



SINGAPORE'S Multilingualism



NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION

GROUP ENDEAVOURS IN SERVICE LEARNING GROUP 10 (SEC/JC 2022)

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ABOUT OUR LOCAL LANGUAGES

MALAY LANGUAGE

The Malay language has been the lingua franca of maritime Southeast Asia for centuries. Traders and travellers had to learn Malay in order to communicate with the local population. The history of the Malay language can be divided into three periods: Old Malay (6–15th century), Classical Malay (Jawi scripts) and Modern Malay.

Around the 15th to mid-19th century, the region was under Islamic rule and thus Malay language evolved around Arabic and Persian culture. The Jawi script is based on Arabic alphabets with five additional letters representing the Malay phonemes. By the 19th century, Malay had absorbed and loaned words from many other languages, due to colonisation and migration.

Citation: Ling Learn Languages. (2021, August 30). *History of Malay language: The 3 revolutionary phases*. Ling App. <https://ling-app.com/ms/history-of-malay-language/>

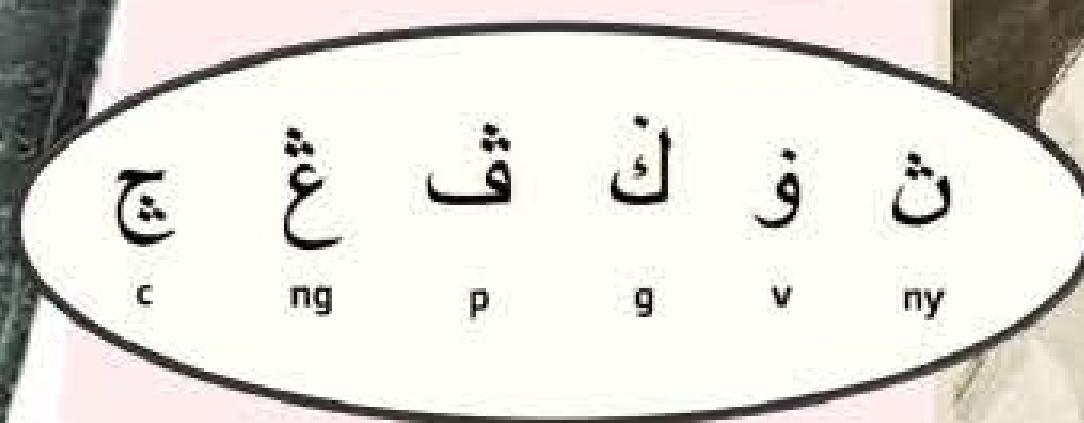


Image Sources: Google Images & courtesy of Kebaya.societe Instagram

ABOUT OUR LOCAL LANGUAGES

CHINESE LANGUAGE

The earliest examples of Chinese language are divinatory inscriptions on oracle bones from the Shang dynasty. In the 1930s, a standard Chinese language, Mandarin, was adopted. The entire Chinese character corpus comprises well over 50,000 characters.

The Chinese orthography centres on Chinese characters, which are traditionally arranged in vertical columns, read from top to bottom down a column, and right to left across columns. With the growing importance and influence of Mandarin, it has been gaining popularity in schools throughout East Asia, Southeast Asia, and the Western world.

Citation: Wikipedia. (2022, June 11). *Chinese Language*. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chinese_language#History



Image Sources: Google Images

ABOUT OUR LOCAL LANGUAGES

TAMIL LANGUAGE

Tamils in Singapore have settled in the country through continuous waves of migration over a period of 200 years. As early migrants became settlers, language became useful tools that fostered social integration amongst the diverse groups of Tamils.

Tamil language education was provided as early as 1834 in Singapore, and Anglo-Tamil schools were established in 1873. It is evident that the roots of most present-day Tamil culture, customs, religious ideologies, and affiliations in Singapore can be traced to the 19th century and that they have continued to evolve over the centuries.

Citation: Roots. *From the Coromandel Coast to the straits: Revisiting our Tamil heritage*. ROOTS.
<https://www.roots.gov.sg/stories-landing/stories/From-the-Coromandel-Coast-to-the-Straits>



Image Sources: Indian Heritage Centre & Roots.gov.sg

BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS

Here are some book recommendations in Mother Tongue
Languages you could explore!

Bury your nose in these fascinating books and exciting titles!

1.

Title: *Tampil Positif Sejak Remaja*

Author: Ruzain Syukur Bin Mansor

***Only available as an eBook on NLB overdrive**

This book touches on issues such as love among teenagers, identifying between fantasies and ambitions, handling dilemmas between teens, parents and teachers, and easy ways to find a peace of mind!

Great tips in this book:

- How to be a good friend to others
- How to make friends wisely online
- How to love reading
- How to choose mentors and idols



Book cover is the copyright of its publisher.

Publisher: PTS Millenia, 2018

Title: 超人妈妈和她的娘惹糕

Author: 小邝

Call No.: J SING Chinese XOK -[HAN]

Is your mother a superhero to you? Is she able to conquer it all? In DuoDuo's eyes, her mother was a superhero who couldn't be daunted by anything. Little did she know that her mother had insecurities of her own. What was her mother too embarrassed to show DuoDuo? What did DuoDuo discover and how did they pull through in the end? Borrow the book to find out!

Besides realising the importance of unity and encouragement at home, you can also learn about the types of Nyonya pastries!



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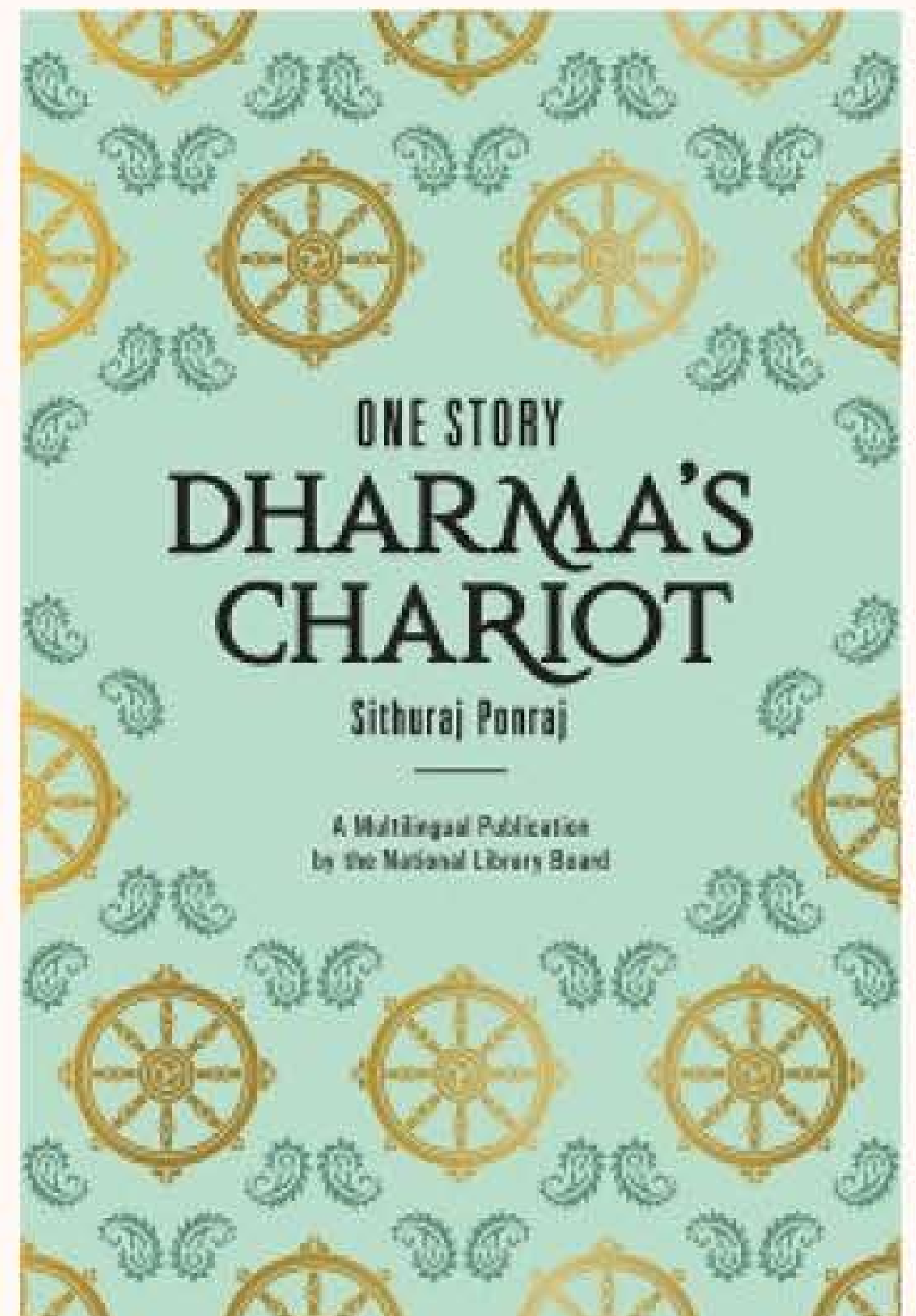
Publisher: Lingzi Media 玲子传媒, 2020

Title: *One Story: Dharma's Chariot*

Author: Sithuraj Ponraj

***Only available as an eBook on NLB overdrive**

Palaniappan, a cloth merchant, sells a shipment of defective cloth to his old friend Jamal in order to pay the rent for his shop in Arab Street. Jamal had helped him set up his business, and this act of cheating causes Palaniappan to feel guilty. This book offers a glimpse of what life was like for small Indian import and export businesses which prospered in the '70s and '80s, but gradually declined when technology made their middleman skills obsolete.



Book cover is the copyright of its publisher.

Publisher: National Library Board Singapore, 2020

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PERANAKAN CULTURE ALONG THE WAY!**

(*A knowledge of one of the three Mother Tongue languages is needed for this quiz!)

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Image Sources: Courtesy of theperanakan.com