

Headline	Speak Good English with Local "Icons" [Radio Transcript]		
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Speak Good English with Local "Icons"

This year's Speak Good English Movement has adopted 12 local "Icons" to help spread the message.

From media personalities to the man in the street, they include rap group Triple Noize, radio presenters and a taxi driver.

Through their examples, the Movement hopes to inspire Singaporeans to speak well and be understood.

The movement, now into its fifth year, aims to target especially those who can make an impact on speaking and learning Good English.

One of them is actor Suhaimi Yusof currently starring in Channel 5 sitcom Police and Thief.

He recalls the time when he had to help correct his co-actor's English pronunciation.

"When he mentioned the Hollywood actor 'Stall One' I said who's that? I said let me take a look at the script so he's actually pronouncing Stallone as 'Stall One'. Even though generally everybody felt the whole entire sitcom especially Living with Lydia and Police and Thief are very heavily influenced by Singlish I think it's not true. We're barred from using the word 'lah' in police and thief and when we blurted words like 'lor' we had to cut the whole thing and do it again."

But that's not to say Singlish has no place in Singapore.

While getting Singaporeans to speak standard English is the aim, colloquialism, too, has its place.

Chairperson of the Movement, Professor Koh Tai Ann.

"The movement is not at the expense of the mother tongue nor are we downgrading Singlish but we're recognising that they're different codes and we should be able to switch through different codes. Since Singlish is a tide we can't stamp out, rather we say acquire another skill, make it a part of your other self that you can use standard English when you need to, when you have to."

For details on the programmes lined up, log on to www.goodenglish.org.sg