Nativised structural patterns of MAKE light verb construction in Malaysian English
[輕動詞“MAKE (使)”在馬來西亞英語中的本土化結構模式]

**Christina Sook Beng Ong [王淑敏] and
Hajar Abdul Rahim [哈嘉阿都拉欣]
Universiti Sains Malaysia [馬來西亞理科大學]**

Abstract

This study investigated nativised structural patterns of light verb constructions (LVCs) in Malaysian English using a corpus-based, descriptive approach to analyse grammatical innovations. To facilitate the analysis, a 100-million-word general corpus comprising threads from Lowyat.Net, a popular Internet forum in Malaysia, was created, and the British National Corpus (BNC) was used as the reference corpus. Using the Sketch Engine corpus tool, the three most frequently occurring MAKE LVCs in the Malaysian English corpus were identified. The data was analysed to reveal the differences between the structures of MAKE LVC in Malaysian English and its prototypical structure. The findings show that besides the non-isomorphic deverbal noun form, MAKE LVCs in Malaysian English prefer taking the basic constituents of an LVC. Nativised LVCs are essentially those with zero articles and isomorphic deverbal nouns taking definite articles, determiners, and descriptive adjectives in their modifier slots. The zero article LVC is the most common nativised structure pattern due to the influence of substrate languages in Malaysian English.