

Title:

Birmingham

Shelfmark:

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Recording date:

28.04.2005

Speakers:

Alfu, Miah, b. 1973 Birmingham; male; youth worker

Khatun, Apsana, b. 1981 Perry Barr, Birmingham; female; youth worker

Nessah, A., b. 1980 Leicester; female; youth worker

Rahman, Aftab, b. 1970 Bangladesh; male; youth worker

Uddin, Johar, b. 1968 Bangladesh; male; youth worker

The interviewees are all youth workers and second-generation British Bangladeshis.

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 Dictionary of the English/Creole of Trinidad & Tobago (2009)
- △ see New Partridge Dictionary of Slang and Unconventional English (2006)
- ◇ see Green's Dictionary of Slang (2010)
- ♥ see Dictionary of Contemporary Slang (2014)
- ◆ see Urban Dictionary (online)
- ◇ no previous source (with this sense) identified

pleased *happy; exhilarated; sick, wicked, badass, bad* (used by young speakers as term of approval, frequently accompanied by gesture/hand movement)

tired *exhausted; run-down; out of energy; depleted¹; tired; fed up[△]; bored; shattered; battered²; whacked*

unwell *not feeling good; sick; ill; bad health*

also supplied *bimar³* (Sylheti for 'unwell'); *tap³* (of 'high temperature'); *zol* (of extreme symptoms)

¹ *Collins English Dictionary* (online edition at <http://www.collinsdictionary.com/>) includes 'depleted' in this sense.

² *Wicked Geordie English* (2003) includes 'battered' in this sense.

hot	<i>garam</i> ³ (Sylheti for ‘hot’)
cold	<i>thanda</i> ³ ; <i>sit</i> ⁴ (of weather, of more extreme cold than “ <i>thanda</i> ”)
annoyed	<i>rag</i> ⁵ ; <i>angry</i> ; <i>pissed</i> ; <i>pissed off</i>
also supplied	<i>gussa</i> ³ (Sylheti for ‘angry’)
throw	<i>throw</i> ; <i>release</i> ; <i>throwing</i> (“ <i>throw in</i> ” used in football); <i>eject</i>
play truant	<i>skive</i> ; <i>juvenile</i> ⁶ ; <i>wagging</i> (heard recently while teaching at school); <i>absence</i> ; <i>absconding</i> ; <i>absent without leave</i> ; <i>AWOL</i>
sleep	<i>go to bed</i> ; <i>nap</i> (of “ <i>light sleep</i> ”); <i>forty winks</i> (suggested by interviewer); <i>kip</i> (suggested by interviewer)
play a game	<i>play</i> ; <i>games</i> ; <i>activity</i> ; <i>interaction</i> (“ <i>social interaction</i> ”)
hit hard	<i>beat</i> ; <i>hammer</i> ; <i>whack</i> ; <i>batter</i> ; <i>slam</i> ; <i>dunk</i> ⁵ ; <i>punch</i> ; <i>abuse</i>
clothes	<i>garments</i> ; <i>clothes</i> ; <i>overalls</i>
also supplied	<i>kappra</i> ³ , <i>hafor</i> ⁷ (Bengali for ‘clothes’)
trousers	<i>pants</i> (“ <i>that’s pants, man</i> ” also used to express disapproval)
child’s shoe	<i>pumps</i> ; <i>slippers</i> ⁶ (contested); <i>trainers</i> ; <i>plimsolls</i>
mother	<i>mum</i> ; <i>ma</i>
also supplied	<i>amma</i> ³ , <i>amma-ji</i> ⁷ (Sylheti for ‘mother’)
gmother	<i>dadi</i> ³ ; <i>nani</i> ⁷ (Sylheti for ‘grandmother’)
m partner	<i>husband</i> ; <i>boyfriend</i> ; <i>partner</i>
friend	<i>friend</i> ; <i>mate</i> ; <i>buddy</i> ; <i>homie</i> (“ <i>American</i> ”)
gfather	(not discussed)
forgot name	<i>thingymajig</i> ⁷ ; “ <i>it’s at the tip of my tongue</i> ” ⁷
kit of tools	<i>tool-box</i> ; <i>tools</i>
trendy	<i>trash</i> ; <i>cool</i> ; <i>chav</i> (current); <i>Sharon</i> ⁸ , <i>Kevin</i> ⁸ (“ <i>Sharon and Kevin</i> ” heard on radio)
f partner	<i>wife</i> ; <i>girlfriend</i> ; <i>doll</i> ; <i>bit on the side</i> ⁸ (of “ <i>the mistress</i> ”); <i>colleague</i> (of business partner)
baby	<i>toddler</i> ; <i>nipper</i> ; <i>baby</i>
rain heavily	<i>pissing it down</i> ; <i>raining cats and dogs</i> (heard used); <i>storm</i> ; “ <i>it’s raining, man</i> ”
toilet	(not discussed)
walkway	<i>path</i> ; <i>alleyway</i> ; <i>pathway</i> ; <i>alley</i>
long seat	<i>sofa</i> ; <i>settee</i>
run water	<i>stream</i> ; <i>lake</i>
also supplied	<i>khal</i> ³ (Sylheti for ‘stream’)
main room	<i>living-room</i> ; <i>lounge</i> ; <i>front room</i> ; <i>cinema room</i> ⁸ (used by friend)
rain lightly	<i>shower</i> ; <i>drizzle</i> ; <i>raining</i> ; <i>pitter-patter</i>
rich	<i>filthy</i> ⁷ ; <i>wealthy</i> ; <i>loaded</i> ; <i>big bank account</i> ⁸
left-handed	<i>left-handed</i> ; <i>ambidextrous</i> ⁸ ; <i>lefty</i>
also supplied	<i>bamoya</i> ³ (Sylheti for ‘left-handed person’)

³ Transliteration of lexical items based on *Digital Dictionaries of South Asia* (<http://dsal.uchicago.edu/dictionaries/>).

⁴ *ShabdKosh English Bengali Dictionary* (online at <http://shabdKosh.com/bn/>) includes ‘sit’ in this sense.

⁵ *Macmillan Dictionary* (online edition at <http://www.macmillandictionary.com/>) records ‘dunk’ in this sense in basketball.

⁶ *OED* (online edition) records ‘slipper’ in sense of ‘light heelless covering for foot chiefly employed for indoor wear’.

⁷ *Dictionary of the English/Creole of Trinidad & Tobago* (2009) records ‘-ji’ as ‘widespread Indian suffix, usu. attached to term of address, denoting respect’.

⁸ *OED* (online edition) records ‘ambidextrous’ in sense of ‘able to use both hands alike’

unattractive	<i>ugly; not nice; not pretty; minging</i> (used by females, thought to be French for ‘ugly’); “ <i>I’ve seen better</i> ” [△]
lack money	<i>skint; broke; poor; hard up</i>
drunk	<i>pissed; stoned</i> (heard used, also used for being under influence of drugs); <i>lager louts</i> (associated with “ <i>white lager louts</i> ”)
pregnant	<i>expecting; given birth; maternity</i>
attractive	<i>pretty; stunning; fit; beautiful</i>
insane	<i>mad</i> (“ <i>madness</i> ”); <i>crazy; mental; not fit for society</i> [△] (“ <i>polite</i> ”)
moody	(none supplied)

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