The Singapore Corpus
User Manual

Gerald Nelson
April 2002
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Introduction & Credits

It gives me great pleasure to introduce the Singapore component of the International Corpus of English.

The corpus was compiled by members of the Department of English Language & Literature, The National University of Singapore.

The project was initiated by Professor Paroo Nihilani, and was later directed by Dr Ni Yibin, with assistance from Dr Anne Pakir and Dr Vincent Ooi. See Nihilani (1992) and Ooi (1997).

The corpus follows the common design of ICE corpora, details of which may be found on the ICE website, at http://www.hku.hk.english/research/ice/index.htm. More detailed information on ICE may be found in Greenbaum (1990, 1991a, 1991b, 1996).

Queries relating directly to the Singapore corpus should be addressed to Dr Anne Pakir, Department of English Language & Literature, National University of Singapore, Kent Ridge, Singapore 0511. Email: ellannep@nus.edu.sg.

Queries about ICE should be addressed to Dr Gerald Nelson, Department of English, The University of Hong Kong, Pokfulam Road, Hong Kong SAR. Email: ganelson@hkucc.hku.hk.

Gerald Nelson
Hong Kong, April 2002
1. ICE Text Categories and Filenames

The files in the corpus bear filenames corresponding to their classification in the hierarchy of ICE Text Categories. These categories and the corresponding filenames are shown here. On the corpus design, see Leitner (1992), Nelson (1996b).

**SPOKEN**

**DIALOGUE**

**PRIVATE**
- Direct Conversations
- Telephone Calls

**PUBLIC**
- Class Lessons
- Broadcast Discussions
- Broadcast Interviews
- Parliamentary Debates
- Legal Cross-examinations
- Business Transactions

**MONOLOGUE**

**UNSCRIPTED**
- Spontaneous Commentaries
- Unscripted Speeches
- Demonstrations
- Legal Presentations

**SCRIPTED**
- Broadcast News
- Broadcast Talks
- Non-broadcast Talks
WRITTEN

NON-PRINTED

NON-PROFESSIONAL WRITING
Student Essays
Examination Scripts

CORRESPONDENCE
Social Letters
Business Letters

PRINTED

ACADEMIC WRITING
Humanities
Social Sciences
Natural Sciences
Technology

NON-ACADEMIC WRITING
Humanities
Social Sciences
Natural Sciences
Technology

REPORTAGE
Press News Reports

INSTRUCTIONAL WRITING
Administrative Writing
Skills & Hobbies

PERSUASIVE WRITING
Press Editorials

CREATIVE WRITING
Novels & Stories
2. markup Symbols in Spoken Texts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Markup Symbols</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>&lt;$A&gt;, &lt;$B&gt;, etc</td>
<td>Speaker identification</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&lt;I&gt;…&lt;/I&gt;</td>
<td>Subtext marker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&lt;#&gt;</td>
<td>Text unit marker. Marks the beginning of every &quot;text unit&quot;, which corresponds loosely to the orthographic sentence. See Text Unit Numbering.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&lt;O&gt;…&lt;/O&gt;</td>
<td>Untranscribed text, eg, &lt;O&gt; speech by George Bush &lt;/O&gt;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&lt;?&gt;…&lt;/?&gt;</td>
<td>Uncertain transcription</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&lt;.,&gt;…&lt;/./&gt;</td>
<td>Incomplete word(s)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[&lt;]&gt;…&lt;/[&gt;]</td>
<td>Overlapping string</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>{&lt;}…&lt;/{&gt;</td>
<td>Overlapping string set</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&lt;,&gt;</td>
<td>Short pause</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&lt;,,&gt;</td>
<td>Long pause</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&lt;X&gt;…&lt;/X&gt;</td>
<td>Extra-corpus text</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&lt;&amp;&gt;…&lt;/&amp;&gt;</td>
<td>Editorial comment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&lt;@&gt;…&lt;/@&gt;</td>
<td>Changed name or word</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&lt;quote&gt;…&lt;/quote&gt;</td>
<td>Quotation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&lt;mention&gt;…&lt;/mention&gt;</td>
<td>Mention, eg, &quot;the word &lt;mention&gt; of &lt;/mention&gt;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&lt;foreign&gt;…&lt;/foreign&gt;</td>
<td>Foreign word(s)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&lt;indig&gt;…&lt;/indig&gt;</td>
<td>Indigenous word(s)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&lt;unclear&gt;…&lt;/unclear&gt;</td>
<td>Unclear word(s)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Full details of the markup for spoken texts may be found in the *ICE Markup Manual for Spoken Texts*, which may be downloaded from the ICE website, at http://www.hku.hk/english/research/ice/manuals.htm. See also Nelson (1996a).
## 3. markup Symbols in Written Texts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tag</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><code>&lt;I&gt;</code></td>
<td>Subtext marker - marks the beginning and end of each individual sample.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><code>&lt;#&gt;</code></td>
<td>Text unit marker. Marks the beginning of every sentence and heading. See Text Unit Numbering.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><code>&lt;p&gt;</code></td>
<td>Paragraph</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><code>&lt;h&gt;</code></td>
<td>Heading</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><code>&lt;b&gt;</code></td>
<td>Bold print</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><code>&lt;i&gt;</code></td>
<td>Italics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><code>&lt;u&gt;</code></td>
<td>Underlined text</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><code>&lt;smallcaps&gt;</code></td>
<td>Small capitals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><code>&lt;X&gt;</code></td>
<td>Extra-corpus text</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><code>&lt;quote&gt;</code></td>
<td>Quotation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><code>&lt;foreign&gt;</code></td>
<td>Foreign word(s)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><code>&lt;indig&gt;</code></td>
<td>Indigenous word(s)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><code>&lt;O&gt;</code></td>
<td>Untranscribed material, eg. <code>&lt;O&gt; diagram&lt;/O&gt;</code></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><code>&amp;</code></td>
<td>Editorial comment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><code>&lt;-&gt;&gt;</code></td>
<td>Misspelled word, followed by its correct spelling, eg. <code>government</code></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><code>&lt;mention&gt;</code></td>
<td>Mention, eg, &quot;the word &lt;mention&gt; of &lt;mention&gt;&quot;</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Full details of markup for written texts may be found in the *ICE Markup Manual for Written Texts*, which may be downloaded from the ICE website, at http://www.hku.hk/english/research/ice/manuals.htm. See also Nelson (1996a).
4. Text Unit Numbering

In written texts, a "text unit" corresponds to an orthographic sentence. Headings, sub-headings, addresses, and captions are also designated as text units.

In spoken texts, a text unit corresponds loosely to the orthographic sentence, though many of them are syntactically incomplete. A change of speaker turn always corresponds to a new text unit.

Each text unit in the corpus has been numbered as shown in this extract:

```
<ICE-SIN:W2A-002#1:1>
<h> Controversial Issues In Curriculum Development </h>

<ICE-SIN:W2A-002#2:1>
By Gan Cheong Eng

<ICE-SIN:W2A-002#3:1>
<h> Background </h>

<ICE-SIN:W2A-002#4:1>
The proliferation of short and long courses in management studies has not only made difficult the choice of a right course by students, but also the task of distinguishing a unique course by administrators and teachers.
```

The numbering scheme is as follows:

**ICE-SIN**  The corpus name, ICE Singapore.


**#1:1, #2:1, #3:1**  The text units are numbered in a continuous sequence throughout each text. This is denoted by the *first* number following #.

Some texts are composite (i.e., they consist of two or more different samples). We refer to these samples as "subtexts". The number following the colon denotes the subtext number. By convention, every text has at least one subtext, so the subtext number is always at least 1.

In spoken texts, the text unit number additionally includes the speaker identification (A, B, C, etc.), e.g.

```
<ICE-SIN:S1A-001#2:3:A>
```

This refers to text unit 2, in subtext 3, uttered by speaker A.
International Corpus of English
The Singapore Corpus (ICE-SIN)

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REFERENCES


