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Don't sniff at Singlish. It's part of Singapore culture

Once in a while, someone like Mr Ng Ya Ken comes along and rips to shreds the usage of Singlish (Time to get tough on problem of Singlish, ST, Aug 10).

From the tone of his letter, it is obvious Mr Ng considers himself superior, an "educated" person who is above using Singlish.

He asks "why hold on to a sub-standard language as one of our trademarks" and goes on to suggest that we are waging a war at the language "battlefront".

Perhaps he has forgotten that Singlish evolved over the last decades to become something so ingrained in the Singaporean culture that to even consider eradicating it is like snuffing the flame out of a candle.

This is not the 70's. You can commission as many studies into the so-called problem as you want, but you cannot silence the voice of the people. Jamaica has its patois, Quebec has its Quebecois, Singapore has its Singlish.

Why throw away this valuable part of Singaporean culture? And Mr. Ng's suggestion to wear "No Singlish" tags on National Day is ridiculous.

His idea has nothing to do with patriotism and everything to do with, well... nothing better to do.

Liying Ho (Ms)
Toronto, Canada

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