top three blogs were "Wen Dao Shi" (http://cass-tsl.blogspot.sg/), "Chimology" (http://blog.omy.sg/chimkang/) and "Kinigu" (http://kiniqu.blogspot.sg/). The topics blogged about were personal, ranging from food, recipes, personal musings and travel.

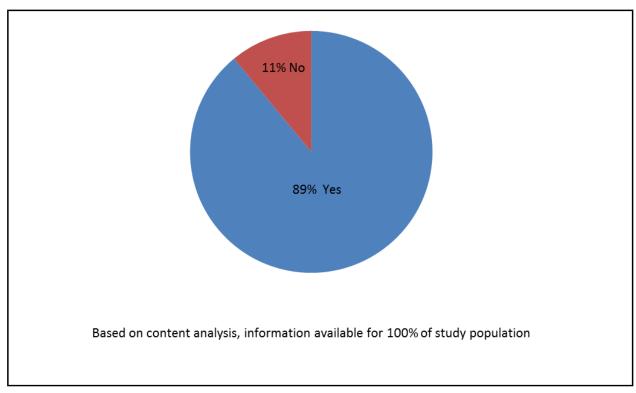
Use of Archives and Badges

All 201 blogs archived their blog posts in a chronological manner, by the year and month in which a blog post has been published.

Most blogs carry badges⁹ (89%; see Figure 10). The most common badges were those related to blogging awards such as the Singapore Blog Awards; bloggers who featured these badges were usually nominees or recipients of such awards. Other examples of badges included those of the Liverpool Football Club and Bento Bloggers Network. Besides a badge that featured a ribbon symbol of HIV/AIDS, there were no indications of Singapore's Chinese language bloggers' affiliations or support for campaigns and movements such as Repeal 377A, Pink Dot Sg or Save Bukit Brown.

^{9.} Badges are visual representations of a blogger's affiliation with a group, association or cause (e.g., an icon or logo).





Comment Function and Email Contact

When it came to communicating with their readers, 96% of bloggers (193 bloggers) allowed readers to post comments on their blog entries (see Figure 11). This perhaps reflects the bloggers' desire to gather feedback from their readers.

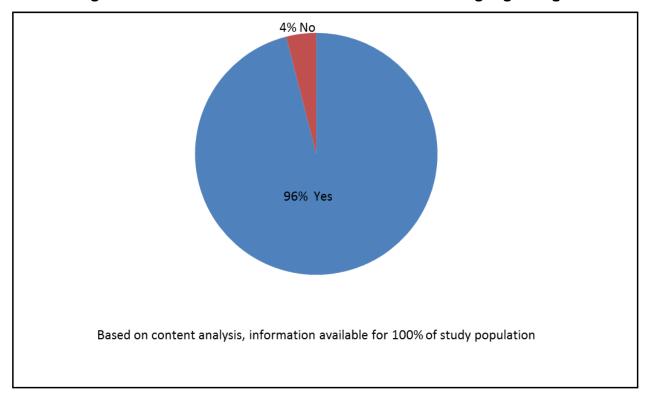


Figure 11: Use of Comment Function in Chinese Language Blogs

However, only 25% (50 blogs), contained links to an email address, which suggests the bloggers' preference for privacy (see Figure 12).

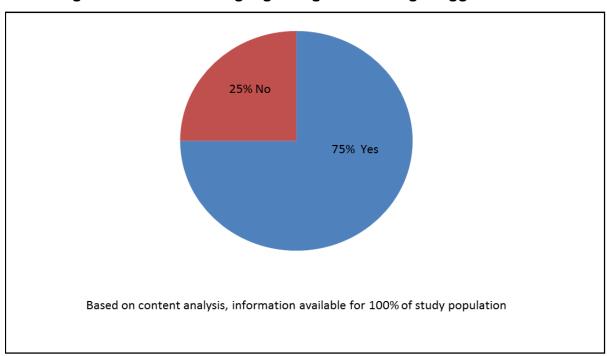
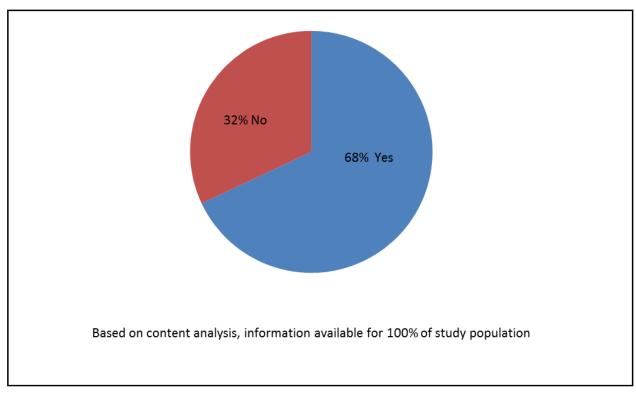


Figure 12: Chinese Language Blogs Containing Bloggers' Emails

Use of Advertisements and Search Function

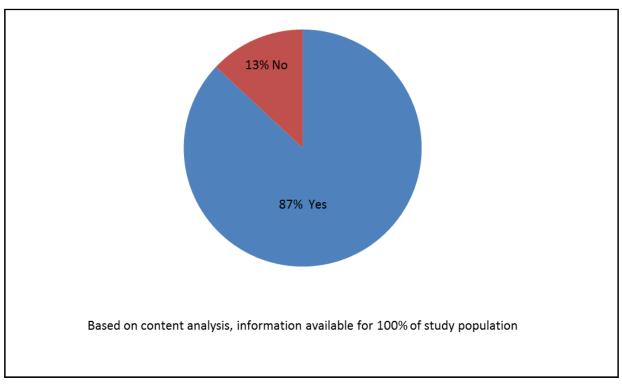
Majority of the blogs (68%) carried commercial advertisement banners, such as those for lifestyle and beauty products (see Figure 13). A small number (5%) carried advertisements under the Nuffnang banner, which is a blog advertising community for the Asia-Pacific region.





Furthermore, 87% of the blogs (175 blogs) had a search function (see Figure 14).





Use of Calendar and Guest Book

The majority of bloggers (78%) used the calendar function but only 1% (2 bloggers) used the guest book function (see Figures 15 and 16).

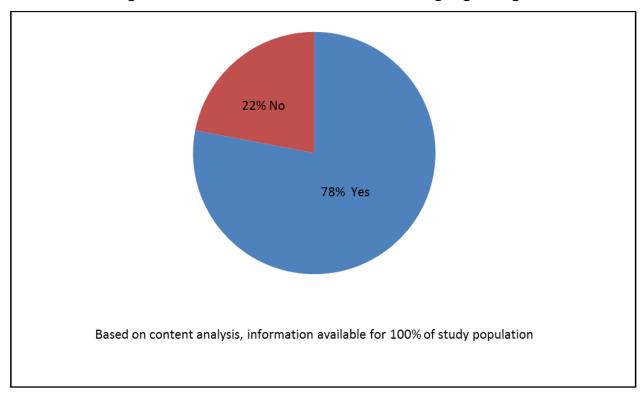
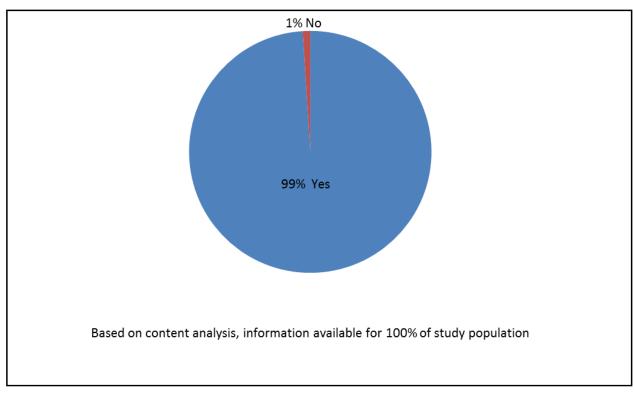


Figure 15: Use of Calendar in Chinese Language Blogs





Links to Other Sites

We analysed bloggers' hyperlinking patterns to ascertain the types of networks the bloggers had in cyberspace. Over half (107 blogs) linked to other blogs on their blog rolls, with an average of 23 links to other blogs (see Figure 17).

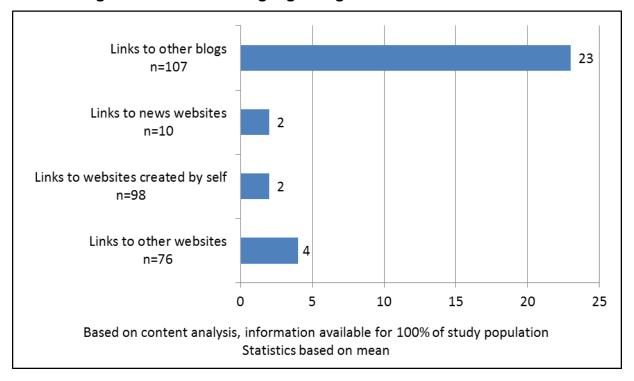


Figure 17: Chinese Language Blogs that Linked to Other Sites

On the whole, bloggers were more likely to link with other blogs if the linked blogs were also written in Chinese, or if they covered similar topics. Some bloggers also included links to other blogs that were maintained by individuals that they were personally acquainted with. For example, a blogger studying at the National University of Singapore linked to other blogs by students from the same university.

Of the 10 blogs with links to news websites, each linked to two news websites on average. Besides the websites of the Chinese newspapers *Lianhe Zaobao* and *MyPaper*, Google News was another popular linked news website. Only one blog linked to The Singapore Daily, a news aggregator of alternative news on Singapore. None of

the 10 blogs were linked to the websites of the English language newspapers such as *The Straits Times*.

Nearly half (98 blogs) linked to websites and blogs created by the same blog owners. Some of these linked blogs were created earlier by the owner and have since been discontinued. On average, each of the blogs was linked to two other blogs or websites that were created by the same blogger.

Around 38% (76 blogs) also had links to other websites. Similarity in content or focus could be a possible reason for these links. For example, a blog with photographs documenting a blogger's travels had links to a website that imparted tips on photography. Similarly, food blogs featured links to websites related to nutrition and restaurant guides. On average, each of the 76 blogs has links to four other websites.

Discussion

Chinese Language Used in its Standard Form

Most of the blogs were written in standard Chinese (using the Simplified Chinese script) as taught in schools and used in the Chinese language media in Singapore. There is little mixing of languages in the writing. Different languages are used for different blog entries in bilingual blogs where bloggers wrote in both Chinese and English, i.e., a blog entry written entirely in English and another blog entry written completely in Chinese. English words were used to reference proper nouns such as names of specific places or particular persons (e.g., Lee Kuan Yew's book *One Man's View of the World*, "PSI" for the Pollution Standard Index and "Marina Bay Sands").

The bloggers also demonstrated a good repertoire of language usage, with some who wrote in simple Chinese while others demonstrated an extensive vocabulary and used idiomatic language and Chinese proverbs to express their ideas and opinions. "Quah Bak Lim" (http://kuabaklim.blogspot.sg/) was one such example.

Preservation of the Chinese Language and Culture

There is an indication that Chinese language bloggers' concerns over the declining standards of the Chinese language and the disappearance of Chinese dialects serve as an impetus for them to write in Mandarin so as to preserve the language. For example, "She Hu" (http://blog.omy.sg/shehu/) was set up by a group of Singaporeans — some based in the United States — who are passionate about the Chinese language. Their blog posts consisted of Chinese riddles, reflecting their espoused aim of promoting the learning of Chinese among the younger generation in a fun manner. Similarly, "Grandma Grandpa Story" (http://blog.omy.sg/ahgongahmagoodoldtimes/) was the brainchild of a group of Ngee Ann Polytechnic students and is dedicated to raising awareness of the Chinese storytelling tradition among the younger generation. The blogs' focus on the younger generation as the key audience suggests that these bloggers believe in the importance of transmitting the Chinese language and culture to the future generations.

For the majority of bloggers whose blogs were of the personal-type blogs and not dedicated solely to the preservation of the Chinese language and culture, their writing on these issues was sporadic and largely shaped by external events happening in Singapore. For instance, a blogger who is also a local media personality wrote that the onus was on parents and not the government to teach Chinese dialects to the young. His blog post responded to a comment made by Education Minister Heng Swee Keat (http://blog.omy.sg/dannyyeo/page/22). Likewise, the discussion on Chinese dialects resurfaced with the screening of the local film *The Girl in Pinafore* which featured a song that contains some lyrics in Chinese dialects and was previously banned on local radio (http://lanyu.wordpress.com/2014/02/).

References to Mainstream Chinese Media

Chinese language blogs that linked to Chinese news websites featured links to *Lianhe Zaobao* and *MyPaper*. They posted scanned images of newspaper articles or included hyperlinks to news websites, and structured commentaries around the topics featured in the mainstream media. There is a marked difference between Chinese language blogs

and English language blogs in their references to mainstream media (MSM) in Singapore. Very few Chinese language blogs actually referred to MSM as mentioned above; and when they do, it is usually as a source of basic information. There is little or no critique of MSM coverage of issues and its leanings. This is different from English language socio-political blogs which used mainstream media as an extensive source of ideas and comments for blogs and at the same time as an object of critique, pointing out limitations and perceived biases in their coverage of news and issues.

An example of the typical relationship between MSM and Chinese language blogs is "Sg Facts Blog" (http://sgfactblog.wordpress.com/). It is a 15-year-old blog that was among the few aggregators in the Chinese language blogosphere. The blogger aggregated mainstream Chinese media articles and reported and organised them according to categories such as "Population", "Housing", "Education" and "New Media".

Apolitical Nature of Chinese language Blogs

A small number of Chinese language bloggers wrote about political issues (e.g., language policies) and they do so on an ad hoc basis. They occasionally adopted a political stance when raising their objections to newly implemented policies. Examples of such narratives of resistance included voicing one's doubts about the Nominated Member of Parliament scheme and criticising the logic behind subjecting news websites to licensing. However, such contrarian viewpoints on politics and policies were rare and not sustained.

Of all the Chinese language blogs, less than 5% (nine blogs) can be considered as socio-political blogs where most of the blog posts were about social and political issues. However, this does not necessarily mean that Chinese language blogs are less politicised than English language blogs. Earlier studies by one of the authors found that even in the English language blogosphere, socio-political blogs formed a minority in the total number of blogs (Soon & Cho, 2014; Soon & Kluver, 2014). This is also supported

by two earlier studies conducted by IPS¹⁰, which found that only a small group went online and participated in political discussions. However, English language sociopolitical blogs have attracted much attention in the official and public discourse due to the wider appeal and access afforded by the English language.

An interesting question to ask is if there is a difference in discourse. A discernible difference is observed in the approach these bloggers adopted when writing about political issues as compared to English language bloggers. While English language socio-political bloggers were more critical of the government and its policies, the few Chinese language socio-political blogs adopted a more balanced and moderate approach.

This is evident in how they acknowledged different perspectives when discussing different Tan" policies. Two such examples are "Ren Min Lun (http://wangruirong.wordpress.com/) "Unlimited Blue Skies" and (http://kokchwan.blogspot.sg/). When the blogger of "Unlimited Blue Skies" commented on the Punggol by-election of 2013, the blogger discussed the implications of Workers' Party's win and what their victory meant for local politics. However, the blogger also cautioned that only time would tell if having more opposition in the Parliament would make a difference.

A blog entry entitled 《多元性的消失》 ("The demise of diversity")¹¹ is another example of the more moderate commentaries found in Chinese language blogs. The blog post discussed how the inability of many Chinese Singaporeans to speak their mother tongue well was harming the diversity of Singapore's culture. The blogger expressed

^{10.} See "Survey on Political Traits and Media Use" (http://lkyspp.nus.edu.sg/ips/research/surveys/surveyson-political-traits-and-media-use) and "Media Myths and Realities: Findings of National Survey of Media Use in The General Election" (http://lkyspp.nus.edu.sg/ips/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2013/06/S1_1_Tan-Tarn-How 0410.pdf)

^{11.} See blog post:

http://prahphnom.blogspot.sg/search?q=%E5%A4%9A%E5%85%83%E6%80%A7%E7%9A%84%E6%B6%88%E5%A4%B1

that the mother tongue was important not only for cultural but also economic reasons. He then recommended what could be done.

A participant at the IPS seminar in April 2014 noted that language and politics remained a minefield. Advocates for certain language policies have been jailed before, such as Chinese newspaper editors who were jailed in 1970s. He suggested that English is probably a more neutral instrument for writing about the Chinese language policies.

In addition, there is a stark absence of name-calling and vitriolic speech in Chinese language socio-political blogs. Their apolitical nature is also manifested in the absence of endorsement (through use of badges) of popular civic campaigns, unlike in the English language blogosphere (as presented in the earlier section).

Blogging Alone

Although Chinese language bloggers shared their thoughts on issues such as the declining standards of the Chinese language, the disappearance of Chinese dialects, censorship's impact on the arts, Singapore's immigration policies and the elderly's welfare (e.g., a Chinese blogger in his 70s wrote about his encounter with an elderly cleaner in a food court and the plight of Singapore's elderly citizens), they do so on an ad hoc basis.

Other characteristics of the Chinese language blogs also raise the question of whether the bloggers were blogging alone, meaning that blogging was solely a personal activity as opposed to a community-related one. Most of the content on their blogs were about their personal experiences; their blogs served to express their personal viewpoints and to showcase their pastimes and interests (e.g., food, travel, photography and music). Furthermore, with the exception of linking to other blogs and websites on their blog rolls, there appears to be little interaction among the blogs. This means that most Chinese language bloggers did not hyperlink, cite or quote other bloggers in their blog posts.

Our content analysis found that Chinese language bloggers do not use their blogs to organise or disseminate information on online and offline campaigns, or mobilise readers to take action (e.g., take part in online petitions).

THE MALAY LANGUAGE BLOGOSPHERE

Size of the Malay Language Blogosphere

The Malay language blogosphere is significantly smaller than the Chinese language blogosphere in Singapore. A total of 30 Malay language blogs were found through keyword searches and the snowballing process detailed under "Method" in the Introduction.

Age of Blogs

The age of the blogs ranges from two months to 10 years (at the time of the data collection). As shown in Figure 18, the majority of Malay language blogs (50%) were one to six years old. Four blogs (13%) had been around for six to 10 years.

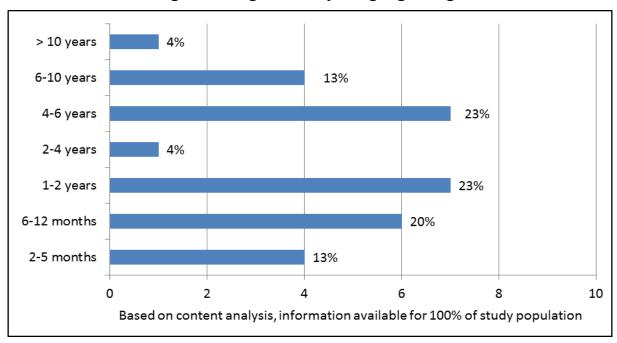


Figure 18: Age of Malay Language Blogs

Most of the blogs that were less than a year old were started by brides-to-be who wanted to document their wedding preparations. An example is the latest blog, the two-month-old "disebaliktabirbride" (http://disebaliktabirbride.wordpress.com). The oldest blog, 12-year-old "KampungNet" (http://www.kampungnet.com.sg), is a community-

based website maintained by several writers. It discusses socio-political issues as well as themes relating to the Singapore Malay-Muslims.

Recency of Updates

Most blogs are of high activity level, with 63% being updated within the last month of the study and 27% within the last three months (see Figure 19).

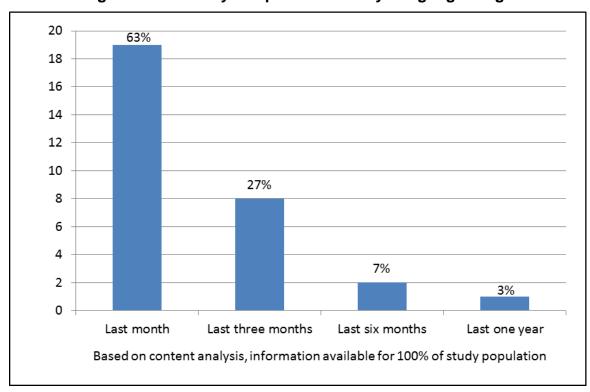


Figure 19: Recency of Updates in Malay Language Blogs

Bloggers' Age

Information on the age of the bloggers was available for 87% of the blogs (26 blogs). Half of the bloggers were in their 20s (see Figure 20).

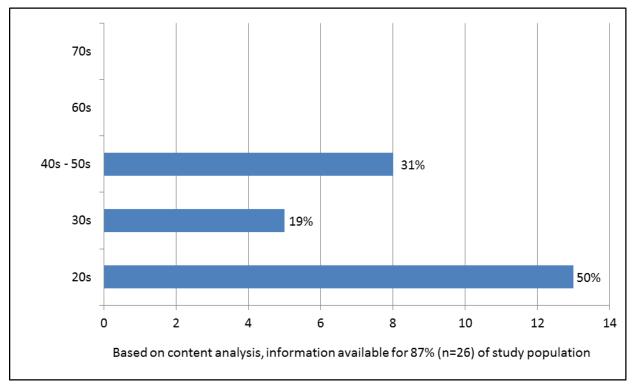


Figure 20: Number of Malay Language Bloggers by Age Group

Three Chinese undergraduates at the National University of Singapore were among the youngest Malay language bloggers. Their blog content suggested that they were undergraduates who were blogging to fulfil a course requirement, indicating that blogs are sometimes utilised as a teaching tool. See Appendix H for one of these blogs ("Blog Melayu Syl"/ "Syl's Malay Blog").

Bloggers' Gender

Information on gender could only be captured from 87% of the blogs (26 blogs). There were more female than male bloggers (see Figure 21).

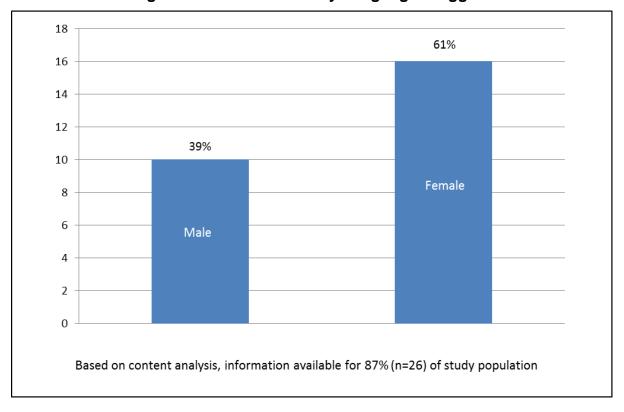


Figure 21: Gender of Malay Language Bloggers

Most female bloggers were in their 20s, with a large proportion either being brides-to-be or recently married females who continued to write during the initial period after their marriage. Male Malay language bloggers were usually older. A question may be raised as to whether the blogs initiated by the first group would be able to stand the test of time. Defunct Malay language blogs suggest that brides-to-be and recently married female Malay language bloggers were unlikely to continue blogging for long after their wedding.

Bloggers' Marital Status

Information on Malay language bloggers' marital status was available for 26 blogs (87%). Out of the 26 bloggers, 14 (54%) were married, seven (27%) were engaged and five (19%) were single (see Figure 22).

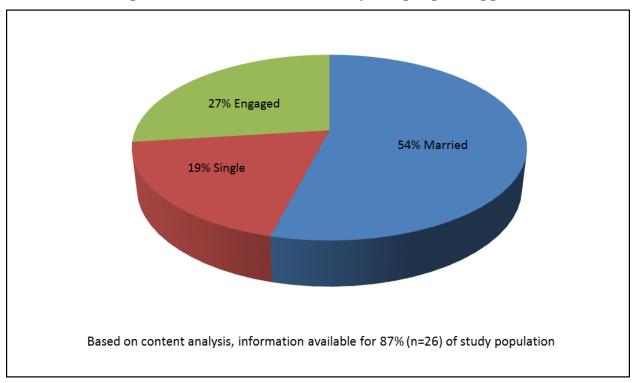


Figure 22: Marital Status of Malay Language Bloggers

Bloggers' Professions

Information on bloggers' professions was only available for 11 bloggers (37%).

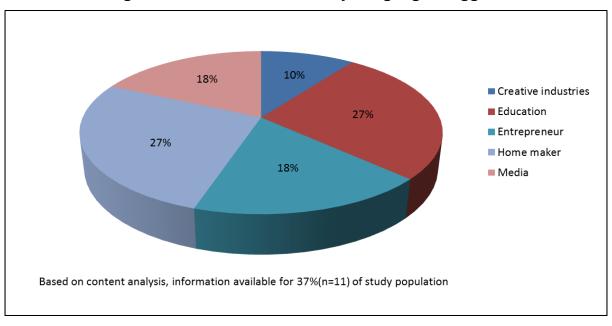


Figure 23: Professions of Malay Language Bloggers

Of the 11 bloggers, three (27%) were in education, three were homemakers (27%), two were entrepreneurs (18%), two worked in the media (18%) and one in the creative industry (10%) (see Figure 23). Although data on the bloggers' occupations was limited on the whole, the small sample still reflects diversity in the bloggers' backgrounds.

Blog Types and Topics Blogged

Based on the content analysis of all 30 blogs, we found four types of Malay language blogs: personal-type blogs, k-logs, filter blogs and mixed-type blogs. Refer to Figure 24 for the breakdown of blog types.

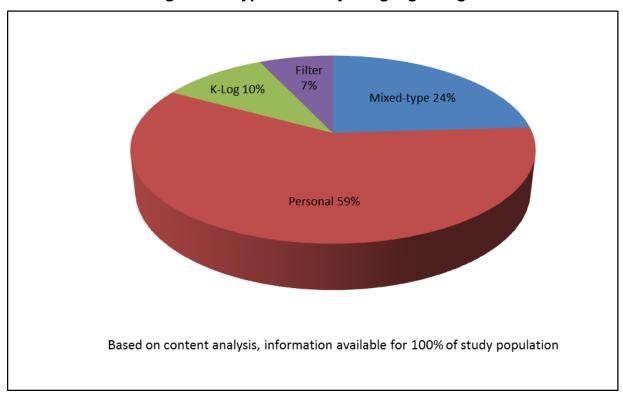


Figure 24: Types of Malay Language Blogs

Majority of the blogs (59%) are personal-type blogs. The popular topics in these blogs included bloggers' personal experiences, family and friends, lifestyle and entertainment.

An example of a personal-type blog is "Kahwin Khronicles" (Wedding Chronicles) http://www.kahwin-khronicles.com/. The female blogger, Farhana, was in her late 20s and provided personal reviews of wedding vendors while writing about her experiences planning for her own wedding (see Appendix I).

Another 24% of the blogs were a mix of k-log and personal-type blogs. These blogs focused on themes such as arts and culture, politics, social issues, education and family and friends. An example of a mixed-type blogs is Sujimy.com (http://sujimy.com) (see Appendix J). Sujimy is a prominent figure in the media industry; he is the Chief Executive Officer of a media company that produces Malay television programmes and content. He was also a host for a Malay infotainment series. In his blog, he shared

about his experiences as an entrepreneur championing the Malay language and of his personal experiences as a father and husband.

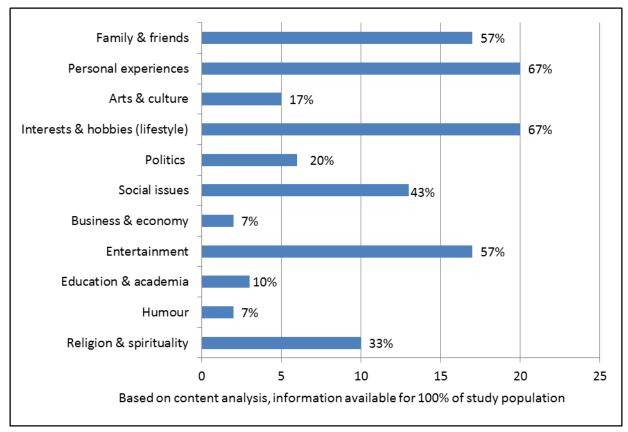
Do-It-Yourself (DIY) blogs and blogs discussing food recipes are other examples of mixed-type blogs. An example is "Welcome to RSR" (http://rozzan.blogspot.sg) which had been around for more than seven years (see Appendix K). The blogger shared his recipes, reviews new dishes that he tried and provided kitchen tips.

K-logs (10%) written in the Malay language mainly focused on religious issues, many written by experts. One example is "Abahyasir.com" (http://abahyasir.com), a blog maintained by Ustaz Yusri, a religious authority who has worked with the Islamic Religious Council of Singapore and was educated in Al-Azhar University (see Appendix L). His articles focused on issues relating to Islam as well as those pertaining to the Malay-Muslim community in Singapore.

There were two filter blogs that provided news on entertainment, social issues and religion. One of them is "Rilek 1 Corner" (http://rilek1corner.com), a relatively new blog which publishes controversial and readable articles such as the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) debate and multi-level-marketing scams in the Malay community (see Appendix M).

Figure 25 shows a breakdown of topics among Malay language blogs. The most frequent topics are personal experiences and interests and hobbies, with 67% (20 blogs) writing about these. This is followed by family and friends, and entertainment, in 57% (17) of the blogs, social issues in 43% (13) blogs, religion and spirituality in 33% (10) blogs, politics in 20% (6) blogs, arts and culture in 17% (5) blogs, education in 10% (3) blogs, and lastly, business and humour in 7% (2) blogs respectively. This shows a high proportion of non-formal and personal topics discussed in the Malay blogosphere.





Structural Attributes

Reach of Blogs

Information on the number of visitors and hits were not available for Malay language blogs. Based on statistics available from 10 blogs, the average number of page views per blog was 47,552 (see Figure 26).

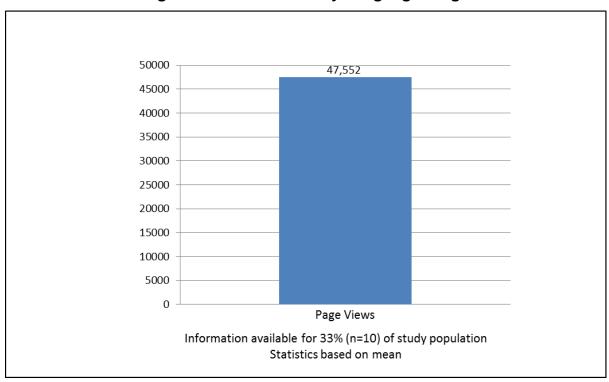


Figure 26: Reach of Malay Language Blogs

Use of Archives and Badges

Most blogs (90%) had archives, allowing visitors to view older posts (see Figure 27). Only three blogs did not have archives.

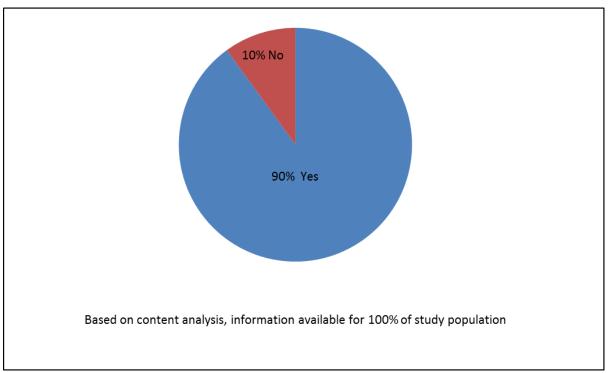
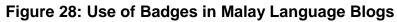
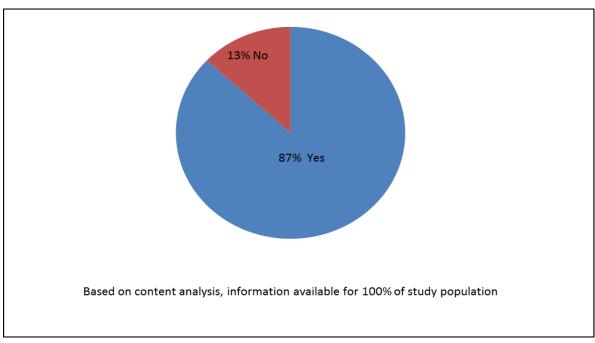


Figure 27: Use of Archives in Malay Language Blogs

In terms of usage of badges, 87% of the blogs had badges displaying their allegiances to different causes, groups and organisations (see Figure 28). The remaining 13% did not display any badges.





Comment Function and Email Contact

The majority, 94% of the blogs (28 blogs), allowed readers to leave comments on their blogs (see Figure 29), indicating bloggers' openness to receiving comments from readers and interacting with them.

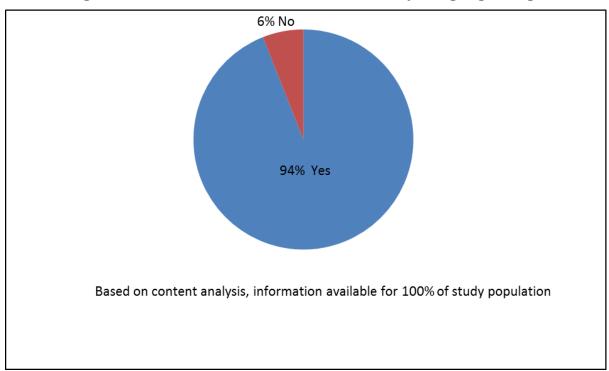


Figure 29: Use of Comment Function in Malay Language Blogs

Only 50% of the blogs contained links to an email address (see Figure 30).

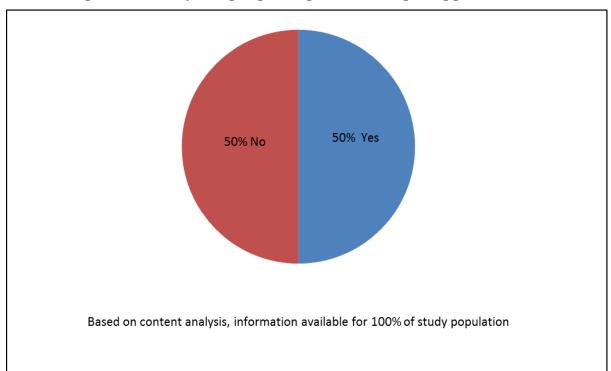


Figure 30: Malay Language Blogs Containing Bloggers' Emails

Use of Advertisements and Search Function

Only 17% of the blogs (five blogs) featured commercial advertisements under the Nuffnang banner (see Figure 31). One exception is the blogger of Sujimy.com who advertised his own products and services such as his books and DVDs on entrepreneurship and running a business. The majority, 83% of the blogs (25 blogs), did not contain advertisements.

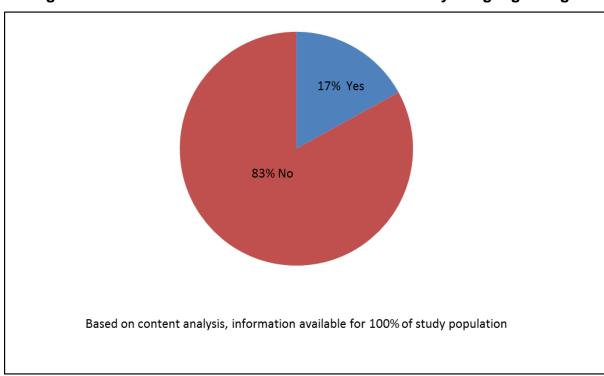
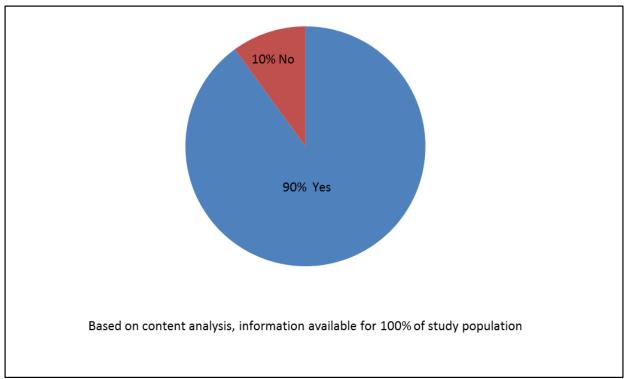


Figure 31: Use of Commercial Advertisements in Malay Language Blogs





As presented in Figure 32 above, the search function was available to readers in 90% of the blogs (27 blogs) and this was more prevalent among mixed and knowledge blogs.

Use of Calendar and Guest Book

As shown in Figures 33 and 34, 23% of Malay language bloggers used calendars (seven blogs) and only one blogger used the guest book function.

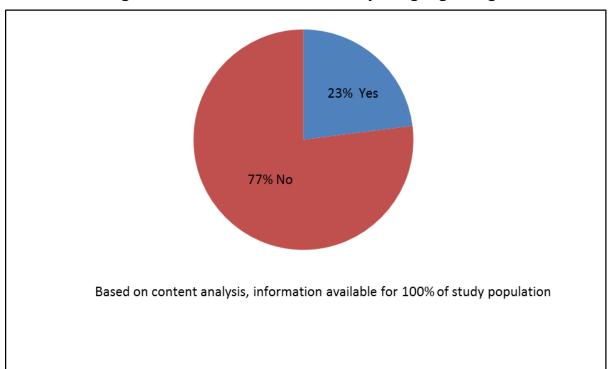
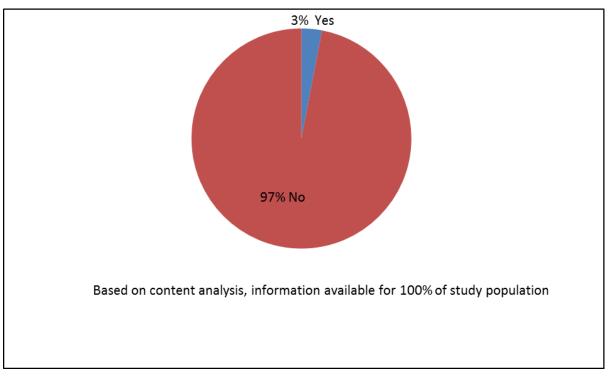


Figure 33: Use of Calendar in Malay Language Blogs





Links to Other Sites

47% of Malay language blogs (14 blogs) had an average of 52 out-links to other blogs on their blog rolls (see Figure 35).

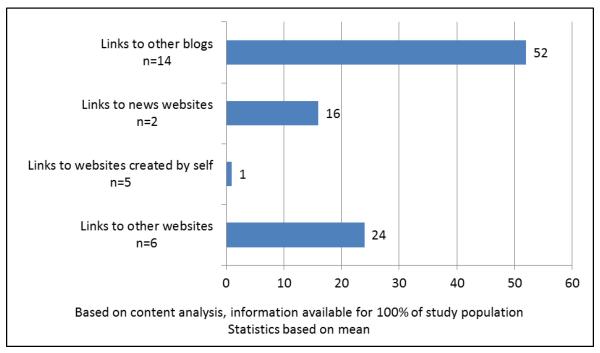


Figure 35: Malay Language Blogs that Linked to Other Sites

Malay language bloggers typically out-linked to blogs with similar content. For example, a bride-to-be and a food blogger linked to blogs that posted articles on wedding preparations and food recipes, respectively.

Discussion

Formal Versus Colloquial Language

Only 10 of the 30 Malay language bloggers used the pure form of Malay exclusively. The other bloggers wrote using mixed languages — this is a key distinction between Malay language blogs and those written in Chinese and Tamil.

We observe a relationship between the subject matter and the blogger's writing style. The tone of writing ranges from the formal to the colloquial and down-to-earth. For

instance, the writer of Abahyasir.com personally identified himself to be a cleric trained in Islamic theology. His blog provided information on how he was once a key appointment holder with the Majlis Ugama Islam Singapura (MUIS, i.e. Islamic Religious Council of Singapore). The writer blogged on how the Islamic doctrine impacts areas such as wearing of the hijab and status of LGBTs. His tone was formal and serious to reflect the gravity of his commentaries.

Sujimy.com is another example of a blog written in formal Malay. As mentioned earlier on, the blogger, Sujimy, is the owner and Managing Director of Screenbox Pte Ltd, a media production company with a large market share of programmes catering to Malay viewership. Sujimy is a known personality followed by many from the Malay community. A current member of the country's Malay Language Council, he is also seen as a champion of the language and serves as a role model as a Malay language speaker for the community to emulate.

The versatility of some bloggers writing in formal Malay can also be seen in how they used different languages when they write about different topics. One example is "Penggubalfikiran" (http://penggubalfikiran.wordpress.com/) where the blogger wrote about topics relating to halal food and the use of EduSave for madrasah education in Malay, while discussing politics and current affairs in English. As emphasised by Skiba (1997), the writer adapts the formality of the language to suit the inherent importance of the subject matter and the intended audience.

Bloggers who wrote in colloquial Malay were those who dealt with subject areas that were more light-hearted. In the blogs that we examined, many such writers were brides-to-be documenting the countdown to their wedding day. Their blogs provided personal accounts of their wedding preparations, such as the printing of their wedding invitation cards or post-marriage events such as getting the keys to their HDB flats. Their blog posts were usually peppered with slangs and jargon that reflected their happy yet anxious state of mind.

At the IPS seminar, a Malay language blogger who writes about Malay weddings said that she wrote in a mixture of English and Malay because of her readers. They had communicated with her via email and told her that they appreciated her inclusion of English on her blog because they were not very proficient in Malay. Hence, although she prefers to blog in Malay, she does not want to alienate her readers and hence uses English as well. Her topics include the Malay culture, and although some points are better communicated in Malay, she explains them in English so that her readers can understand her. She also had Chinese readers who have converted to Islam and appreciate her use of English in her blog posts.

Although excluded from this study, there were a number of Malay writers who blogged purely in English. Besides political content, many of these bloggers also wrote about cultural matters and some controversial issues. A seminar participant, an academic who studies Malay culture and identity, provided a possible reason for these writers blogging in English. If a contentious issue is introduced and discussed in Malay — for example, a debate on the notion of "free will" in the LGBT controversy — the person arguing for acceptance of the idea in the same ethnic language will have difficulty making his case because of the religio-cultural paradigm in which the ethnic language predisposes itself to. Terms, phrases and nuances of the Malay language serve to reinforce a "mental model" which sees unorthodox sexual orientation as deviant and sinful. Words such as haram ("forbidden"), menyeleweng ("deviance"), bukan semula jadi ("unnatural") are frequently used in such arguments. This provides conservatives the edge in debates on changes to the status quo. However, when the issue is discussed in English, the cultural attachment becomes more diluted.

Code Switching

We also observed a predominance of code-switching specifically between the use of the Malay and English languages for different blog entries. One such blog was "A Journey of a Lifetime" (http://juzustwo.wordpress.com/). The interchanging of words and phrases from one language to another occurs when the writer requires a "spontaneous expression of emotion" (Flyman-Mattsson, 2009) but is not be able to express himself or

herself in one language and so switches to another to compensate for the deficiency. According to Moreno (2002), from the point of view of the bilingual speaker, codeswitching can be regarded as just a change in language form, with the same meaning conveyed using a more available word that happens to be from another language.

In this respect, the blogger of "A Bittersweet Memories to the Big Day" (http://mybridejourney2014.blogspot.sg/) justifies her style of writing by stating that she is merely practising *dwibahasa* or "dual language". Another blogger who set up the blog "Kahwin Khronicles" (http://www.kahwin-khronicles.com/) related that she was compelled to code-switch as her readers were more comfortable with the *dwibahasa* style due to their lack of competency with the Malay language.

Displacement to Facebook

There has been a gradual migration of Malay language blogs to the Facebook platform with writers either downgrading their involvement in the blogosphere or abandoning it altogether in favour of the latter. For example, the blog "Mohd Nazem Suki" (http://mohdnazemsuki.blog.com/) was regularly updated by the website owner until around May 2012 when he ceased posting new articles. This occurred at around the same time when one begins to notice lengthy posts being consistently uploaded onto his Facebook page (facebook.com/MOHD.NAZEM.SUKI). It suggests that the writer had inadvertently converted his Facebook page into a "pseudo-blog". Currently, much of his Facebook posts centred on the LGBT issue and his support of the "Wear White" Movement. 12

Similarly, the discerning online user will notice a proportional increase in the appearance of Facebook groups catering to Malay/Muslim readers during this same period. Examples of these are Suara Melayu Singapura ("Singapore Malay Voice"),

^{12.} Started by Ustaz Noor Deros, a Muslim teacher, the Wear White Movement urged Muslims not to take part in the Pink Dot event (held on 28 June 2014) and to wear white garments to prayers on that night to usher in the holy month of Ramadan.

Singapura Kita ("Our Singapore") and Jaringan Muslim Senusantara ("Archipelagic Muslim Network"). However, only the last Facebook group actively enforces a rule that makes it compulsory that all its members communicate in the Malay language. For most of these groups, apart from the preoccupation with the LGBT debate, much of the current talk also focused on the situation in the Middle East, especially in areas such as Gaza and Syria. In fact, heated political discussions on other topics had also surfaced in previous months and these touched on issues such as the ethnic community's lack of trust in the Malay political leadership, the debate over the *Suara Musyawarah: Conversations with the Community* report as well as unhappiness resulting from what was perceived as the government's failure to stem the erosion of the Malay identity.

When asked about the shift from blogs to Facebook during the Q&A session at the IPS seminar, some former bloggers cited spontaneity of engagement, excitement of interaction, and real-time responses as reasons for their move. One might also deduce that the shift in political discussions from blogs to the Facebook platform occurred as the latter is naturally "co-optive" in its structure and delivery. Creating consensus and involving multiple contributors in the discussion thread works to minimise full blame on any particular individual should there be backlash arising from an overly contentious deliberation of a sensitive issue. Feelings of insecurity are downplayed as risks are then spread out.

A blogger at the seminar added that the displacement from blogs to Facebook was indeed happening. He cited his experiences as an example; he blogged actively for three months before he switched to Facebook. Because his Facebook posts were disseminated quickly and automatically, this provided him with instant gratification via friends' "likes" and comments, which then motivated him to write and share more. His blog did not give him the same gratification because people had to visit his blog. Also, he felt less compelled to write long posts on Facebook as people preferred bite-sized information and did not have the patience to read.

THE TAMIL LANGUAGE BLOGOSPHERE

Size of the Tamil Language Blogosphere

Combining keyword searches, snowballing and references from members of the Singapore Tamil community, 20 Tamil language blogs were identified, which met the criteria for this study.

Age of Blogs

Figure 36 presents the distribution of the ages of blogs. More than half (63%) of Tamil language blogs had been around for four years or more, and the remaining 37% were less than four years old.

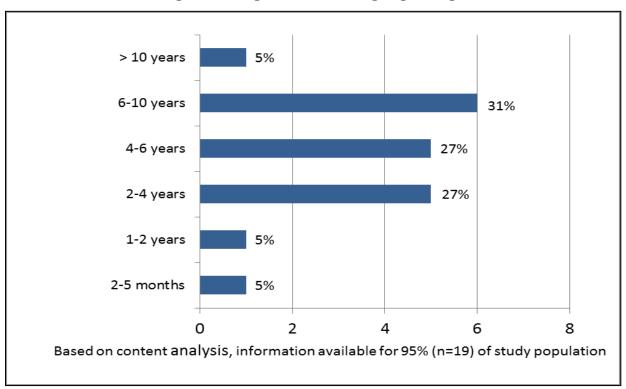


Figure 36: Age of Tamil Language Blogs

Recency of Updates

Only 11% of the bloggers (two bloggers) updated their blogs within the last month of the study, while 74% of the bloggers (15 blogs) updated theirs within two to six months (see Figure 37 for the breakdown).

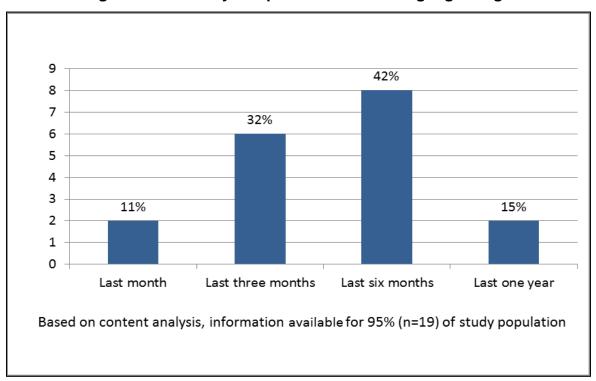


Figure 37: Recency of Updates in Tamil Language Blogs

Bloggers' Age

Tamil language bloggers were less forthcoming in revealing their age on their blogs, unlike Chinese and Malay language bloggers. Only one (5%) out of the 20 bloggers revealed his age — he was 33 years old (see Figure 38). The others did not disclose any information about their age nor could we infer their age from their blog content.

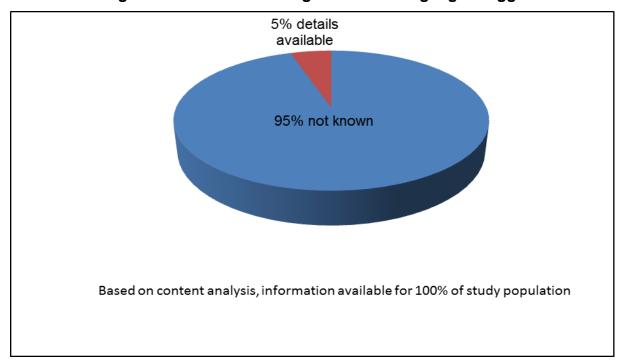


Figure 38: Disclosure of Age of Tamil Language Bloggers

Bloggers' Gender

The study showed that there were significantly more male bloggers than females, 85% versus 15% (see Figure 39). This is in contrast to the Chinese and Malay language blogospheres where the majority of bloggers were female.

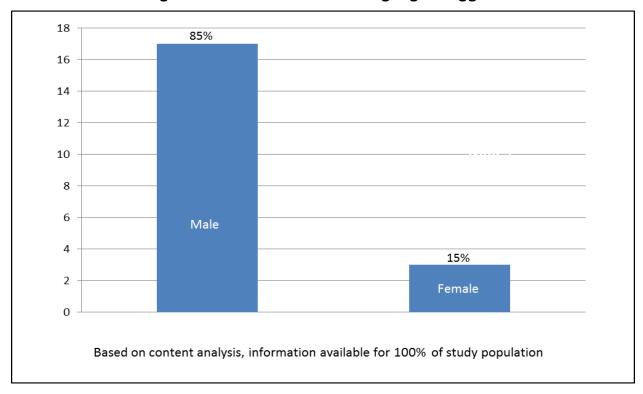


Figure 39: Gender of Tamil Language Bloggers

Bloggers' Marital Status

Information published in bloggers' profiles and their blog posts or photos suggests that 85% of the bloggers were married (see Figure 40).

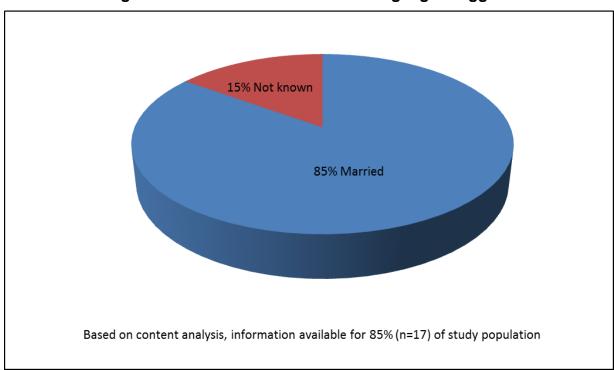


Figure 40: Marital Status of Tamil Language Bloggers

Bloggers' Professions

Information on the profession of the bloggers was available for 15 blogs (75%). Among them, more than half (52%) had an engineering background and the remaining bloggers came from disparate sectors such as creative, education, finance and pharmaceutical industries, and some were entrepreneurs (see Figure 41).

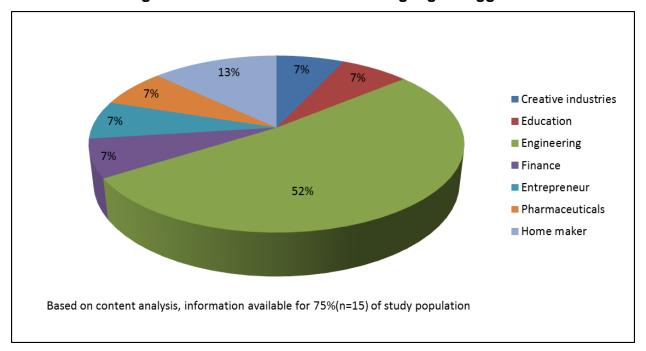


Figure 41: Professions of Tamil Language Bloggers

Blog Types

There were four types of Tamil language blogs: personal-type blogs, k-logs, aggregator and mixed-type blogs. Unlike Chinese and Malay language blogs, the majority (65%) of Tamil language blogs were of the mixed-blog type (see Figure 42). Most of these blogs combined their personal narratives with other blog types (e.g., personal reflections and information sources on a subject matter in different sections on the blog). There were no filter blogs in the Tamil language blogosphere.

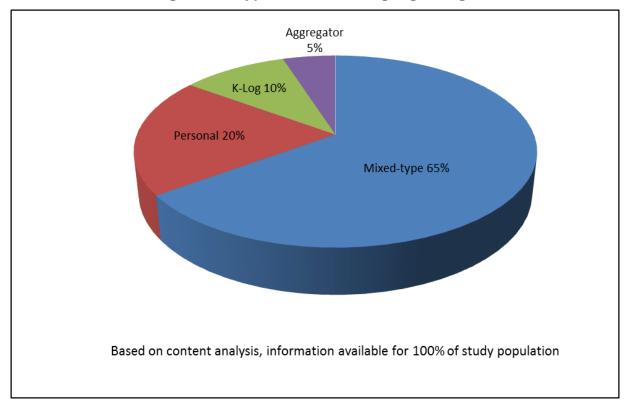


Figure 42: Types of Tamil Language Blogs

Topics Blogged

The topics discussed in Tamil language blogs were wide-ranging, from arts and culture, humour, personal trivia to technology and science. Perhaps the most interesting finding in terms of content in Tamil blogs is that language and literature, which falls within the category of Arts & Culture, was the most popular theme and was featured prominently in all 20 blogs (see Figure 43). The next most popular content was the bloggers' own views and experiences (65%). Social and political issues were also popular blog topics among more than half of the Tamil language blogs (55%). However, there was a noticeable lack of Singapore-related issues in their blogs. The little coverage they provide was apolitical, neutral and non-critical, a stark contrast to their critical and indepth analyses of social and political issues in India.

As a general observation, it may be said that Tamil language bloggers value their privacy as very little of their private lives or personal details were given in the blogs. References to their families and friends were made as part of their commentaries and

reflections on attending public events, writing movie reviews or while pursuing hobbies etc. There are no distinct differences between male and female bloggers in terms of preferences for certain topics.

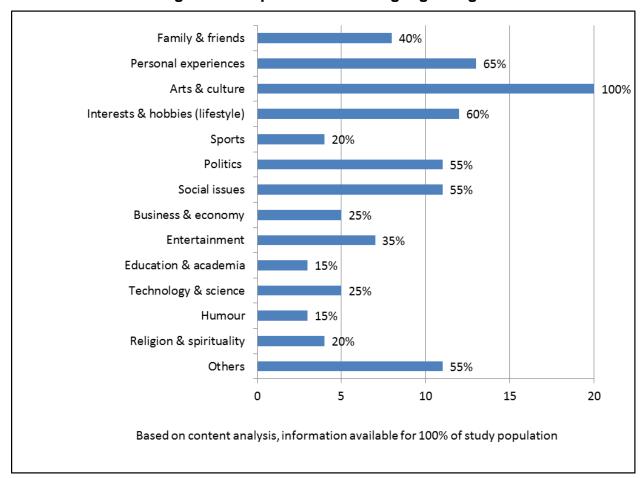


Figure 43: Topics in Tamil Language Blogs

Structural Attributes

Reach of Blogs

The reach of blogs was determined from the blog counters and the bloggers' profiles. Details were available for 55% of the blogs (11 blogs). They used three measurement

counters: visitors, visits¹³ or page views, to determine the reach of their blogs (see Figure 44).

Visitor traffic recorded by location indicates that visitors were not only from Singapore but also from a large number of countries where the Tamil diaspora has spread. Details of other reach indicators such as the number of followers in other digital platforms were not available.

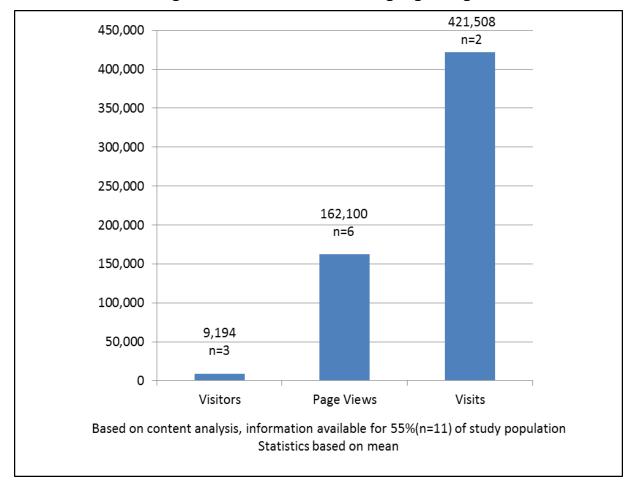


Figure 44: Reach of Tamil Language Blogs

¹³ A visit happens when someone or something (robot) visits a site. It consists of one or more page views or hits, and a visitor can make multiple visits to the site (source: Open Tracker).

Use of Archives and Badges

All 20 blogs (100%) used archives and bloggers organised their blog posts either chronologically or thematically. The majority of Tamil language bloggers (65%) used badges (Figure 45), drawn from international Tamil blog aggregators. This affinity suggests their preference for being part of the Tamil diaspora.

The Tamil language blogs did not have any links to Singapore blog aggregators and did not display badges of local aggregators in their blogs.

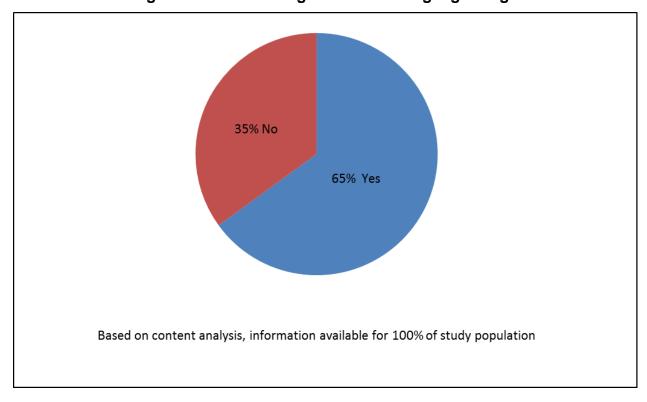


Figure 45: Use of Badges in Tamil Language Blogs

Comment Function and Email Contact

The comment facility in blogs offers interactivity and relationship building between the blogger and his or her readers. It also acts like an asynchronous chat room where bloggers could solicit feedback for their posts, receive reviews of their poems and other literary works and hear stories from the community. All Tamil language bloggers allowed their readers to post comments on their blogs. Most of the discussions in the comments

revolved around Tamil language and literature issues. All the comments were moderated, probably to avoid abusive criticism or irrelevant comments.

Most (90%) of the bloggers also provided links to an email (see Figure 46), suggesting a desire to be connected to their readers. This percentage is much higher in Tamil language blogs compared to 75% in Chinese language blogs and 50% in Malay language blogs.

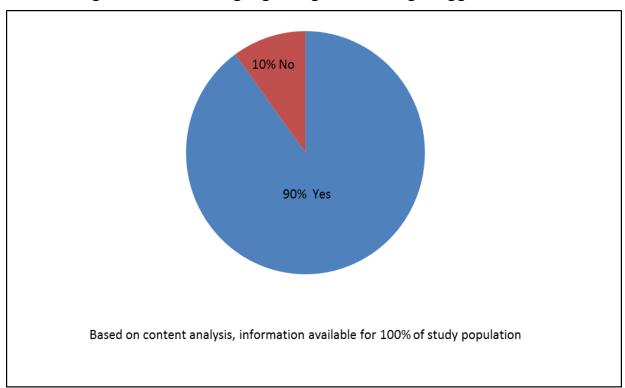


Figure 46: Tamil Language Blogs Containing Bloggers' Emails

Use of Advertisements and Search Function

There were no commercial advertisements in Tamil language blogs, except for a few on altruistic causes such as medical charities and anti-corruption. Though there are businesses targeting Tamil speakers in Singapore such as saree shops, garlands for weddings and religious rituals and spices for Indian cooking, none seemed to have found its way into the Tamil language blogosphere. It is also not clear if bloggers sought advertising but could not secure any.

Slightly more than half (55%) of the bloggers had search options in their blogs (see Figure 47). Most of the blogs did not have any advanced functions beyond the basic ones in the blog service such as "Archive", "Search" and "Contact".

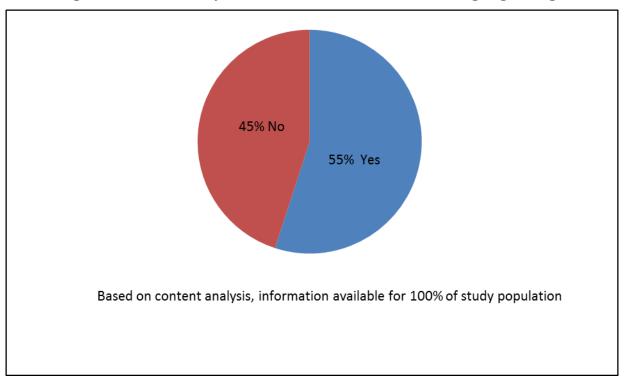


Figure 47: Availability of Search Function in Tamil Language Blogs

Use of Calendar and Guest Book

None of the Tamil language blogs in the study had calendars or guest books.

Links to Other Sites

In terms of connectivity, 75% of the blogs (15 blogs) linked to websites and blogs created by the same blog owners (see Figure 48). These websites included their English-language blogs, IT-related sites and Tamil community blogs that they maintained. About 60% (12 blogs) linked to other Tamil language blogs that had similar interests. Some of the bloggers linked to their colleagues' and friends' blogs. They also linked to some prominent Tamil language news websites that were found in international Tamil aggregators. It is interesting to note that 50% of the blogs (10 blogs)

linked to news websites, all based in India. None is connected to news sites from Singapore.

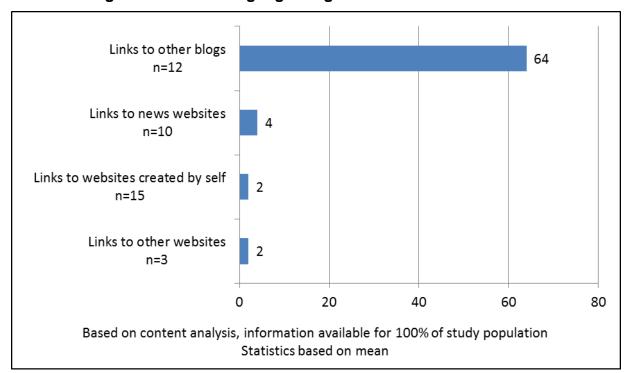


Figure 48: Tamil Language Blogs that Linked to Other Sites

Discussion

Several Tamil language bloggers featured in the study were present at the seminar convened by IPS to present the preliminary findings of the study. They provided useful information and valuable insights on the Tamil blogosphere. We have incorporated relevant input from them in this section.

It is to be noted at the outset that the small sample size makes it exceedingly difficult to draw any generalisations.

Size of the Tamil Blogosphere

Though our initial assessment was that there were only 20 suitable blogs for our study, the anecdotal evidence that emerged during the seminar suggests that there are other

suitable Tamil blogs, which we were not aware of during our research. However, the numbers were thought to be still very small.

The scarcity of Tamil language blogs is somewhat surprising for a number of reasons. First, when one observes the Tamil literary scene in Singapore, there is a large amount of Tamil creative writing in the Tamil media. Both Tamil print and broadcast media have featured many local creative writers over decades. Yet, there are few such contributors in the blogosphere. Perhaps blogging is not that well known among such writers. Second, there were no technical impediments in writing blogs in Tamil. Third, Tamil is an official language of Singapore and is taught as a second language in the Singapore school system, thus creating a sizable Tamil-proficient young population. There are even a number of Tamil blogs by teachers and students within the school system, which is not accessible to the public. Yet hardly any Tamil teacher or student uses the public blogosphere. Therefore, it is not clear what is holding back many from entering the Tamil blogosphere.

One plausible explanation offered during the seminar for the dearth of Tamil blogs is that Tamil bloggers have migrated to Facebook and other social media to convey their views and news. As this study did not cover those media, it remains a speculative suggestion.

One other suggestion made during the discussion segment at the IPS seminar was that some writers fear that their works may be plagiarised if they posted their literary works. It is difficult to determine if this is indeed a major factor in the lack of Tamil blogs in Singapore.

Profiles of Bloggers

Looking closely at the profiles of the Tamil bloggers in this study, several interesting features emerge. Though a common assumption is that writing in Tamil would mostly originate from those who had formal and long-term education in Tamil, many of the bloggers in this sample come from professions (half of them are engineers) where Tamil

is almost never used in Singapore. That adds credence to the conclusion that many of the bloggers are from Tamil Nadu, India, as will be noted in other contexts below. It is also interesting to note that Chinese and Malay language blogospheres do not have such preponderance of professionals within their blogospheres.

A seminar participant, also from Tamil academia, stated that most Indian expatriates are native speakers of Tamil and hence are proficient at the language. She added that many studied at Tamil-medium schools in India. This could explain why Tamil language bloggers who are engineers are also proficient in the language.

In contrast, the near total absence of any well-established Tamil Singaporean or those who could be clearly identified as Singaporean in the Tamil blogosphere is also noteworthy. All students studying Tamil in Singapore since the mid-1980s have been taking the language as a second language, with English as their first language. Most Singapore Tamils in the elite community hardly speak Tamil and are mostly incapable of writing Tamil. Two Tamil-stream academics at the seminar also argued that language proficiency is a major factor in the scarcity of Tamil language blogging in Singapore. The number of people who feel they have the linguistic talent to write blogs in Tamil may actually be guite small.

Another interesting finding is that Tamil language bloggers are mostly male, unlike in Chinese and Malay language blogospheres. The offline Tamil literary scene has long been dominated by males and the Tamil blogosphere may be equally reflective of that pattern. On the other hand, in school debates and literary competitions in Singapore, female students have often equalled or even surpassed male students. The tendency of blogs being of more personal nature may also have caused some inhibition on the part of potential female Tamil bloggers, as culturally, Tamil females are more guarded about their private lives.

The most interesting exception we found was writer and blogger Kamaladevi Aravindan who is both Singaporean and female. One of the best-known Tamil and Malayalam

writers in Singapore, Kamaladevi started her own blog (see Appendix N) in 2008. Her blog may be said to be an extension of her writer's role and she used it effectively to publish most of her writings and also report on events in which she participated.

Another interesting contributor to the blogosphere is Shanavas, also an author of essays and short stories (see Appendix O). He was a trained engineer who switched to the restaurant business due to family circumstances but has taken to writing in a serious manner and has produced copious amounts of writing in print and social media. He is a good example of the very few Tamil bloggers who straddle both old and new media.

Singapore Tamil Bloggers Forum

An attempt was made in 2010 to bring Tamil bloggers in Singapore together to discuss common interests and concerns. On that occasion, one of the organisers, Tamil Veli, a Tamil blog aggregator, also released a print publication called *Manarkeni* featuring selections from Singapore Tamil blogs (see Appendix P). As far as we know, there were only two such gatherings to date. There does not seem to be any further developments. However, we noticed that among many of the 20 bloggers in this study, there was a high degree of offline connectivity as they shared a number of common interests such as Tamil language and literature and Indian current affairs. The Tamil participants at the seminar confirmed this view.

Characteristics of Blog Content

One of the significant differences between the Tamil language blogosphere and the other two blogospheres in this study is the extent of non-Singapore content in Tamil blogs. As has already been indicated, many of the Tamil bloggers in this study seem to have a strong India-orientation. Their posts were often centred on Indian affairs — Indian politics, Indian issues, Indian movies, Indian music, etc. This suggests that the bloggers had recently arrived or even were even new citizens who still seemed to have strong links with India.

Also, when they discuss affairs concerning India, these bloggers were much more vocal and critical in expressing their views. In contrast, they seldom dealt with Singapore issues and even then in neutral or muted tones. For example, the Indian community as a whole was greatly affected by the Little India riot that took place in December 2013, the worst street violence in over 40 years in Singapore. Yet, the Tamil language blogosphere was quite mute on that, with few exceptions, and when they did blog about the riots, they were very cautious in their expressions.

It is not clear whether this seemingly tenuous relationship with Singapore affairs is born out of a lack of familiarity with public issues here or whether there is a chilling effect created by anecdotal evidence of bloggers running afoul of the government on account of critical posts. Even if the fear factor exists, it is surprising to note that they did not have many favourable things to say about Singapore either. The overall impression was that these bloggers were not well integrated into the Singapore society and remained disengaged.

In comparison, the few clearly identified Singaporean bloggers tended to focus almost exclusively on language and literary matters. They did not deal with political or critical issues either. With the exception of Kamaladevi, none is even active on a regular basis. (See Appendix Q and R for two examples of Singaporean bloggers whose blogs are now defunct.)

Tamil Language Use

In general, there is a strong tendency among Tamils to intersperse their spoken Tamil with English words. Even in written Tamil, some writers in Tamil Nadu have no hesitation in rendering English words in transliteration. However, in the blogs in this study, the use of Tamil is of a good standard and almost purely in Tamil, with very few English words.

Recency of Updates

The frequency of updates in Tamil blogs seemed rather low. Several blogs that were started in mid-2000's had not been updated for a long period or were abandoned. During the seminar, it was observed that some bloggers had both English- and Tamil language blogs and that they might be paying more attention to the former.

However, the more plausible reason could be that some of the active bloggers had switched to Facebook for their regular communication as it had more traction as a medium. Azhagiya Pandiyan, one of the seminar participants and a Singaporean Tamil blogger, added that displacement from blogs to Facebook was certainly taking place. He cited himself as an example: The blog he started in 2009 was only active for three months before he switched to Facebook. To him, the primary reason was the instant gratification that Facebook gave via friends' "likes" and comments. Therefore, he said, he was more motivated to write and share more, as he did not get this instant gratification on his blog space. Besides, his views were easily propagated on Facebook. Another reason he cited was that he did not need to write long posts on Facebook, as most people preferred bite-sized information.

SURVEY FINDINGS

The following is a summary of the findings of the survey mentioned in the Introduction. A total of 39 usable responses were obtained through the online survey. The participation rates are 14% for Chinese language, 14% for Malay language and 35% for Tamil language bloggers. The following sections report the findings for four survey questions, including information which could not be gathered through content analysis: (i) the age bloggers started blogging, (ii) the frequency at which they blog, (iii) their reasons for blogging, and (iv) their reasons for blogging in the official mother tongue language.

Age at which Bloggers Started Blogging

The respondents were asked the question, "At what age did you start blogging?". Among the 39 respondents, the largest group (23%) started blogging when they were 31–35 years old (see Figure 49). Among the respondents, 15% started blogging in their mid- to late-20s (i.e., 26–30 years); 13% when they were in their early 20s (21–25 years); 13% when they were in their late teens (15–20 years). In total, 64% started blogging when they were youths (defined by the National Youth Council as those aged between 15 to 35 years old). This suggests that blogging as an activity could be linked to one's leisure time and commitments to others or other activities.

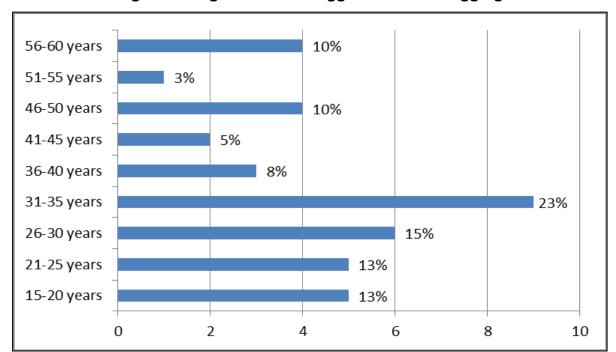


Figure 49: Age at which Bloggers Started Blogging

Frequency of Blogging

To the survey question "How frequently do you blog?", 45% of the respondents said that they blogged between two to four times a month (see Figure 50). Another 13% blogged either daily or between 2–3 times a week, and 11% blogged once a week. The remaining 31% blogged once a month or less. As revealed during the discussion segment at the IPS seminar, bloggers have adopted or are adopting other social media platforms, which may account for less frequent blogging.

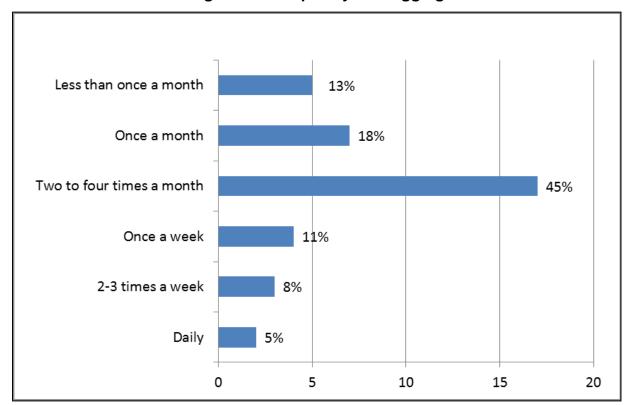


Figure 50: Frequency of Blogging

Reasons for Blogging

The respondents were asked to rate various reasons for blogging on a scale of 1 to 5 (1 being "strongly disagree"; 2 being "disagree"; 3 being "neither agree nor disagree"; 4 being "agree"; and 5 being "strongly agree") for the question "Why do you blog?". Figure 51 shows the percentage of respondents who strongly agreed or agreed with each reason.

"To share experiences with others" is the most popular reason for blogging; 84% responded in the affirmative. The next most frequently cited reasons were "To record my life/activities" and "provide commentary/express my opinion", both at 76%. "Participating in an online debate" and "to influence other people" are among the least popular reasons, with only 11% and 24% citing such reasons, respectively. Slightly less than half of the respondents (46%) said that they blogged to provide alternative perspectives. These findings suggest that blogging is primarily a personal activity for

Chinese, Malay and Tamil language bloggers instead of a political or civic engagement tool, supporting findings from the content analysis.

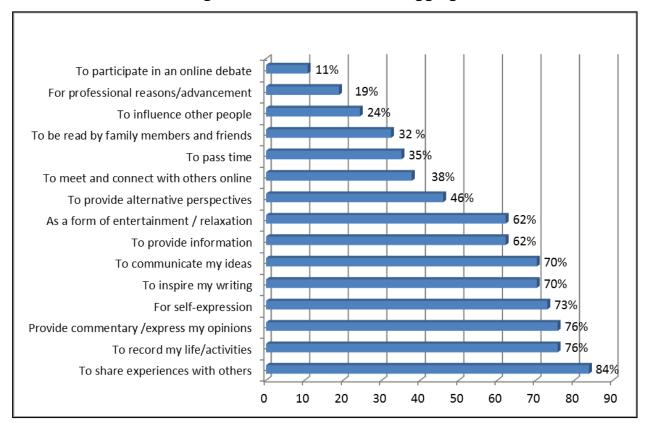


Figure 51: Motivations for Blogging

Reasons for Blogging in the Dominant Language

The respondents were asked the question "Why do you blog in the dominant language?" after the survey ascertained that the dominant language for the bloggers is their official mother tongue language. The respondents were asked to rate various reasons for blogging in the dominant language on a scale of 1 to 5 (1 being "strongly disagree"; 2 being "disagree"; 3 being "neither agree nor disagree"; 4 being "agree"; and 5 being "strongly agree"). Figure 52 shows the percentage of respondents who strongly agreed or agreed with each reason.

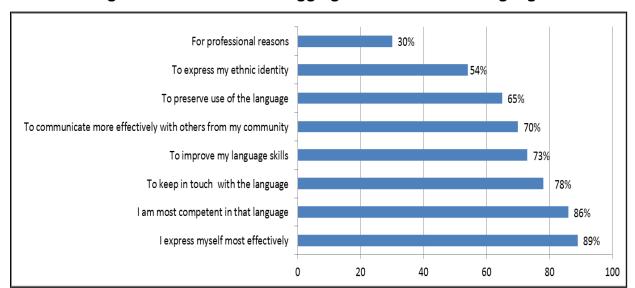


Figure 52: Reasons for Blogging in the Dominant Language

The survey revealed interesting results relating why bloggers blogged using their official mother tongue languages. The highest number (89%) cited that they expressed themselves most effectively using their official mother tongue languages and another 86% felt that they were most competent in that language. A desire to preserve the language was expressed by 78% who said that "they would like to keep in touch with the language"; 73% who would like to "improve their language skills"; and 65% who wanted to "preserve the use of the language". Language seems to be an integral part of their cultural identities, with more than half (54%) of the respondents saying that using the language helped them to express their ethnic identity.

Some qualitative comments submitted by the respondents shed further light on their motivations for blogging in their official mother tongue languages. A Tamil language blogger wrote: "Tamil language blogging has focused only on entertainment topics. There is a lack of awareness on ancient history, literature, classics and alternative ideas, which go against the idea of Tamils as an intellectual community. I would like to share these insights on the language and make it known to the public." A Malay blogger said that while she deliberately mixed English language with Malay in order not to alienate English-speaking Malay audiences, she would use her mother tongue language when writing about issues that were specific to the Malay community.

CONCLUSION

In summary, the study shows that the online space is a richly diverse one. There is wide variation in who blogs, what they blog about and how they use language. The Chinese language blogosphere comprises mainly Singaporean Chinese and a small group of Malaysian Chinese. Singaporean Malays make up the vast majority of the Malay language blogosphere while long-term non-Singapore-born residents of Singapore dominate the Tamil language blogosphere. In terms of blog types, our study shows that a mix of different blog types is present in all three official mother tongue language blogospheres. While both Chinese and Malay language blogospheres were dominated by personal-type blogs, the Malay language blogosphere did not have any aggregators unlike in the first. Most Tamil blogs were mixed-type blogs.

One of the most popular topics in the Chinese language blogosphere was personal experiences and a small minority of bloggers discussed politics in a civil tone. The Malay language blogosphere was dominated by commentaries and reflections on the bloggers' personal experiences, such as their marriage and culinary interests. The researchers observed a shift in political discussions from Malay language blogs to Facebook. A large number of Tamil language bloggers have an interest in Indian affairs that far outstrips their interests in Singapore affairs; there is little content on Singapore's major issues or even on issues focused on the Indian community. When and if they wrote about Singapore issues, they were mostly apolitical whereas on Indian issues they displayed greater engagement and personal preferences. The one area where the Singapore element is strong in their blogs is the literary scene in Singapore. A number of Tamil bloggers are well connected to the local Tamil literati and some of the bloggers are themselves leading lights in the local literary scene.

In terms of language use, Chinese and Tamil language bloggers wrote using the formal register that adheres strictly to the grammar in written form. While a few Malay language bloggers used formal Malay for selected subject matters, the language in Malay language blogs was mostly informal. There is also noticeably more "borrowing" from

other languages compared to Chinese and Tamil language blogs, and their colloquial style may be a deliberate strategy used to appeal to their target audience.

A participant at the IPS Seminar asked if there were examples of inter-culturalism, that is, blogs linking to those of other languages and if there were common topics which bridged the language divide. The study shows that a small minority of Chinese language bloggers linked to English-language blogs although most linked to other Chinese language blogs with similar interests. None of the Chinese language blogs linked to Malay language and Tami-language blogs and vice versa. In the Tamil language blogosphere, there are blogs that are bilingual (Tamil and English) but very few linked to English-language blogs. As for the Malay language blogosphere, many Malay language blogs linked to English-language blogs or bilingual (Malay-English) blogs.

There are a few limitations to this study. First, the small number of the Malay and Tamil language blogospheres makes it difficult to draw any generalisations. However, the small sample and findings provide enough of an interesting "first cut" to be shared with interested observers of the online space. It is also noteworthy that there are significant differences among the three language blogospheres and this study helped explore some of them. Also, although keyword searches and the snowballing process have yielded as exhaustive as possible a sample for the three blogospheres, there is a possibility that some blogs may have been excluded. For example, blogs that did not provide any information on the bloggers' locality and nationality, and did not have any content related to Singapore may have been excluded even though they may be written by Singaporeans or Singapore residents.

As mentioned earlier, some bloggers might have "migrated" to social media such as Facebook and we would not have captured the discourse on those platforms. Although the study focused on blogs, there was initial consideration among the researchers on whether or not to include Facebook and Twitter in their data collection. However, no baseline analysis has been conducted on mother tongue language blogs. Past studies examined the political use of (English-language) blogs and the use of mother tongue

blogs (in Malay) as a medium of instruction. The scope of the study was also limited by available resources, given the expansiveness of the online space. In addition, researchers are able to access blogs that are mostly public, compared to Facebook where many accounts have strict privacy settings.

Despite the limitations, this study is a first in Singapore in exploring the contours of non-English language blogospheres. It has presented the characteristics of Chinese, Malay and Tamil language blogs and identified trends in terms of issues blogged about, the bloggers' approach, their levels of engagement with political and social issues and their use of the mother tongue languages. Future work should explore other social media platforms but some consideration must be given to the constraint in access posed by platforms with privacy settings.

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APPENDICES

Appendix A: List of Chinese Language Blogs

No.	Name of Blog	URL
1	189 Person	http://189person.blogspot.sg/
2	543 Mi Lu ("543 Miles of Road")	http://543milu.blogspot.sg/
3	5AM Bento	http://5ambento.blogspot.sg/
4	A Lil' Bit of Nonsense	http://conversation23.wordpress.com/
5	A Stranger At Home	http://solidair23.blogspot.sg/
6	Ace Khong's Inception Zone	http://acekhong.wordpress.com/
7	Ah Bao Gong Zhu ("Princess Ah Bao")	http://blog.omy.sg/childishbaby/
8	Ah Nya De Zao Jiao ("Ah Nya's Kitchen")	http://ahnyasimplestove.blogspot.sg/
9	Ai Shang Shi Yi Sheng Huo ("In Love with Poetic Life")	http://www.yuminstation.com/
10	Anna's Closet	http://blog.omy.sg/annalim/
11	Bai Ma Fei Ma ("White Horse, Not a	http://yennyhanaike.wordpress.com/
	Horse")	
12	Bai Se Wu Yue ("White, May")	http://blog.omy.sg/sukiyowhitemay/
13	Bian Dan Xin Fu Wu ("Bento Happiness House")	http://bentohappiness.blogspot.sg/
14	Bu Luo	http://jieying1012.wordpress.com/
15	Cai Hong Zhi Road ("Road of Rainbows")	http://xiaofongfan.blogspot.sg/
16	Cai Xin Ban Jin ("Chye Sim Half Kilo")	http://linchi10.wordpress.com/
17	Cao Ming De Ge Ren Kong Jian ("The Commoner's Personal Space")	http://www.sgwritings.com/71802
18	Che ("Through")	http://chedizixin.blogspot.sg/
19	Cheng Bao Nei Guan ("Views from inside	http://prahphnom.blogspot.sg/
	the Castle") Prahphnom	
20	Chong Xing Qi Dong ("Rebooting") Ctrl Alt Del	http://eexienng.wordpress.com/
21	Chuan Zao Er Bu Shi Huan Xiang ("Create not Fantasise")	http://earthy1983.wordpress.com/

22	Chuang Wai De Chun, Xia, Qiu, Dong	http://chuangwai881.blogspot.sg/
	("The Spring, Summer, Autumn, Winter	
	outside the Window")	
23	Ci Qiong Wang Sui Pi ("Casual Writings	http://blog.omy.sg/hengkangwei/
	of Vocabulary-starved King")	
24	Cong Xin Chu Fa ("Setting off from the	http://about-leechoo.blogspot.sg/
	Heart")	
25	Da Fu Hao ("Tycoon")	http://blog.omy.sg/shihhow/
26	Dai Xi De Yi Xiang Shi Jie ("Daisy's	http://ningxianlin.wordpress.com/
	Imaginative World")	
27	Dang Wo Men Zhai Yi Kuai ("When We	http://chenlinchng.wordpress.com/
	Stay Together")	
28	Danny Yeo doing it Chin up and my	http://blog.omy.sg/dannyyeo/
	Wei	
29	Dao Yu Gua Xiang/ Island Observatory	http://shyhjih.wordpress.com/
30	De Er: Zai Lu Shan, You Suo Si, You	http://de-er.blogspot.sg/
	Suo Gan ("De Er's Reflections and	
	Emotions on the Road")	
31	Dian Dian Di Di ("Drips and Drabs")	http://www.ysoonk.blogspot.sg/
32	Dong Shi Feng Ge ("The Style of Tung")	http://tungism.com/
33	Dong Wu Yuan ("Zoo")	http://tonfucius.blogspot.sg/
34	Dong Xie Xi Du ("Understanding	http://blog.omy.sg/yiduan/
	Unconventionality, Liking Poison")	
35	Dou Le Mi ("Doeraymee")	http://doeraymee.blogspot.sg/
36	Du Wu Si Ren ("Cultured Witness")	http://wilsonsihan.wordpress.com/
37	Du Wu Si Ren ("Eye Witness")	http://blog.omy.sg/sihan/
38	Fan Fu Su Zi ("Ordinary Person")	http://ckssg.blogspot.sg/
39	Fly to Freedom?	http://correr.wordpress.com/
40	Foodeology	http://www.foodeology.com
41	From Dusk to Dawn	http://navalants.blogspot.sg/
42	Fu Jian Bin ("Hokkien Platoon")	http://jackccc28.wordpress.com/
43	Fungtasia	http://blog.omy.sg/fungtasia/
44	Goh Meng Seng	http://gohmengseng.blogspot.sg/

Guan Gao Ye Fong Kuang ("Even the	http://ilovetvc.blogspot.sg/
Advertisements are Crazy")	
Hei Hei Bu Yu ("Ha Ha Not Meeting")	http://heihei69.blogspot.sg/
Hong Dou Shu Qian ("Red Bean Book	http://ilofen.blogspot.sg/
Mark")	
Hor = Art + Photo + Kopi	http://horjunior.blogspot.sg/
Hua Wen Ju Chang Yu Biao Yan	http://chinese214.blogspot.sg/
("Mandarin Theatre and Performance")	
Huang Hun ("Sunset")	http://low008.blogspot.sg/
Hwang Indeok Singapore Fan Club	http://blog.omy.sg/huangrendesg/
In The Box	http://blog.omy.sg/inthebox/
Jack Neo Blog	http://blog.omy.sg/jackneo/
Jiawei's Space	http://jiawei072590.wordpress.com/
Jimmy Boy Photo Diary	http://jimmyboyphotodiary.wordpress.com/
Jin Xing Bo Ke ("Jin Xing's Blog")	http://chinsinblogger.blogspot.sg/
Jing Li Jing Wai ("Inside and Outside the	http://blog.omy.sg/muij
Mirror")	
Ka Fei Shan Mu Bei ("Bukit Brown	http://bukitbrowntomb.blogspot.sg/
Tomb")	
Kai Kou Bi Kou ("Opening Mouth,	http://kaikoubikou.blogspot.sg/
Shutting Mouth")	
Kai Xin Guo ("Pistachio")	http://limkhnggeok.blogspot.sg/
Ke Ji Da Ren ("Technology Guru")	http://blog.omy.sg/tech/
KF's Drawing Room	http://leekowfong.wordpress.com/
Kinigu	http://kinigu.blogspot.sg/
Ku Ku Le Ling De Sui Sui Nian ("Cool	http://blog.omy.sg/sweet60/
Senior Citizen's Nagging")	
Kua Bak Lim	http://kuabaklim.blogspot.sg/
Kuai Bi Ye Le ("Graduating Soon")	http://4practise.blogspot.sg/
Kuai Le Tian Shi ("Happy Angels")	http://happyangelclub.wordpress.com/
Lan Yu	http://lanyu.wordpress.com/
	Advertisements are Crazy") Hei Hei Bu Yu ("Ha Ha Not Meeting") Hong Dou Shu Qian ("Red Bean Book Mark") Hor = Art + Photo + Kopi Hua Wen Ju Chang Yu Biao Yan ("Mandarin Theatre and Performance") Huang Hun ("Sunset") Hwang Indeok Singapore Fan Club In The Box Jack Neo Blog Jiawei's Space Jimmy Boy Photo Diary Jin Xing Bo Ke ("Jin Xing's Blog") Jing Li Jing Wai ("Inside and Outside the Mirror") Ka Fei Shan Mu Bei ("Bukit Brown Tomb") Kai Kou Bi Kou ("Opening Mouth, Shutting Mouth") Kai Xin Guo ("Pistachio") Ke Ji Da Ren ("Technology Guru") KF's Drawing Room Kinigu Ku Ku Le Ling De Sui Sui Nian ("Cool Senior Citizen's Nagging") Kuai Bi Ye Le ("Graduating Soon") Kuai Le Tian Shi ("Happy Angels")

69	Lang Ji Tian Ya - Ah Liang De Lu Tu	http://rajali1954.wordpress.com/
	("Wandering in the World - Ah Liang's	
	Journeys")	
70	Leng Yan Heng Mei ("Cold Eyes Straight	http://botakray.blogspot.sg/
	Eyebrows")	
71	Li Da Sha Te Bie Ji Hua ("Silly Li's	http://blog.omy.sg/ahgongahmagoodoldtimes/
	Special Project")	
72	Lian @ Hong Cheng ("Lian at this Human	http://padmaland.blogspot.sg/
	World/Samsara")	
73	Life is Beautiful	http://lucidapp1e.wordpress.com/
74	Lightning Bug	http://55lightningbug.blogspot.sg/
75	Lim Peh Ka Li Kong ("Let Your Old Man	http://oldbeng.blogspot.sg/
	Tell You")	
76	Liu An Hua Ming ("Light at the End of the	http://wwwliuanhuaming.blogspot.sg/
	Tunnel")	
77	Liverpool	http://blog.omy.sg/liverpool
78	Lonelivz	http://lonelivz.pixnet.net/blog
79	Lovely Rose & Valen	http://valentan.blogspot.sg/
80	Lu He Kan Shi Jie ("Lu He Looking at the	http://lv-he-new.blogspot.sg/
	World"")	
81	Lu Xing De Ji Zhe ("Travelling	http://blog.omy.sg/chihhorng/
	Journalist")	
82	Luan Lu Xing ("Anyhow Travel")	http://blog.omy.sg/yexiaozhong/
83	Luo Ke Guo Du ("Luo Ke's World")	http://kunzaikingdom.blogspot.sg/
84	Man Man Tu Hua ("Drawing and Talking	http://blog.omy.sg/eggroll/
	Slowly")	
85	Man Tian Xing Yu (Translations:	http://blog.omy.sg/littlenotesjetty/
	Language of a Starry Sky")	
86	Ming Ke Shi Guang ("Remembering the	http://secret-ahwei.blogspot.sg/
	Times")	
87	Ming's Blog	http://blog.omy.sg/ming/
88	Mo Ge Mo Xing ("Silent Songs")	http://mirrormomo1986.wordpress.com/
89	My Life	http://choylaipeng882.blogspot.sg/
90	Nan Hai De Gu Shi ("A Boy's Story")	http://huangsirong.wordpress.com/
91	NTU HX9201	http://ecriture312.blogspot.sg/

92	Once in a Lan Yue ("Once in a Blue	http://onceina-bluemoon.blogspot.sg/
	Moon")	
93	Ou Xie Jian Yi ("Occassionally Written	http://chenwp1.wordpress.com/
	Viewpoints")	
94	Outcast Tales	http://blog.omy.sg/outcasttales/
95	Pan Yao Tian Bo Ke ("Phoon Yew Tien's	http://phoonyewtien.blogspot.sg/
	Blog")	
96	Pei Yun Li Fong Yi Qi Qu Dou Fong	http://blog.omy.sg/cloudywindz/
	("Accompanying the Clouds and Wind for	
	a Jaunt")	
97	Personal Biography on Song Lyrics	http://blog.omy.sg/comical81/
98	Pi Ji Tai Lai	http://pijitailai.blogspot.sg/
99	Pian Duan Ji Yi ("Snippets of Memories")	http://huang-suhuai.blogspot.sg/
100	Post Hellen	http://posthellen.wordpress.com/
101	Qi Xi Yu ("Seventh Dusk Rain")	http://seventhdusk.wordpress.com/
102	Qian Jing ("Thousand Realisations")	http://www.charmax101.blogspot.sg/
103	Qian Zui Yi Sheng ("Drunk a Thousand	http://xiaosally.blogspot.sg/
	Times in Life")	
104	Qing Zai Ren Jian ("Feelings in the	http://limhe.wordpress.com/
	Human World")	
105	Qiu Fong ("Autumn Wind")	http://hopk-college.blogspot.sg/
106	Quan Bo Liu Sheng Ji (Uncle Quan's	http://blog.omy.sg/quanbo/
	Grammophone")	
107	Ren Min Lun Tan ("Discussion Platform	http://wangruirong.wordpress.com/
	for the People")	
108	Ren Sheng Liang Dao ("The Two Paths	http://honggu.blogspot.sg/
	in Life")	
109	Ri Chu ("Sunrise")	http://block1613.blogspot.sg/
110	Sally Jus In	http://sallyjuslin.blogspot.sg/
111	Sam @ Dun Dian ("Sam at Squatting	http://blog.omy.sg/mingde/
	Position")	
112	San Jiao Jiu Liu Zhi Shuo ("Three	http://3jiao9liutalk.blogspot.sg/
	Teachings and Nine Exchanges")	
113	Sense & Sensibility	http://liusu.blogspot.sg/
114	Serene Koong	http://blog.omy.sg/serenekoong/

115	Sg Facts Blog	http://sgfactblog.wordpress.com/
116	Shao Nian Zi Di Jiang Hu Lao ("Youthful	http://www.cpengng.blogspot.sg/
	but Worldly")	
117	She Hu Da Ren ("Shooting Tiger	http://blog.omy.sg/shehu/
	Experts")	
118	Sheng Chou Xiao Ji (Translated: Extracts	http://drawerunknownplayground.blogspot.sg/
	of a Tiny Diary")	
119	Sheng Huo Xiao Zhu ("Life's Little Pillar")	http://heart1992.blogspot.sg/
120	Sheng Ran	http://shengran.wordpress.com/
121	Shi Cheng Xiao Ren Wu De Xing Sheng	http://rsi-rongde.blogspot.sg/
	("An Ordinary Voice in the Lion City")	
122	Shi Li Dao De Ge Ren Kong Jian ("The	http://www.sgwritings.com/1582
122	Private Space of Shi Li Dao")	http://www.sgwhtings.com/1362
	·	
123	Shi Ren Zheng Cang ("A Poet's Prized	http://ashley0401.wordpress.com/
	Collection")	
124	Shi Wu Da Ji	http://qxojoxp.wordpress.com/
125	Si Xu Zhi Gui/ A Frame of Mind	http://corinneksc.wordpress.com/
126	Singapore Alternatives	http://singaporealternatives.blogspot.sg/
127	Small White	http://blog.omy.sg/smallwhite/
128	Study Room	http://yapphenghui.wordpress.com/
129	Sui Bi Xiao Pin ("Little Works of the	http://km-work.blogspot.sg/
	Casual Pen")	
130	Sui Yuan Ren Sheng ("Life of going with	http://limgangyu.blogspot.sg/
	Fate")	
131	Sui Yue Bu Ju ("Time Does Not Stand	http://mapletree8913.blogspot.sg/
	Still")	
132	Sunny's Space	http://weesiongsune.wordpress.com/
133	Sze Ping's Photography Journey	http://blog.omy.sg/szeping/
134	The Elusive Sleuth	http://jennyteo.wordpress.com/
135	The Mobile Armchair	http://mobile-armchair.blogspot.sg/
136	This is Me. My Springnote	http://pikaboy90.wordpress.com/
137	Tian Kao Li De Yi Pian Yun ("A Cloud in	http://cloudland109.blogspot.sg/
	the Skies")	
138	Tie Chi Zhi Duan ("Metal Teeth Until	http://blog.omy.sg/mobeizao/
	Broken")	

139	Tokyo Rendezvous	http://blog.omy.sg/yueintokyo/
140	Transitional Eternity	http://xuyun74.blogspot.sg/
141	Travelgraphy	http://travelgraphy.wordpress.com/
142	Two Three Five Nine	http://two3five9.livejournal.com/
143	Vagrant in Life	http://www.v1love.blogspot.sg/
144	Vivian Shu Fa Xin Qin Wu ("Vivian's	http://vivian1419.blogspot.sg/
	Expressive House")	
145	Wai Xiang Zai Nan ("Extroverted	http://outdoorhouseman.wordpress.com/
	Homebody")	
146	Wan Wan Xia Wu Cha ("Wan Wan's	http://kwanwan.blogspot.sg/
	Afternoon Tea")	
147	Wang Zhong Ren ("Man in the Net")	http://fongmyong-fmy.blogspot.sg/
148	Wang Zuo Sen @ Sen Pin Tang ("Wang	http://nvms.blogspot.sg/
	Zuo Sen in a Room of Taste")	
149	Wen Dao Shi ("Wiping off/Smelling of	http://cass-tsl.blogspot.sg/
	Food")	
150	Wen Xin Da Ren ("Heartwarming Guru")	http://blog.omy.sg/ahchu/
151	When the Sun Rises	http://xin1227.blogspot.sg/
152	When Words Fail, Music Speaks	http://blog.omy.sg/ongchangsong/
153	Wings on the Way	http://wingsontheway.wordpress.com/
154	Wo Shi Lao Shi ("I am a Teacher")	http://heartyinn.blogspot.sg/
155	Wo Shou Wo Shou ("I Say, I Say")	http://nicdino.blogspot.sg/
156	Wo Si Gu Wo Zai ("I Think, Therefore I	http://lowchunmeng.wordpress.com/
	am")	
157	Wonderfuu	http://blog.omy.sg/wonderfuu/
158	Wongys707	http://wongys707.blogspot.sg/
159	Wu Hu Si Hai ("Five Lakes Four Seas")	http://ayswong.blogspot.sg/
160	Wu Se Tiao Ban ("Colourless Palette")	http://tanpingpalette.blogspot.sg/
161	Wu Yin De Lan Tian ("Borderless Blue	http://kokchwan.blogspot.sg/
	Skies")	
162	Xi Yang Zi Le ("Finding Joy in Sunset")	http://quanfujisingnetcomag.blogspot.sg/
163	Xiao Qing De Shi Jie ("Xiao Qing's World	http://xiaoqingworld.blogspot.sg/

164	Xiao Sa Zuo Yi Hui ("Travelling Without a	http://xiaosaujun.blogspot.sg/
	Care")	
165	Xin Ai Xing Ai ("New Love, Sex Love")	http://blog.omy.sg/walters/
166	Xin Guo Zhi ("New Governance")	http://xinguozhi.wordpress.com
	, ,	
167	Xin Jia Po Qing Shi Yan Jiu Wang; Qing	http://qinghistorysg.com/
	History Society Singapore	
168	Xin Jia Po Wen Shi Da Ren ("Singapore's	http://blog.omy.sg/sgstory/
	Social History Guru")	
169	Xin Jia Po Wen Xian Guan/ Sg Insight	http://www.sginsight.com/xjp/
170	Xin Yi ("Name of Blogger")	http://www.ixinyi.net/
171	Xin Yi Ci ("Xin's Intentions and Words")	http://xinyici.blogspot.sg/
172	Xin Zi Xun ("Singapore Information	http://www.sgcninfo.com/
	Search")	
173	Xing Xing She Se ("Manifold Shapes and	http://calviny.blogspot.sg/
	Colours")	
174	Xiong Zai Wu Yu ("Ah Xiong's	http://blog.omy.sg/vocalxiong/
	Enlightened Words")	
175	Xiu Xing Dao ("Buddha Path")	http://mybuddhapath.blogspot.sg/
176	Xue De Xiao Chu Fang ("Sabrina's Little	http://sabrinakitchen.blogspot.sg/
	Kitchen")	
177	Xue Li Nei Xin De Tian Kong ("The Inner	http://shirley-xueli22.blogspot.sg/
	Sky of Xue Li")	
178	Xun Yi Cao De Xiu Xian Kong Jian	http://lavender-studio.blogspot.sg/
	("Lavender's Leisure Space")	
179	XY	http://xy101.blogspot.sg/
180	Yang Hong Peng's Blog	http://blog.omy.sg/sghpility/
181	Ye Shan Zhu ("Wild Boar")	http://jasperthong.wordpress.com/
182	Yi Xiang Tian Kai De Sui Yue ("Years of	http://yixiangtiankai.blogspot.sg/
	Wistful Thinking")	
183	Yong Huai Xiao Mei ("Eternally	http://changhsiaomei.blogspot.sg/
	Remember Hsiao Mei")	
184	You Chang Lai Le ("Friend Comes Here	http://www.sgwritings.com/2550
	Often")	
185	You Kong Lai Kan Kan ("Take a Look	http://lowlip.livejournal.com/
	when Free")	

186	You Spark My Ripples	http://hongkai0818.wordpress.com/
187	You You Ji ("Diary on Leisurely	http://blog.omy.sg/yewniverse/
	Journeys")	
188	Yu Le Yuan ("Entertainment Park")	http://blog.omy.sg/hanyu/
189	Yu Ren Xiao Zhu	http://blog.omy.sg/tingting/
190	Yuan Feng ("Fate")	http://adachowlee.blogspot.sg/
191	Zai Shui Yi Fang ("On One Side of the	http://pingyangju.blogspot.sg/
	Water")	
192	Zhe Yang De Yi Ge Wo ("This Type of	http://harriet1979.blogspot.sg/
	Me")	
193	Zhi Yan You Yu ("Drunken Speech,	http://zhiyanyouyu.blogspot.sg/
	Quality Language")	
194	Zhong Guo Cai Zai Wo Jiao Xia ("China	http://sgchinese888.blogspot.sg/
	under my Feet")	
195	Zhou Mo Guan Qing ("Weekend	http://satleisure.blogspot.sg/
	Concerns")	
196	Zhuang Shi Xin Jia Po De Tai Ke	http://chongleong.blogspot.sg/
	("Reincarnated Singapore")	
197	Zi Zai ("At Ease with Oneself")	http://weijuan01.wordpress.com/
198	Zu Ji ("Footprints")	http://yuanquanquan.blogspot.sg/
199	Zui Ai De ("Most Beloved")	http://mymeloves.blogspot.sg/
200	Zui Shen Jiang Hu Chimology	http://blog.omy.sg/chimkang/
201	Zuo Chu Zhi Shi ("Stories of Going Out")	http://itsmejoey1802.blogspot.sg/

Appendix B: List of Malay Language Blogs

No.	Name of Blog	URL
1	A bittersweet memories to the big day	http://mybridejourney2014.blogspot.sg/
2	A journey of a lifetime	http://juzustwo.wordpress.com/
3	A Malay Gen Y Living in Singapore	http://penggubalfikiran.wordpress.com/
4	Abang Boy & Putri ("Brother Boy & Putri)	http://abangboyputri.com
5	ALIGNVISION	http://alignvision.wordpress.com/
6	Behind the scenes of a bride	http://disebaliktabirbride.wordpress.com/
7	Blog @ U-start	http://haniff.sg/
8	Blog Bahasa Melayu Saya	http://jurnalmagdalene.livejournal.com/
9	Blog Melayu Syl : D	http://bogmelayusyl.wordpress.com/
	Saya Suka Bahasa Melayu	
10	Building a community of excellence	http://www.kampungnet.com.sg/
11	Cetusan. Luahan. Pandangan	http://abahyasir.com/
	("Thoughts. Expressions. Perspectives")	
12	Curlybabe's Satisfaction	http://curlybabesatisfaction.blogspot.com
13	Dandyar	http://dandyar.wordpress.com/
14	For the simple yet choosy	http://dijahfaizal29.wordpress.com/
15	Fragments @ Sugarnova	http://sugarnova.wordpress.com/
16	His Neighbour: The Bride	http://ohmyknot.wordpress.com/
17	I'm getting personal	http://imgettingpersonal.blogspot.sg/
18	Kahwin Khronicles ("Wedding	http://www.kahwin-khronicles.com/
	Chronicles)	
19	Mama Hawa	http://mama-hawa-nani.blogspot.com/
20	Mrs MishBubbles.	http://diarijazreen.blogspot.sg/
21	My Little Kitchen	http://fiqah99.blogspot.com/
22	Our Neverending story	http://fsquared4ever.wordpress.com/
23	Rilek 1 Corner jom layan	http://rilek1corner.com/
24	Rozzan	http://rozzan.blogspot.sg/
25	Saat Jais: Pakar Urut ("Saat Jais:	http://saatjais.wordpress.com/
	Massage Expert")	
26	Slumbering Away	http://slumber-nuisancelife.blogspot.sg/
27	Singapura Kita ("Our Singapore")	http://singapurakita.com/
28	Suara - dari isi hati dan budi bicara	http://chairulfahmy.wordpress.com/
29	Sujimy Mohamad	http://www.sujimy.com/
30	Teratak Alang Budiman	http://alangbudiman.wordpress.com/

Appendix C: List of Tamil Language Blogs

No.	Name of Blog	URL
1	Sunderavanam ("Beautiful forest")	http://pon1234a.blogspot.sg/
2	Rojak Different Taste	http://shaanavas.wordpress.com/
3	Perithinum Periyathu Kel ("Ask for	http://clickmathangi.blogspot.sg/
	the biggest among the big")	
4	Aa Pakkangal Katrathinal Anana	http://amaruvi.com/
	Payan ("Ahpages, benefit of	
	learning")	
5	En Arambam ("My beginning")	http://pandiidurai.wordpress.com/
6	Kamalaganam ("Kamala's Song")	http://kamalagaanam.blogspot.sg/
7	Manathiluruthivendumm ("Be stout	http://manathiluruthivendumm.blogspot.com/
	hearted")	
8	Padiyungal Suvaiyungal ("Read and	http://blog.zquad.in/
	taste")	
9	Eerthathil ("Among the attractions")	http://blog.nilavan.net/
10	ManaaVizhi ("Eye of the mind")	http://manavili.blogspot.sg/
11	En Kalvettu ("My stone inscription")	http://www.en-kalvettu.blogspot.sg/
12	Anbuda Nnan ("With affection from	http://anbudannaan.blogspot.sg/
	me")	
13	Kalam ("Time")	http://govikannan.blogspot.sg/2013/12/blog-
		post.html
14	Kuzhali Pakangal ("Pages of	http://kuzhali.blogspot.sg/
	Kuzhali")	
15	Nenjin Alaygal ("Waves of the heart")	http://yemkaykumar.blogspot.sg/
16	Priyamudan Prabhu ("With love from	http://priyamudan-prabu.blogspot.com/
	Prabhu")	
17	Manavan ("Student")	http://urssimbu.blogspot.com/
18	Enna Ooviam ("Painting of the	http://theivamohan.blogspot.sg/
	mind")	
19	Giri Blog	http://www.giriblog.com/
20	Thiraikadal Odi Thiraviyam Thedu	http://bashkaran.blogspot.sg/
	("Go across the oceans to seek your	
	fortunes")	

Appendix D: Example of Personal-Type Blog fungtasia



Appendix E: Example of K-Log Blog

咖啡山墓碑 (Bukit Brown Tomb)



Appendix F: Example of Aggregator Blog

新国志 (New Country Magazine/New Governance)

新国志

有关新加坡政治、社会、文化的报过、分析与课论

中国会继续学习新加坡吗?

leave a comment :

到永年 2014-3-12

http://www.caogen.com/blog/Infor_detail/58135.html

改革开放以来,中国取得了举世瞩目的成就。其成功育后有很多因素。一个重要因素就是善于向其 他国家学习。人们因此把中国称为"学习型国家",改革开放过程也就是向其他国家学习的过程。新加 坡在其中扮演了一个特别角色,起到了其他国家所起不到的作用。在改革开放30多年后的今天,中 国是否会继续学习新加坡呢?这是很多人最近关切的问题。

要回答这个问题。就是要看新加坡经验和中国的相关性。中国学习新加坡或者其他国家。不是为了 学习而学习,而是为了中国各方面现代化的需要。只要新加坡经验和中国具有相关性,中国仍然会 继续学,只要新加坡经验比其他国家的经验和中国实相关,中国仍然会选择新加坡作为学习对像。

首先,在全球化时代,除了少数几个处于封闭状态的落后国家,没有一个国家的建设和发展,能够 避免受外在经验的影响。全球化不仅仅是货物和贸易。更是各种思想在全球范围内的流通。在很大 程度上说。存在着一个全球范围的"思想市场"。思想流通到哪里,那里就会受到影响。对很多国家来 说。这种影响不是被劲的。而是主动的,也就是一个主权国家主动向另外一个主权国家学习。改革 开放进程中,中国在这方面的表现尤其突出。

其次,在众多的国家中,为什么中国选择了新加坡》简单地说。中国学习新加坡并非必然,而是自 邓小平以来中国几代领导层的选择。为什么?

上世纪70年代末和80年代初,中国刚刚开始进行改革开放,尽管新加坡也是当时中国学习的对象,但其重要性并不突出。当时东欧的匈牙利和东亚的日本也是中国的重点学习对象。匈牙利是东欧共产主义中比较早就进行改革的国家。同样作为共产主义国家的中国,参照匈牙利经验是很自然的事情。日本是亚州第一个成功实现现代化的国家,从近代开始的给是中国学习的对象,对小平复出不久就访问了日本。因此,学习日本不难理解。1978年邓小平也访问了新加坡,这个城市国家各方面的建设成就,给他留下了深刻的印象,中国学习新加坡也不难理解,应当指出的是,1980年代初。已经退下来的新加坡前届总理吴庆批先生,被邀担任中国政府沿得开发区和旅游业的顾问多年。不过,在整个1980年代。新加坡经验并没有在中国得到高度的重视,更多的是一个参照对象。 阅读更多 2

分享:



这是一个汇集有关新加坡政治、社会、文化的报道、分析与符论的债务。实现投稿或推荐好文章,也实但保提出意见 及建议。电由为址: xinguozhi@gmail.com

轉為繁體

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最新评论

。 宝宝 on 新加速加利超線 研

Appendix G: Example of Mixed Blog

安娜私房话 (Anna's Closet)



Appendix H: "Blog Melayu Syl" (Syl's Malay Blog)



Appendix I:

"Kahwin Khronicles" (Wedding Chronicles)

Email: farnamaisi at igmaili dot icom

Previously blogged at Kahwin Khronicles @

Countdoor

136:08:17:12 since Our Wedding

165:17:42:47 until Our New Home

Milestone Reads

Pre-Wedding

- ♥ Booking our Bridal Andaman
- ♥ Booking our Caterers
- ♥ Booking our Chiavari Chairs
- ♥ Booking our Dessert Table
- ♥ Booking our Entertainment
- ♥ Booking our Favours
- ♥ Booking our Kompang
- ♥ Booking our Photobooth (Lunch)
- ♥ Booking our Photobooth (Dinner)
- ♥ Buying My Bridal Shoes
- ♥ Choosing My Bridal Bouquet♥ Confirmation of Wedding Venue
- ♥ Engaging Card Vendor (Farhana's Side) ♥ Engaging Card Vendor (Saliheen's Side)
- ♥ Getting Married SG Malay-Style (Part I)
- ♥ Getting Married SG Malay-Style (Part II)

this is a story about my McDreamy

Have you seen how berjangkit the love story timeline post by Eleventh October is?! Few Stolen Seconds and Elziii have already done theirs and now that I have a little bit of free time at home, I'mma give it a shot jugak! Jeng jeng jenggg.

Ok lah, actually there's nothing really much to say since there's a brief outline of our story in the Al-Kisah tab but I thought I'd do something I've been wanting to do - which is to officially compile selected special moments that happened before our relationship started into one entry so I don't have to waste time choosing archives at random whenever I start feeling nostalgic about the beginnings of our relationship haha (Yes, that's what I've been doing, and YES, AKU BETUL PEH KUASA)

I've been blogging since I was 14 and have pretty much stored all my teenage and young adult life memories in blog entries, including the zaman purba days when I used to blog about my then-crush, now-fiance! Sekarang bila baca balik, very the geli hati with how kentalan buah lychee I was!!!

And it was only recently baru I let him read the blog entries himself - before this I've always refused to let him read the blog entries no matter how hard he begged or whatever beruang comel face he made. Maklumlah, sejak dua menjak nak dekat jadi suami isteri ni kan..... everything also want to share share lor. Hehehe.

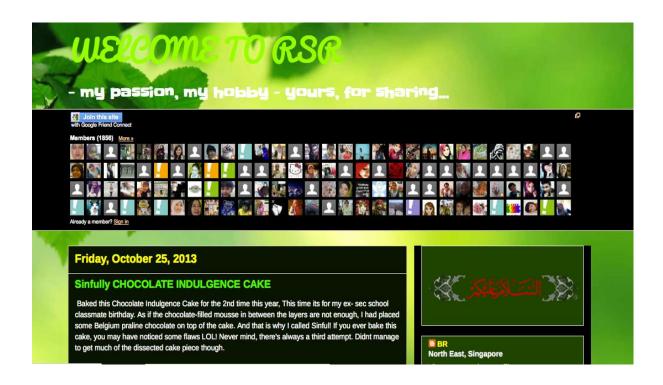
Ok lah, our story ni takde main chak chak sampai actually ada chance to meet each other at earlier stages of our lives ah but you know what they say in peribahasa lists - ikan di laut, asam di darat, akhirnya bertemu di belanga juga! (Well, in our case, the belanga was called Temasek Polytechnic ah hahahahaha)

I also don't have a manis semanis kuih koci high school secondary school sweetheart story because I didn't really warm up to the idea of tying myself

Appendix J: Sujimy.com



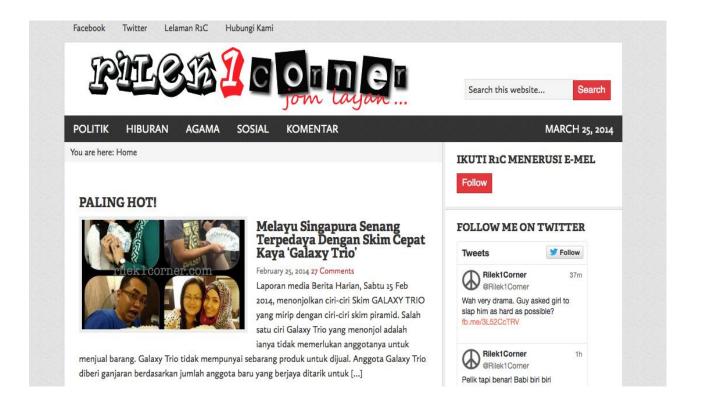
Appendix K: Welcome to RSR



Appendix L: Abahyasir.com

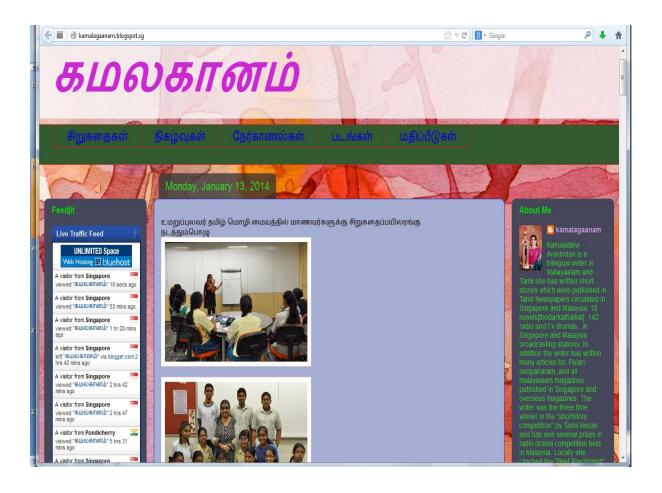


Appendix M: Rilek 1 Corner



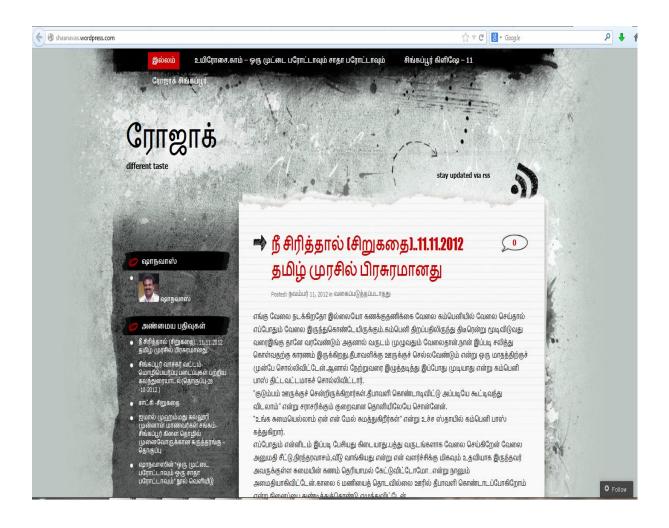
Appendix N:

கமலகானம் (Kamala's Song)

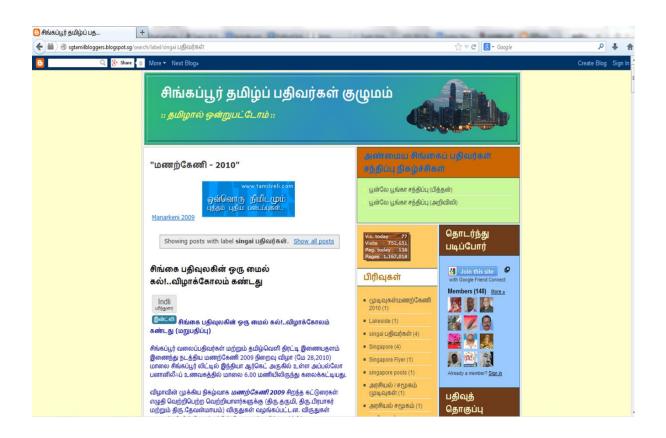


Appendix O:

ரோஜாக் different taste (Rojak Different Taste)



Appendix P: சிங்கப்பூர் தமிழ்ப் பதிவர்கள் குழுமம் (Tamil Bloggers Forum)



Photos from bloggers meet, book release and awards plaque

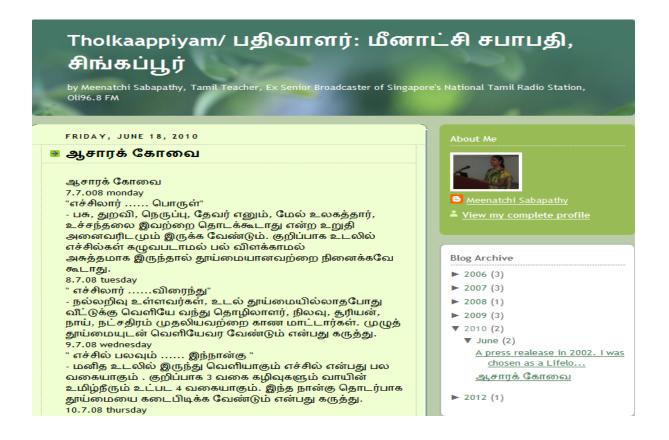




Appendix Q:

Tholkaappiyam/பதிவாளர்: மீனாட்சி சபாபதி, சிங்கப்பூர்

(Tholkaappiyam/Blogger: Meenatychi Sabapathy, Singapore)



Appendix R:

அன்புடன், அழகிய பாண்டியன் தமிழுக்காக, தமிழால், தமிழுடன்

(With Affection, Azhagiya Pandiyan For Tamil, By Tamil, With Tamil)

