

**Title:**

Peterborough, Cambridgeshire

**Shelfmark:**

C1190/08/04

**Recording date:**

30.03.2005

**Speakers:**

Dhesi, Ranjit, b. 1971 Birmingham; female; assistant manager (father b. India, foundry worker; mother b. India, foundry worker)

Dutta, Usha b. 1955 India; female; interpreter (father b. Bangladesh, administrator; mother b. Bangladesh, housewife)

Kuharajah, Urmila b. 1957 Sri Lanka; female; carer (father b. Sri Lanka, bank manager; mother b. Malaysia, housewife)

Mehta, Jayshree, b. 1949 India; female; volunteer (father b. India, electrical engineer; mother b. India, housewife)

Mistry, Nina b. 1965 Manchester; female; works at newsagent (father b. India, cotton mill worker; mother b. India, housewife)

The interviewees are members of the Indian Women's Association in Peterborough.

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 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** *happy; ecstatic; wahey<sup>△</sup> (exclamation used when 'pleased')*  
**tired** *exhausted; very tired; knackered (disliked)*  
**unwell** *tired; really unwell; out of sorts; not well; under the weather; I really don't feel very well; don't feel well*  
**hot** *sweating; hot; burning; "I'm on fire"<sup>◊</sup>*  
**cold** *cold; shivering; freezing*  
**annoyed** *angry; really cross; annoyed*

<b>throw</b>	<i>chuck</i> (“ <i>chuck it out chuck it in the bin</i> ”); <i>throw</i>
<b>play truant</b>	<i>skive</i> ; <i>skipping school</i> ; <i>skiving</i> ; <i>bunk</i> (“ <i>bunking school</i> ”); <i>wag</i>
<b>sleep</b>	<i>off to bed</i> ; “ <i>I’m going to bed</i> ”
<b>play a game</b>	<i>play</i>
<b>hit hard</b>	<i>smack</i> ; <i>thump</i> ; <i>punch</i>
<b>clothes</b>	<i>clothes</i>
<b>trousers</b>	<i>trousers</i> ; <i>pants</i> , <i>strides</i> (suggested by interviewer, not used)
<b>child’s shoe</b>	<i>plimsolls</i> ; <i>trainers</i>
<b>mother</b>	<i>ma</i> ; <i>mum</i> ; <i>mother</i> (“ <i>for God’s sake not again, mother</i> ” used to mother when angry)
also supplied <sup>1</sup>	<i>ammā</i> (Punjabi for ‘mother’); <i>bhen</i> (Gujarati for ‘sister’ used as respectful title for older female and used within family of/to mother)
<b>gmother</b>	<i>nanny</i>
also supplied <sup>1</sup>	<i>didā</i> (Bengali for ‘grandmother’ also used of/to parents’ aunt); <i>dādī</i> (Gujarati for ‘paternal grandmother’); <i>nānī</i> <sup>♦</sup> (Gujarati for ‘maternal grandmother’); <i>bā</i> (Gujarati for ‘mother’ used of/to maternal grandmother); <i>be-be</i> (Punjabi for ‘paternal grandmother’); <i>ājīmā</i> (Gujarati for ‘maternal grandmother’)
<b>m partner</b>	<i>husband</i> , <i>my other half</i> (of husband)
<b>friend</b>	“ <i>name</i> ” (i.e. by name); <i>mate</i> , <i>buddy</i> (suggested by interviewer, not used); <i>friend</i>
<b>gfather</b>	(none supplied)
also supplied <sup>1</sup>	<i>dādu</i> , <i>dādā</i> , <i>bābā</i> (of/to paternal grandfather); <i>nānā</i> , <i>ājābābā</i> (Bengali for maternal grandfather)
<b>forgot name</b>	<i>thingummybob</i> <sup>Δ</sup> , <i>thingummyjig</i> <sup>Δ</sup> , <i>whatsit</i> (suggested by interviewer, not used); <i>thing</i> (“ <i>you know you know you know that thing</i> ”); <i>thingummy</i> ; <i>blah-blah</i> <sup>◊</sup> ; <i>what’s-the-name</i> <sup>◊</sup> ; <i>what’s your name</i> <sup>◊</sup>
<b>kit of tools</b>	<i>tool-box</i>
<b>trendy</b>	<i>common</i> (contested, conscious of judgemental implicature); <i>tarty</i> (“ <i>what are they wearing?</i> ”); <i>cheap</i> (“ <i>cheap and cheerful</i> ”); <i>tart</i> ; <i>hippies</i> (used in past); <i>Traceys</i> <sup>◊</sup> , <i>Sharons</i> <sup>Δ</sup> , <i>Barrys</i> <sup>Δ</sup> , <i>Garys</i> <sup>♦</sup> (suggested by interviewer, not used); <i>chav</i> (suggested by interviewer, heard but not used)
<b>f partner</b>	<i>wife</i> (of e.g. brother’s wife); <i>friend</i> (of e.g. brother’s girlfriend)
<b>baby</b>	<i>baby</i> ; <i>rascal</i> (of toddler); <i>little one</i> (“ <i>that little one is lovely</i> ”)
<b>rain heavily</b>	<i>very wet day</i> ; <i>pouring</i> (“ <i>it’s pouring out there</i> ”); <i>pouring cats and dogs</i> (“ <i>the old man is snoring</i> ” <sup>2</sup> ); “ <i>there’s a deluge out there</i> ”; <i>miserable</i>
<b>toilet</b>	<i>toilet</i> (used at home); <i>bathroom</i> , <i>ladies</i> (used with friends); <i>lavatory</i> ; <i>washroom</i> (used in Canada); <i>powder room</i>
<b>walkway</b>	<i>alleyway</i> ; <i>alley</i>
<b>long seat</b>	<i>sofa</i> ; <i>settee</i>
<b>run water</b>	<i>stream</i>
<b>main room</b>	<i>lounge</i> ; <i>living-room</i> ; <i>sitting-room</i>
<b>rain lightly</b>	<i>spitting</i> ; <i>drizzling</i>
<b>rich</b>	<i>rich</i> ; <i>loaded</i>

<sup>1</sup> Transliteration of lexical items based on *Digital Dictionaries of South Asia* (<http://dsal.uchicago.edu/dictionaries/>).

<sup>2</sup> ‘It’s raining it’s pouring the old man is snoring’ is included in I. & P. Opie (eds.) *I Saw Esau: Traditional Rhymes of Youth* (1947, p.16); see also Roud Folk Song Index 16814.

<b>left-handed</b>	<i>left-handed; lefty</i> (“righty” suggested jokingly, not used)
also supplied <sup>1</sup>	<i>khabbá, khabbú</i> (used negatively in Punjabi)
<b>unattractive</b>	<i>not very good-looking; “is she pulled backward from the hedge?”</i> <sup>3</sup> ; <i>ugly; minging</i> (suggested by interviewer, not understood recently when heard for first time)
<b>lack money</b>	<i>short</i> (“short for money”); <i>struggling; skint</i>
<b>drunk</b>	<i>drunk; steeped in drink</i>
<b>pregnant</b>	<i>up the duff; pregnant; expecting</i>
<b>attractive</b>	<i>pretty, beautiful, very beautiful</i> (of female); <i>phwoar, handsome</i> (of male)
<b>insane</b>	<i>mad; crazy; lost their/his marbles</i> (polite, “slang”)
<b>moody</b>	<i>upset; grumpy; “she’s in a right mood”; mardy</i> (“she’s mardy today”); <i>moody</i>

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<sup>3</sup> *Cassell Dictionary of English Idioms* (1999) includes ‘to look as if one has been dragged through the hedge backwards’ meaning ‘to look untidy or dishevelled’.