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Citizen Science in A Small World of Singlish Words

Cynthia S. Q. SIEW

National University of Singapore (NUS)

Jin Jye WONG

National University of Singapore (NUS)

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SIEW, Cynthia S. Q. and WONG, Jin Jye. Citizen Science in A Small World of Singlish Words. (2024).
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Citizen Science in A Small World of Singlish Words: A Word Association Study

Cynthia S. Q. Siew & Wong Jin Jye

Singapore Open Research Awards 2024

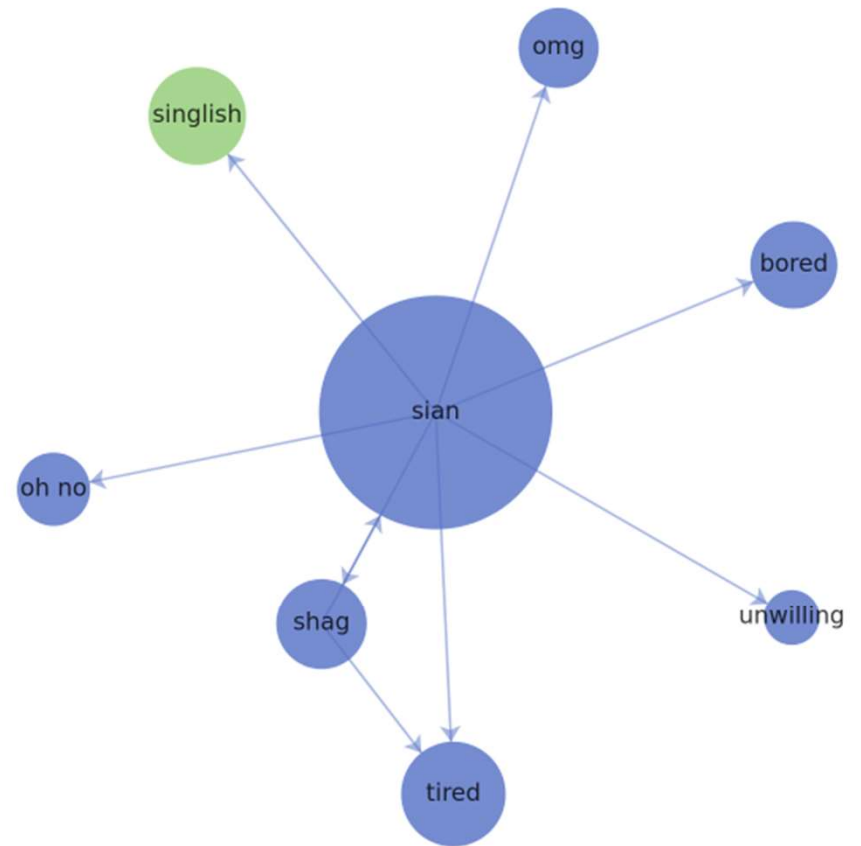
12 November 2024



NUS
National University
of Singapore

National University of Singapore

**What is the first word that
comes to your mind when
you think of the word
“shioh”?**



Visualizations from: <https://singlishwords.nus.edu.sg/visualise>

<https://smallworldofwords.org/en>



SMALL WORLD OF WORDS
Discover what **words** mean for **people** worldwide

Mapping the mental lexicon

The small world of words project is a large-scale scientific study that aims to build a mental dictionary or lexicon in the major languages of the world and make this information widely available.

In contrast to a thesaurus or dictionary, we use **word associations** to learn about what words mean and which ones are central in the human mind. This enables psychologists, linguists, neuro-scientists and others to test new theories about how we represent and process language. This knowledge could also be applied in a variety of ways, from learning about the difference between cultures, to learning (or forgetting) new words in a first or a second language.

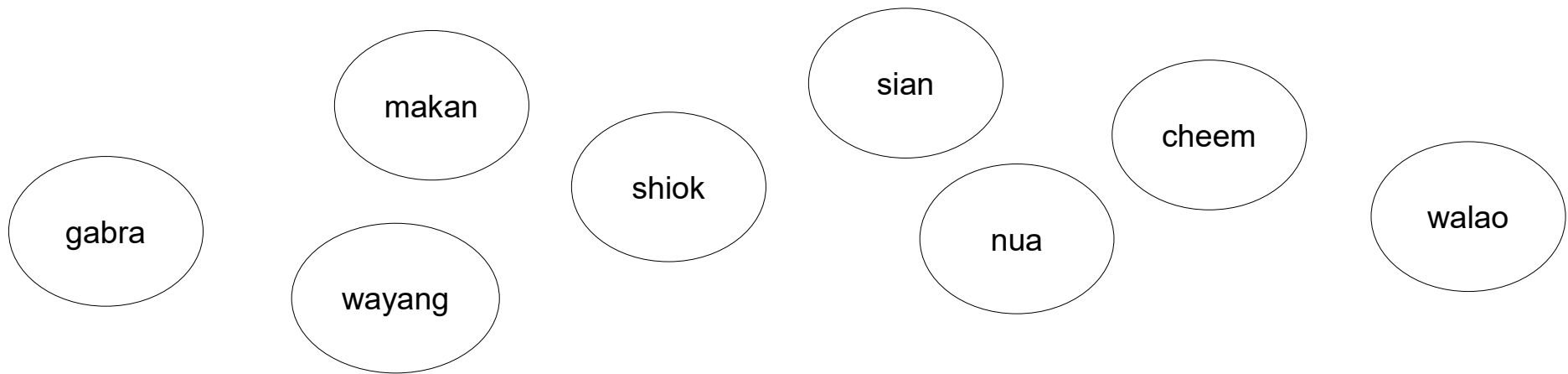
Participate in your language

You can help us to build a mental lexicon in your language! It takes just 5 minutes of your time. Just pick your native language below and get started right away.

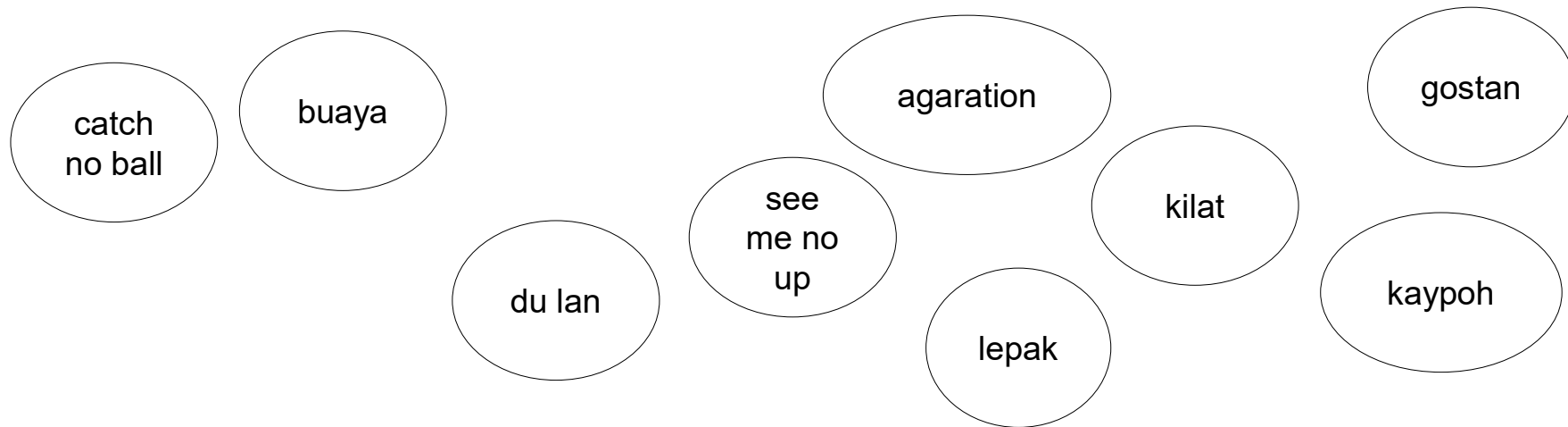
اللغة العربية Bahasa Deutsch English Español Français Italiano Nederlands Rioplatense
Português Русский Türkçe 汉语 廣東話 日本語 한국어 Tiếng Việt हिन्दी

Open dataset of
associations to
over 12,000
English words!

De Deyne, S., Navarro, D. J., Perfors, A., Brysbaert, M., & Storms, G. (2019). The “Small World of Words” English word association norms for over 12,000 cue words. *Behavior Research Methods*, 51, 987–1006.

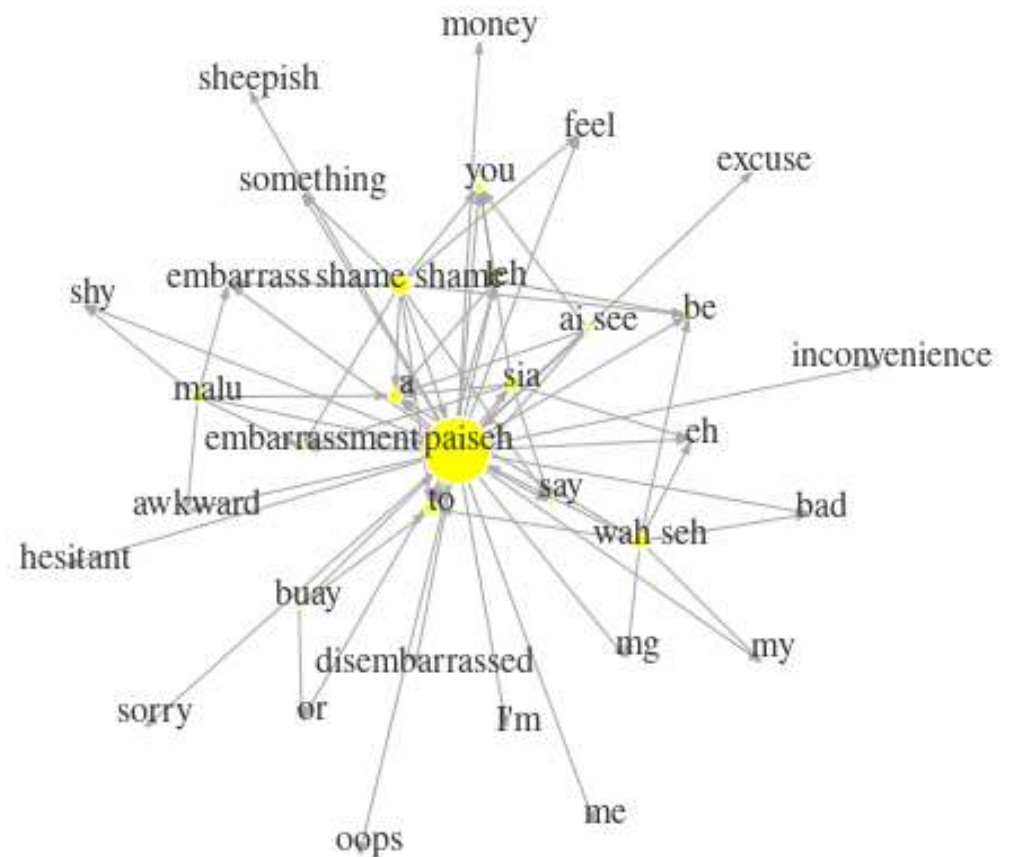


But what are the associations of "uniquely Singlish" concepts?



What are the goals of SWoSW?

- Collect and develop lexical-semantic and word association norms for concepts unique to Singapore English (~4,000 “Singlish” concepts)
- A cognitive map of the Singapore English mental lexicon
- How are Singlish (and English) concepts *connected* in our minds?





A Small World of Singlish Words:

A Word Association Study

Welcome to this study on word associations in Singapore English. Singaporeans have a unique vocabulary, consisting of Singlish words and phrases that originate from various local languages, on top of the Standard English vocabulary. As researchers studying language and memory we are interested in the nature and organization of this unique mental dictionary of Singapore English.

You can help us capture this knowledge by playing a simple game of word associations. This game takes no more than 15 minutes of your time. All you have to do is to respond with the first three words that come to your mind for a list of Singapore English words.

If you are between 18 to 80 years old, and consider yourself to be a native speaker of Singapore English, you are eligible to take part in our study.

If you proceed, you consent to your demographic and linguistic data to be collected for research purposes. This data is completely anonymous, and never linked to your personal or contact information. Your anonymized data could be shared with other researchers for the purpose of scientific exploration.

I WANT TO PARTICIPATE!

<https://singlishwords.nus.edu.sg/>

Word associations are
*crowdsourced from the
Singaporean public*

Anybody can contribute!

Informed consent obtained

pek chek

Enter a word that comes to your mind

angry

Enter a word that comes to your mind

du lan

Participants can choose to
leave the study at anytime

Enter a word that comes to your mind

I do not know this word

Progress

NEED HELP?

CONTINUE

Information about you

Before we get started, please provide the following info.

Asterisk (*) indicates a compulsory field.

*

Please select your age

*

Please select your gender

*

Please select your highest attained educational qualification

*

Singapore
Please select your country of birth

*

Please select your ethnic group

*

Singapore
Please select your current country of residence

*

How many years have you lived in Singapore?

(Please ensure that you have selected your age before attempting this question)

*

Are you a native English speaker?

LANGUAGE CHOSEN

What other languages do you speak?

RE-SELECT CHOSEN LANGUAGE

CONTINUE

Demographic data (age, gender, education, ethnicity, languages spoken) are **not** considered personal data under the PDPA.

Consider: Is the collection of personal data necessary for your project?

Thank You!

Your associations

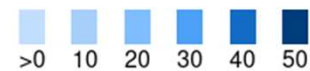
Thank you for adding **26** associations to the Small World of Singlish Words. A total of **1 (3.85%)** of your associations matched with other people.

More details:

MY ASSOCIATIONS

ALL USERS ASSOCIATIONS

Popularity %



Cue

kilat

sillypore

kacang brain

no head no tail

missing tooth

worry about reputation

hdb flat

alamak

Top 3 Associations

crazy fast lightning

singapore silliness nation

stupid peanut brain rabak

senseless nonsense nothing

fried chicken crab apple

face think too much what reputation?

house public housing flaf

why like that surprise oh no

Fostering participant engagement and interest

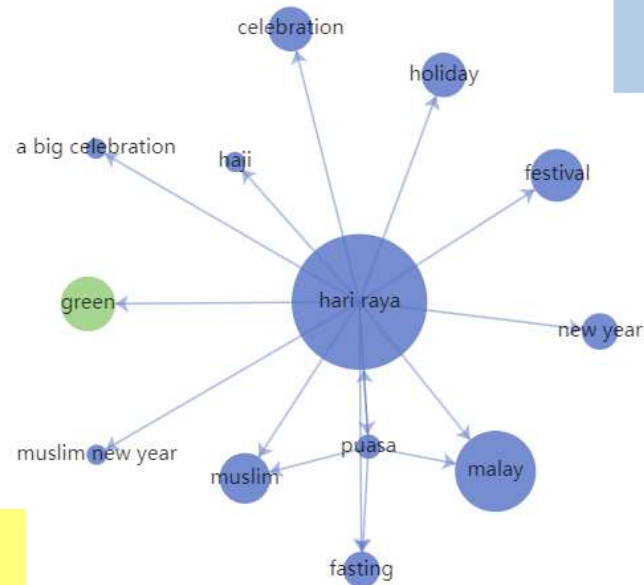
Explore our data using visualizations!

HOME EXPLORE **VISUALISE**



Word: *hari raya*
Visualisation: *One-hop Network*
Relation: *Forward Associations*

Fostering participant engagement and interest



<https://singlishwords.nus.edu.sg/visualise>

Small World of Singlish Words Student Data

4.9MB

Make Private

Public

0

...

Contributors: [Wong Jin Jye](#), [Cynthia S. Q. Siew](#)

Date created: 2023-04-24 05:02 PM | Last Updated: 2024-03-27 04:43 PM

Create DOI

Category: Project

Description:

A dataset from the Small World of Singlish Words project, comprising of responses collected from NUS students on the wiki-300 list of Singlish Words

License: *CC-By Attribution 4.0 International*

Wiki



Description: Word association data for common Singapore English (Singlish) concepts collected from a young adult population of university undergraduates using the Qualtrics online survey platform. Part of the Small World of Singlish Words project (SWOSW, <https://singlishwords.nus.edu.sg>)

Contact: If you discover any errors or have any comments or suggestions, please email jin_jye@nus.edu.sg. As pe...

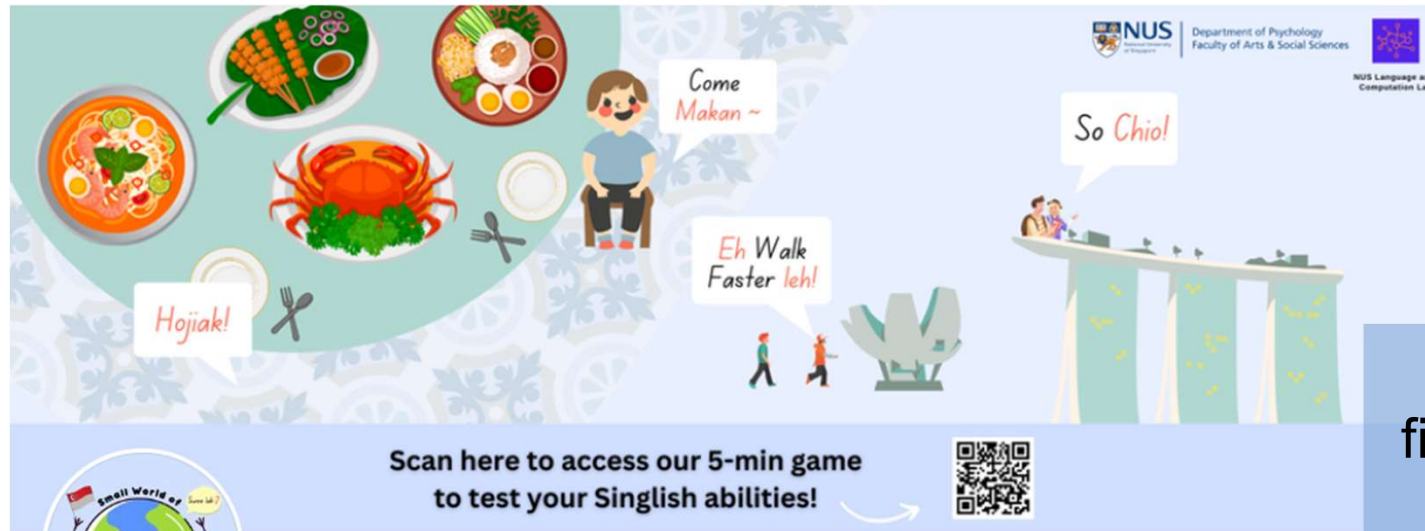
[Read More](#)

Open preliminary dataset of associations to ~300 Singlish concepts!

<https://osf.io/t2qXH/>

Connect with us on social media!

<https://facebook.com/singlishwords>



Sharing of research findings and language issues in Singapore



Small World of Singlish Words

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Intro

We study Singlish Words!

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- singlishwords@nus.edu.sg
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Posts

Filters



Small World of Singlish Words
25 September at 15:36

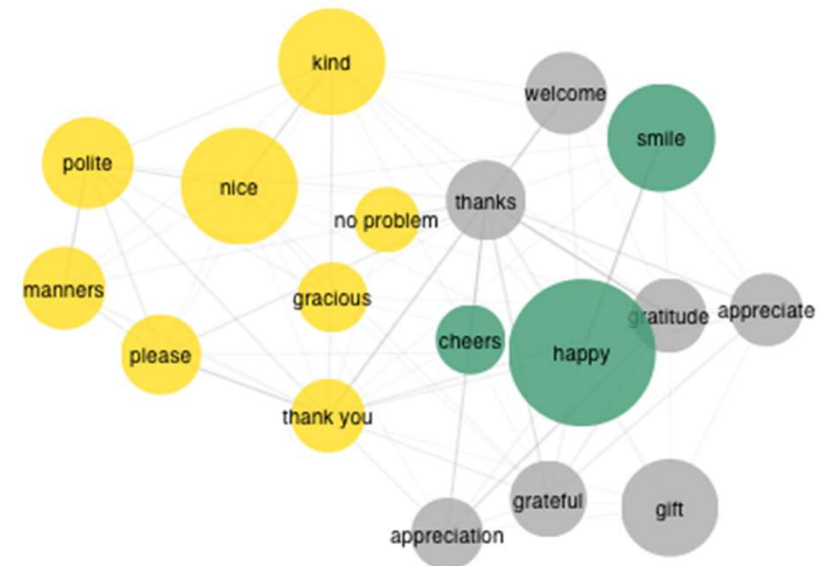
Did you know that Bedok might have a drumming good history? 🥁
The name "Bedok" could be linked to the Malay word "bedoh," a type of drum traditionally used to call Muslims to prayer. Or perhaps it's connected to "biduk," a small fishing boat once common in the area. 🐟

| Thank you

Funders: DSO National Laboratories
(2021-2022), Social Science
Research Council (2023-2027)

Project Team: **Wong Jin Jye**, *Feria
Chang, Zehua (Rankie) Jiang,
Chester Tan, Anutra Guru*

Student Developers: *Wong Jun Long,
Kevin Mingtarja, Gong Zequn,
Shashank Acharya, Connor Lim*



| **Contribute and stay in touch**

Word Association Game: <https://singlishwords.nus.edu.sg/>

Follow us on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/singlishwords>

LCL@NUS: <https://langcomplab.github.io/>

Get in touch: singlishwords@nus.edu.sg

The OG SWOW: <https://smallworldofwords.org/en/project>

