

Title:

Bishopthorpe, York

Shelfmark:

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Recording date:

01.04.2005

**Speakers:**

Cook, Aaron, b. 1978 York; male; sales rep. (father b. York, joiner; mother b. Malaysia, guest house owner/TV & radio cook)

Cook, Jennie, b. 1952 Penang, Malaysia; female; guest house owner/TV & radio cook (father b. China, rice merchant; mother b. Malaysia, housewife)

Harding, Carol, b. 1946 female; guest house owner (father b. London, ambulance driver; mother b. Swinton, North Yorkshire, housewife/office clerk)

The interviewees are friends, Jennie and Carol, who run neighbouring guest houses and Jennie's son, Aaron.

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)

pleased	<i>happy; pleased; chuffed</i> (slang)
tired	<i>knackered; tired</i>
unwell	<i>poorly; sick</i>
hot	<i>boiling</i>
cold	<i>freezing</i>
annoyed	<i>upset; angry; pissed off</i> ("I'm pissed off with her", not used "in company"/at work); <i>narked</i> (used in presence of patients when working as nurse in preference to "pissed off")
throw	<i>chuck</i>

play truant	<i>skiving; tuang¹</i> (used frequently in Malaysia of absence from school/work); <i>bunk off; bunking</i>
sleep	<i>sleep; doze</i> (of light sleep); <i>having a kip</i>
play a game	<i>play; mess about; muck about</i> (“ <i>the kids are mucking about</i> ” common locally)
hit hard	<i>smack</i> (“ <i>I’ll smack you one</i> ” used frequently); <i>bash; sapu²</i> (Hokkien for ‘to smack’, “ <i>I’ll sapu you</i> ” used frequently to own children in past)
clothes	<i>attire; clothes</i>
trousers	<i>pants</i> (used in Malaysia possibly due to US influence, used locally for ‘underwear’); <i>kecks; trousers</i>
child’s shoe	<i>plimmies^Δ; sneakers</i> (used in Malaysia); <i>trainers; plimsoll</i>
mother	<i>mum</i>
gmother	<i>grandma; nana; gran</i>
m partner	<i>boyfriend; hubby</i> (of married partner)
friend	<i>mates; pal; mate</i>
gfather	<i>grandad</i>
forgot name	<i>mate</i> (“ <i>how you doing, mate, all right?</i> ” to person); <i>thingabob^Δ</i> (learnt from mother-in-law); <i>thingaloo³; thingummybob^Δ; love</i> (used by husband to person); <i>thingy</i> (of object)
kit of tools	<i>tool-box; tools</i>
trendy	<i>tart, slapper</i> (of female); <i>chav</i> (current, popularised by media); <i>neets^Δ</i> (government acronym for ‘Not in Education Employment or Training’ ⁴ seen recently in newspaper)
f partner	<i>our lass</i> (“ <i>me and our lass went out last night</i> ” used to friends); <i>girlfriend; better half</i>
baby	<i>baby; toddler</i> (of young child); <i>bairn</i>
rain heavily	<i>raining cats and dogs; pissing down</i> (impolite); <i>pouring down</i> (polite); <i>pissing it down</i>
toilet	<i>loo; bog</i> (disliked, not understood by Portuguese when used by friend on holiday in Portugal, “ <i>bog off</i> ” ^Δ also common locally for ‘go away’)
walkway	<i>alley; lane; alleyway</i>
long seat	<i>sofa; settee</i> (suggested by interviewer, used by older speakers); <i>couch</i> (suggested by interviewer, not used)
run water	<i>beck; stream</i>
main room	<i>living-room; lounge</i>
rain lightly	<i>drizzly; spitting</i>
rich	<i>rolling in it⁵; stinking rich; loaded</i>
left-handed	<i>cack-handed</i> (“ <i>you’ve done that cack-handed</i> ” used for ‘clumsy/incompetent’, “ <i>cack your pants</i> ” also used locally for ‘to poo’); <i>left-handed</i>
unattractive	<i>ugly mug^Δ</i> (“ <i>she’s an ugly mug</i> ”); <i>back of the bus^Δ; dragged through a hedge backwards⁶</i> (used of self “ <i>on a windy day</i> ”); <i>a handful of broken piss-pot handles⁷</i> (“ <i>by gum, she looks</i>

¹ A *Dictionary of Singlish and Singapore English* (online edition at <http://www.singlishdictionary.com/>) includes ‘tuang’ in this sense.

² A *Dictionary of Singlish and Singapore English* (online edition at <http://www.singlishdictionary.com/>) includes ‘sapu’ in sense of ‘to stroke/sweep away’.

³ Blog post ‘jocular jotter’ by aqueenknight (04.03.2008 at http://aqueenknight.blogspot.co.uk/2008_04_01_archive.html/) contains ‘thingaloo’ in this sense.

⁴ See *Wikipedia* entry for ‘NEET’ (online at <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/NEET>).

⁵ *Macmillan Dictionary* (online edition at <http://www.macmillandictionary.com/>) includes ‘rolling in it’ in this sense.

⁶ *Cassell Dictionary of English Idioms* (1999) includes ‘to look as if one has been dragged through the hedge backwards’ in this sense.

⁷ Julia Stoneham *Alice’s Girls* (2012 Chapter 3) contains the line ‘[f]ace like a cracked piss-pot, you got!’ in this sense.

	<i>like a handful of broken piss-pot handles</i> "); a bull-dog chewing a wasp ^Δ (of looking annoyed); <i>dog</i> (used by young males of female); <i>unattractive</i> (not used); " <i>they let themselves go</i> "; <i>ugly</i> ; <i>minging</i> (used jokingly, thought to have been popularised by TV); <i>not an oil painting</i> (used of self)
lack money	<i>broke</i> ; <i>skint</i>
drunk	<i>leathered^Δ</i> ; <i>pie-eyed</i> (polite); <i>pissed</i> , <i>sloshed</i> (impolite)
pregnant	<i>with child</i> ; <i>pregnant</i> ; <i>up the duff</i> ; <i>bun in the oven</i> (heard used locally of teenage pregnancy)
attractive	<i>stunning</i> ; <i>beautiful</i> ; <i>handsome</i> , <i>gorgeous</i> (of male)
insane	<i>mental</i> ; <i>loolally</i> ⁸ (idiolectal mispronunciation of 'doolally'); <i>doolally</i> ; <i>doolally tap</i> ; <i>dippy</i> ; <i>mad</i> ("you're mad")
moody	<i>arsey</i> ; <i>pissed off</i> ; <i>cob on^Δ</i> ("I've got a cob on")

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⁸ Blog post 'Jesus – the ultimate slum landlord' by Ashbles (24.06.2011 – see *nogodshapedhole* at http://nogodshapedhole.blogspot.co.uk/2011_06_01_archive.html) contains 'loolally' in this sense.