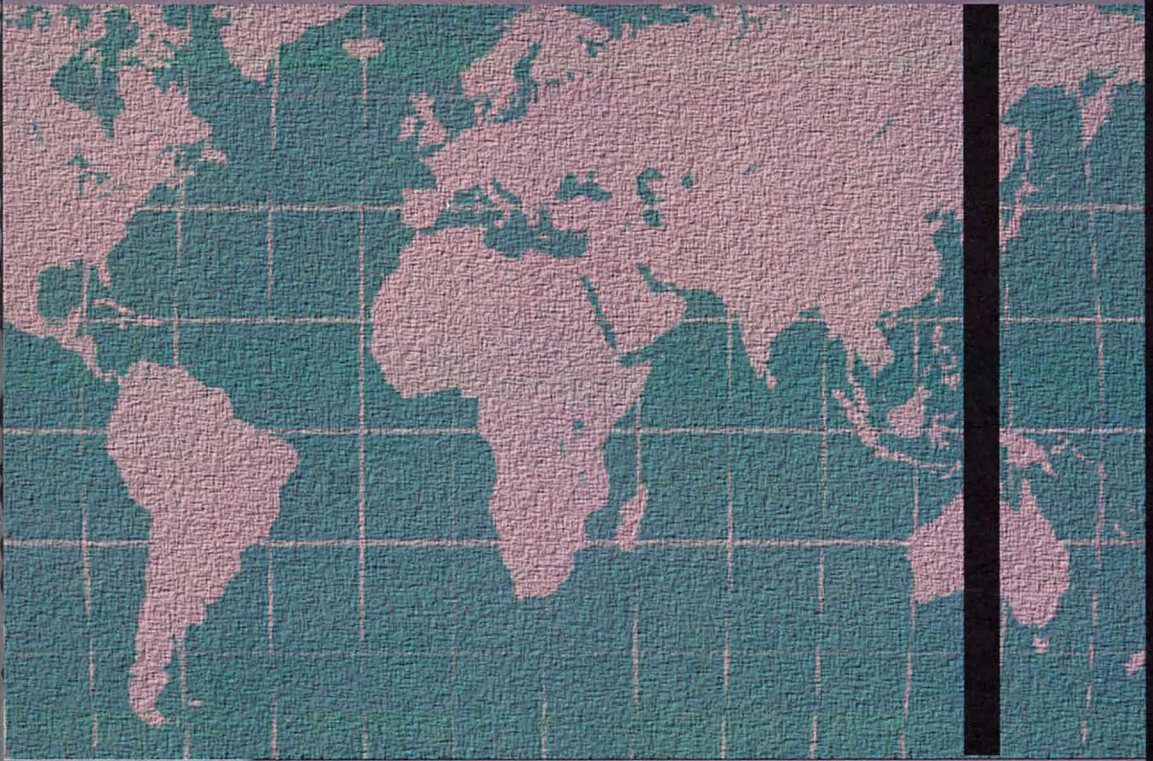


CROSSING BOUNDARIES



**Musings on Language, Literature
and Culture**



IIUM Press

Edited by Md. Mahmudul Hasan

Crossing Boundaries

Musings on Language, Literature and Culture

Edited By

Md. Mahmudul Hasan

Department of English Language and Literature

International Islamic University Malaysia



IIUM Press

INTERNATIONAL ISLAMIC UNIVERSITY MALAYSIA

Published by:
IIUM Press
International Islamic University Malaysia

First Edition, 2011
©IIUM Press. IIUM

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted, in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, or otherwise, without any prior written permission of the publisher.

Perpustakaan Negara Malaysia

Cataloguing-in-Publication Data

Md. Mahmudul Hasan: Crossing Boundaries Musings on Language,
Literature and Culture

ISBN: 978-967-418-146-8

Member of Majlis Penerbitan Ilmiah Malaysia – MAPIM
(Malaysian Scholarly Publishing Council)

Printed by :
IIUM PRINTING SDN. BHD.
No. 1, Jalan Industri Batu Caves 1/3
Taman Perindustrian Batu Caves
Batu Caves Centre Point
68100 Batu Caves
Selangor Darul Ehsan

Contents

Acknowledgements	03
01 Introduction: Crossing Boundaries and Celebrating Diversity <i>Md. Mahmudul Hasan</i>	09
02 The Almost Enforced Mingling of Cultures: Anthony Burgess' Depiction of Races and Race-Relations in Pre-Independence Malaya <i>Ghulam-Sarwar Yousof</i>	17
03 Quest for Spiritual Guidance and Illumination in Namangi's Imfiraji and Kemala's Ayn <i>Umar Abdurrahman</i>	31
04. Awareness of Gender-sensitive Expressions in the Print Media: A Study of Malaysian English Dailies <i>Haja Mohideen Bin Mohamed Ali</i>	47
05 A Malay-English Cross-linguistic Study of Present Time Forms <i>Maskanah Mohammad Lotfie</i>	53
06 Mirza Ghalib as a Mystical Poet: Introducing Two Urdu Ghazals <i>Ghulam-Sarwar Yousof</i>	61
07 "Narrating Malaysia": Nationalism in Malaysian Literature in English <i>Aimillia Mohd Ramli</i>	73
08 On membership of the class of articles in English <i>Ridwan Wahid</i>	83
09 "Why Poetry?" Why Not: Relevant-sing Poetry at IIUM <i>Nur Sheena Baharudin</i>	97
Afterword	113
Notes on Contributors	115

CHAPTER 5

A Malay-English Cross-linguistic Study of Present Time Forms

Maskanah Mohammad Lotfie

International Islamic University Malaysia

Abstract: This is a comparative study of written present time forms of Malay and English. Central to the discussion on temporal similarities and differences between the two languages is the unmarked form of the former. Written output from respondents who use Malay as their first language and English as a second language (ESL) was collected, and the data analysis provides evidence of the difference in the acquisitional patterns of the English present time forms between the two distinct levels of Malay users of the English language. Lower intermediate users' output strongly approximates Malay forms while the more proficient group's interlanguage indicates the usage of more complex linguistic items.

Keywords: cross-linguistic influence, Malay present time forms, English present time forms, acquisition patterns, interlanguage

Introduction

Malay and English come from two different linguistic families. So, according to Contrastive Analysis Hypothesis (CAH) (James, 1980; Lado, 1957), it is predictable that Malay learners of English will face difficulties in learning linguistic features that do not have parallel or equivalent forms in their native language. The CAH claims that the principal barrier to second language acquisition is the interference of the first language on the second language system, and that a scientific, structural analysis of the two languages in question would yield a taxonomy of linguistic contrasts between them which in turn would enable a linguist to predict the difficulties a learner would encounter (Brown, 2006). The idea is updated in Odlin's (2003) Cross-Linguistic Influence (CLI) theory to include other aspects of the first language, such as, phonology, syntax, lexis, and semantics that could influence a second language learner's process in acquiring the target language. This study has conceptually applied the CAH and, to a certain extent, CLI as its framework in comparing English and Malay.

Background

The learning of English has been reported as challenging; and, in particular, a persistent problem that has been observed among Malays who face difficulty in acquiring specific English linguistic forms. Previous studies indicate that acquisitional difficulties may occur in acquiring the English reflexive forms (Arshad 1999), the past time forms (Maskanah 2007, 2008; Maskanah & Arshad 2006; Svalberg & Chuchu 1998; Tan 2005), the present time inflections (Tan 2005) and numerous other grammar items (Ijaja Mohideen 1991). This study aims to investigate