

Title:

Hackney, London

Shelfmark:

C1190/03/03

Recording date:

16.03.2005

Speakers:

Hok Ming Kwok, James b. 1936 Hong Kong; male (father b. China, businessman; mother b. Hong Kong; housewife)

Le, Xuan Long, b. 1981 Vietnam; male

Liu, Anna, 1981 Islington; b. female (father b. Vietnam; mother b. Vietnam)

Man, Chiu-Cheer (Gigi), b. 1984 Hackney; female; student (father b. Hong Kong; mother b. Hong Kong; housewife)

Man, Sindy, b. 1978 Hackney; female; postgraduate student (father b. Hong Kong; mother b. Hong Kong; student)

All five interviewees are Cantonese or Vietnamese Londoners.

PLEASE NOTE: this recording is still awaiting full linguistic description (i.e. phonological, grammatical and spontaneous lexical items).

A summary of the specific lexis elicited by the interviewer is given below.

ELICITED LEXIS

- see English Dialect Dictionary (1898-1905)
- △ see New Partridge Dictionary of Slang and Unconventional English (2006)
- ◇ see Green's Dictionary of Slang (2010)
- ◆ see Urban Dictionary (online)
- ◻ no previous source (with this sense) identified

pleased	<i>happy; glad; pleased; on top of the world</i>
tired	<i>tired; mashed[△] (suggested by interviewer, not used); knackered</i>
unwell	<i>sick; ill; not well; uncomfortable</i>
also supplied	Cantonese [0:02:50, 0:03:11]
hot	<i>hot (also used locally to mean 'sexually aroused'); boiling; burning; boiling hot; bloody hot</i>
also supplied	Chinese [0:09:50]; Vietnamese [0:10:45]

cold	<i>freezing; cold; stone cold[♦]; brass monkey weather</i> (suggested by interviewer as used in Dublin, not used)
annoyed	<i>angry; stressed; frustrated; annoying; pissed off</i> (“I get pissed off with you”); <i>annoyed; peed off; pissed</i> (“I get pissed with you”); “ <i>this chap drive me bananas</i> ”
also supplied	[0:07:26] (Cantonese for “you stupid git”)
throw	<i>throw; pass it over; chuck it away; fling, bung</i> (suggested by interviewer); <i>sling it away, sling that</i> (used for ‘to throw away’)
play truant	<i>bunk off; bunking; faking it; bunker; bunk off school; skip school</i>
also supplied	[0:13:30] (Cantonese for “messaging about”)
sleep	<i>bed; bedtime; sleep</i> (“I’m gonna go sleep”); <i>kip, nap</i> (suggested by interviewer, used); <i>get some rest</i>
play a game	<i>play; join the party, join the gangs, “you wanna have a go?”</i> (used when inviting someone to join in)
hit hard	<i>fight; whack; hit hard; slam it</i>
clothes	<i>clothes; garms[△]</i> (“you got garms on?” used by friends); <i>garments</i>
also supplied ¹	[0:49:08] <i>saam</i> (Chinese for ‘clothes’)
trousers	<i>bottoms; trousers</i>
also supplied ¹	[0:50:09] <i>fu</i> (Chinese for ‘trousers’)
child’s shoe	<i>dance shoes; trainers; PE shoes; plimsolls</i> (used when younger)
mother	<i>marmie[♦]</i> (“half English half Chinese”); <i>mum; ma; mammy</i>
also supplied ¹	Chinese [0:35:36] <i>maa</i> (traditional)
gmother	<i>grandma; granny</i>
also supplied ¹	Chinese [0:36:18]; <i>aa ma</i> (Chinese for maternal grandmother); <i>aa po</i> (Chinese for paternal grandmother)
m partner friend	<i>boyfriend; partner; your fancy man</i>
	<i>mate; “by name”</i> (i.e. by name); <i>friend; bruv[△]; blood; girlfriend</i> (used by females); <i>sisters, brothers</i> (of very close friend)
also supplied	[0:40:49] (Chinese for ‘sister/brother’)
gfather	<i>grandad</i>
also supplied ¹	<i>gung gung</i> (Chinese for maternal grandfather); <i>aa je</i> (Chinese for paternal grandfather)
forgot name	<i>thingy</i> (“mum, where’s my thingy?”); <i>you know; what’s-her-name</i> (“what’s-her-name you know thingy”)
kit of tools	<i>tool-box; tool-kit; tools</i>
trendy	<i>cheap skate; out[△]</i> (“they’re out they’re not in the fashion”); <i>cheap; wannabes; fake stuff[△]; chav</i> (used by friends)
f partner baby	<i>girlfriend; colleague</i>
also supplied ¹	<i>baby; nipper</i>
	<i>bi bi</i> (Chinese for ‘baby’)
rain heavily	<i>heavy rain; pissing down; showering; raining hard; bucket down</i> (“bucket down with rain”); <i>bucketing</i> (“bucketing with rain”)
toilet	<i>toilet; ladies; loo; bathroom</i>
walkway	<i>alley-way; back roads; alley; jitty[○]</i> (“English slang”)
long seat	<i>settee; sofa</i>

¹ Transliteration of selected lexical items in Jyutping (a romanisation system developed by Linguistic Society of Hong Kong) based on *CantoDict* (<http://www.cantonese.sheik.co.uk/dictionary/>).

also supplied	Chinese [0:34:33]
run water	<i>stream</i>
main room	<i>sitting room; living room</i>
rain lightly	<i>spitting; dripping from sky[△]; drizzling</i>
rich	<i>loaded; rich; yuppie; filthy rich[△]</i> (suggested by interviewer as used in Ireland, heard)
left-handed	<i>left-handed</i>
unattractive	<i>ugly; not attractive; not very nice-looking; dog-ugly[△], pig, face only a mother could love[♦]</i> (suggested by interviewer, not used)
also supplied	Cantonese [0:19:50, 0:19:57]
lack money	<i>skint; broke</i>
drunk	<i>drunk; pissed; lean[◇], high</i> (used frequently by black speakers locally); <i>smashed; out of their heads; flat out[♦]</i>
pregnant	<i>pregnant; expecting; toad in the hole[△]</i> (“my friend’s got a toad in the hole”); <i>big belly woman[△]</i> (suggested jokingly)
attractive	<i>pretty; attractive; good-looking; nice-looking; gorgeous; elegant; nice; beautiful; handsome; hot; “cor yeah!”</i> (used with close friends)
also supplied	[0:28:22] (Chinese for ‘handsome boy’)
insane	<i>mad; crazy; insane</i>
moody	<i>“temper temper”[♦]</i> (expression commonly used to own children); <i>moody; switching[♦]; angry; hyper</i>

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