

25/4/2012 Morning Speech – ‘No more Chinglish please!’

Speakers: 5A Kelly Chan Oi Yee, 5B Irene Tse Yuk Fan

I:	Good Morning Principal, teachers and fellow schoolmates, I'm Irene from 5B, this is Kelly from 5A. Today, we would like to share with you our ideas on 'Chinglish'. Kelly, long time no see!
K:	Long time no see? Irene, do you know it is Chinglish? We should say 'I haven't seen you for ages!', 'I haven't seen you for ages!'.
I:	You're right Kelly! Do you know what 'Chinglish' means?
K:	"Chinglish" refers to some ungrammatical or nonsensical English in Chinese contexts. It is also known as "Chinese English". So Irene, do you know why Chinglish is formed?
I:	Chinglish is commonly formed by the misuse of Chinese dictionaries or translation software. Most students like using them when they write their English composition. Even some English – language publishers and teachers in China use them to teach, and therefore Chinese students learn the wrong translation and rules of English language. Do you know the characteristics of Chinglish?
K:	Chinglish is different from the common English in spelling, pronunciation, grammar and usage. As a result, there are quite a lot of funny Chinglish words and phrases which are difficult to be understood by English- speaking people. Can you give us some interesting examples of Chinglish?
I:	Of course there are lots of examples in China! Eating at a Beijing restaurant is usually an adventure for foreigners, and particularly when they order our Chinese famous traditional dishes "童子雞", "紅燒獅子頭" and "麻婆豆腐". Sometimes foreigners feel excited but confused, embarrassed or even terrified, many have complained about mistranslations on food. For instance, "童子雞" is translated into "chicken without sex", but it should be 'Spring chicken'; "紅燒獅子頭" is translated into "red burned lion head", instead of 'braised pork ball in brown sauce'. Also, "麻婆豆腐" "Tofu made by woman with freckles" is not really made by a woman who has freckles, it should be simply 'Mapo Tofu'.
K:	Chinglish does not only appear in mainland. It has existed in HK for so long too. In Hong Kong restaurants, there are also mistranslations on food. For example, "牛栢葉" which Hong Kong people always order in hotpot. The translation of "牛栢葉" in some Hong Kong restaurant is "Albert yip". I feel really pitiful to people who are named Albert Yip as their name means a cow's organ!! It should be 'omasum' in English, 'omasum'.
I:	What problems can Chinglish cause in our society. Can you tell me Kelly?

K:	<p>Chinglish brings out the cultural gap for foreign tourists in China . It also confuses people with the correct use of English, students may not have the chance to learn the correct spelling and usage of English from their environment. As Hong Kong is an international city, Chinglish may pose a bad influence on Hong Kong's image. So how can we avoid speaking Chinglish?</p>
I:	<p>1. Try to avoid learning English by using online Chinese to English translation software. Be careful of the usage of vocabulary when you have to use it. Don't copy!</p> <p>2. When you hear some people speak Chinglish, try to think whether it is grammatically correct and crosscheck with your teacher. For example, when you listen to Henry Tong's "Ngong Ping 三六零 " on TV, please do not follow him and you should find out the correct pronunciation by yourself. It should be ' Ngong Ping three six oh' or ' three-sixty' .</p> <p>3. From time to time, don't speak English too quickly, because the thing is the faster you speak, the more Chinglish comes out of your tongue. Speak English slowly and clearly!</p> <p>Finally, as summer is coming soon, the weather is getting hotter and hotter. For students, please remember not to say "May I open the fan?", but we should say 'May I turn on the fan?'</p> <p>Dear teachers and fellow schoolmates: when you hear some students or friends say Chinglish, please remind them by saying "No More Chinglish, please!"</p> <p>That's all for our sharing today, thank you!</p>