

AAE103

## L19 : Singapore Intonation

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### features

- rhythm
  - intonation
  - early booster
  - absence of deaccenting
  - phrase final lengthening
  - stress placement
  - compound stress
- (all data from the Lim Siew Hwee Corpus)

### rhythm

- SgE tends to have syllable-based rhythm
- syllable-based rhythm also found in other NVEs



### intonation

- regular use of rise-fall tone to indicate extra degree of emphasis
- fall-rise tone is avoided



### early booster

- the following words often occur early in the sentence and have a high pitch

actually

basically

I think

I guess



### deaccenting

- repeated information is often not deaccented
- SgE does not like a long tail

### phrase-final lengthening

- final syllable tends to get dragged out
- maybe this is an influence from Malay?

### sentence stress (tonic syllable)

- in SgE, hard to find one syllable that clearly has sentence focus
- intonation is not anchored on one syllable

### lexical stress

- some words have non-standard stress placement

colleague  
academic  
important  
opportunity

### compound stress

- is there any difference between:

ENGLISH teacher  
English TEACHER

- SgE tends not to have compound stress

### Readings

- SoE : 158-161
- ESPROC : 7-10
- Deterding, D (1994) 'The Intonation of Singapore English', *Journal of the International Phonetic Association*, 24:61-72.