

## **Textese and Singlish in multiparty chats**

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### **ABSTRACT**

Prior research has shown that orthographic Singlish often occurs with textese features in asynchronous Internet registers. However, previous research has not tackled the extent of abbreviation of Singlish textisms in multiparty chats. In this presentation, I will discuss textism findings from multiparty chats among Singaporean youths. Results suggest that a principle of decipherability governs the textisms based on English and Singlish. Most textisms were contractive due to the pressure to abbreviate messages to keep up with the rapidity of multiparty chats. Interestingly, orthographic Singlish was largely not abbreviated due to the glyphic economy of accent-based respellings and the need to maintain decipherability of Singlish lexis. Instead, abbreviation is limited to highly frequent English words.



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