

ABSTRACT SUBMISSION FORM

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Preferred Presentation Type and field/strand	Paper; Cross-cultural communication
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Abstract Title	Asian lingua franca English (ALFE): What's it all about?
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Abstract (approx 250 words)	<p>The paper examines Asian lingua franca English (ALFE), using a small corpus of speeches made at international meetings in Southeast Asia. An initial distinction is drawn between <u>intranational</u> and <u>international</u> varieties of English. ALFE may be considered as a developing koiné, akin to the original Koiné, the Greek spoken by non-Greeks around the Mediterranean Sea. It is suggested that one feature of ALFE is the reduced occurrence of figurative idiomatic expressions, as many of these derive from local or national cultural contexts. The findings from the ALFE corpus of speeches are contrasted with a reference corpus of New Zealand speeches. These show a higher frequency of local expressions characteristic of the New Zealand variety of English. The paper seeks to complement ongoing research into phonological and syntactic features of Asian lingua franca English. It is hoped that discussion following presentation will focus on pedagogical implications of the ALFE concept, in particular the issue of intelligibility of culture-bound figurative expressions in academic discourse.</p>
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Presenter Biography
(approx 100 words)

James McLellan has taught in the Department of General and Applied Linguistics at the University of Waikato since 2004. He previously worked at Curtin University of Technology, Australia (2003-4) and at the University of Brunei Darussalam (1989-2002). Major research interests include language policy in education in Southeast Asia, Malay-English codeswitching and varieties of English.