

Headline	Many accents but they are still English		
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S'pore BUZZ

Many accents but they are still English

SURFING the TV channels, I was bombarded by a slew of accents. The French had rejected the European Union's proposed constitution in a referendum and so in between British and American-accented English on BBC and CNN, there were ze French pundeets speaking een zeir unik akcent.

Not that I minded. Variety is the spice of life.

Then Channel 5 aired an interview with a Singaporean language expert who thought Singaporeans, or rather those targeted by the Speak Good English movement, speak English with an atrocious accent.

In contrast, the French get away with their Gallic-accented English because it sounds beautiful, she added in clipped, British-accented English. Sure, tell that to the creators of Pepe Le Pew or 'Allo, Allo who lampooned the French accent.

Bottom line is there will be people who love the way we sound and others who will wince.

— **Fawziah Selamat**