

(1) Timeline of colonialism

- 1819: Founding of British port
- 1942–5: The Japanese occupation
- Independence in stages
 - 1955: Partial self-government
 - 1959: Internal self-government (People’s Action Party)
 - 1963: Independence from Britain, merger with Malaya
 - 1965: Separation from Malaysia

(2) Ethnicity and language in 2010 (3.8 million: Wong 2011)

	<i>Chinese</i>	<i>Malays</i>	<i>Indians</i>	<i>Others</i>
<i>Ethnicity</i>	74.1%	13.4%	9.2%	3.3%
<i>Official language</i>	(Mandarin) Chinese	Malay (Bahasa Baku)	(Literary) Tamil	English
<i>Community languages (past and present)</i>	Hokkien, Teochew, Cantonese, Hainanese, Baba Malay , etc.	Malay (Bahasa Pasar), Javanese, Bawean, etc.	(Spoken) Tamil, Malayalam, Punjabi, Hindi, Urdu, etc.	Kristang , Singlish, Tagalog

(3) Chinese

a. Stereotypes: *English-educated vs. Chinese-educated*

“Typical comments ... regarding the English-educated are that they are naive, proud, selfish, immature, and unstable, with no respect for parents and elders ... outgoing, care-free, fun-seeking, irresponsible and even hedonistic. In contrast, being Chinese-educated implies a shy, introvert, withdrawn, but diligent, hardworking, and mature personality ... Those with poor English accept their lot with a pessimistic outlook, saying they could not expect much because they did not speak English.” (Kuo 1977: 26)

b. *The Babas (also the Peranakans or Straits-born Chinese)*

“One may see in Malacca Babas who can claim no connection with China for centuries, clad in long jackets, loose drawers, and black skull caps ... Strange to say that although the Babas adhere so loyally to the customs of their progenitors they depise the real Chinaman and are exclusive fellows indeed; nothing they rejoice in more than being British subjects. The writer has seen Babas on being asked if they were Chinamen bristle up and say in an offended tone ‘I am not a Chinaman, I am a British subject’, an Orang putih literally, a white man; this term is invariably applied to an Englishman. They have social clubs of their own to which they will admit no native of China. At these clubs they play billiards, bowls, and other European games, and drink brandy and soda ad libitum ...” (J.D. Vaughan 1879, cited by Ansaldo, Lim & Mufwene 2007: 211)

c. *Baba Malay creole (Pakir 1986: 145, 175)*

gua mia biru mia		dia curi duit kasi gua tengok
1sg POSS blue NOM		3sg steal money PASS 1sg see
‘Mine is blue.’		‘His stealing of the money was seen by me.’

d. *Home languages in the Chinese community*

	<i>English</i>	<i>Mandarin</i>	<i>Hokkien</i>	<i>Teochew</i>	<i>Cantonese</i>	<i>Other C</i>	<i>Others</i>
1957	0.2%	0.1%	39.8%	22.6%	20.0%	16.3%	1.0%
2010	23.9%	45.1%	14.7%	6.3%	7.3%	2.3%	0.4%

(4) **Malays**

a. *Malaysian Constitution, Article 160(2)*

“ ‘Malay’ means a person who professes the religion of Islam, habitually speaks the Malay language, conforms to Malay custom and [is Malaysian or Singaporean].”

b. *Singaporean Constitution, Article 152(2)*

“The Government shall exercise its functions in such manner as to recognize the special position of the Malays, who are the indigenous people of Singapore, and accordingly it shall be the responsibility of the Government to protect, safeguard, support, foster and promote their political, educational, religious, economic, social and cultural interests and the Malay language.”

c. *President B. J. Habibie (8 Feb 1999, China Times?)*

“The situation in Singapore is worse. In Singapore, if you are a Malay, you can never become a military officer. They are the real racists, not here.”

d. *Official languages in 1957 (1.2 million: Chua 1964)*

	<i>Chinese</i>		<i>Malay</i>		<i>Indian</i>	
	<i>M</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>F</i>
Malay	39.6%	18.9%	99.2%	98.5%	90.6%	77.5%
English	27.3%	14.6%	40.6%	8.6%	38.0%	31.5%
Mandarin	38.5%	22.1%	—————	0.3%	—————	—————
Tamil	—————	—————	0.5%	—————	77.4%	68.5%

e. *Bazaar Malay pidgin (Aye 2005; Sasi 2007)*

Chinese: kena > kana · rumah > luma · banyak > manya

Indian: kosonj > kosom · dua > duva

f. *The Netherlands Indies*

“Inche Zainal Abidin said that in the Netherlands Indies, Malay journalism was of course much more developed and advanced both in quality of contents [sic] and in quantity. The papers are, however, he said, published in Romanised Malay, according to the Dutch system of Malay Romanised spelling. ‘Here in Malaya,’ he said, ‘we have all our Malay newspapers in Jawi, that being the script still very strongly favoured by the majority of the Malay public who have come to look upon it as their own national script. The few attempts to publish Malay papers in Romanised script in this country have so far proved abortive.’”

– *The Singapore Free Press and Mercantile Advertiser*, 7 March 1940

g. *The Riau Islands (Ford & Lyons 2006)*

“I remember my parents saying that before the Confrontation between Indonesia and Malaysia life in the islands was measured in dollars, and everyone—be they farmers or civil servants—was really well off. Imagine! According to the stories of the old people in Tanjung Pinang, they’d go to Singapore just to clean their jackets, just to buy rice!”

h. *Home languages in the Malay community*

	English	Malay	Javanese	Bawean	‘Indonesian’	Bugis	Others
1957	0.1%	84.7%	7.4%	7.3%	0.2%	0.1%	0.2%
2010	7.9%	91.6%	—————		0.5%	—————	

(5) **Indians: Home languages**

	English	Tamil	Malayalam	Punjabi	Hindi/Urdu	Other I	Malay	Others
1957	1.6%	58.4%	16.2%	8.1%	4.3%	3.9%	7.3%	0.2%
2010	35.6%	42.9%	—————		9.3%	—————		0.6%

(6) **Others**

- Eurasians (Anglo-Indians, Kristang) • Caucasians • Filipinas • Sign language

(7) **Singaporean English**

- Too many Malay loans: balek · bodoh · boleh · botak · buaya ⇐ Founders, early adopters
- Singlish: The do-it-yourself not-quite-creole

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