

Invariant Question Tags in Asian and African Varieties of English

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Abstract: *Tag questions are a cross-linguistically attested phenomenon typical of spoken conversation and they occur either as canonical or as non-canonical. In contrast to previous research on invariant question tags in the spoken language, this paper aims to document the diversity of non-canonical tags in informal written texts, namely in blogs, the text type most similar to informal spoken language. We will examine the data from several varieties of English spoken in South and Southeast Asia and Africa that share a significant degree of resemblance, owing to British colonialism in these areas. Research results, based on the data available in the Global Web-based English corpus, are reported for the formal characteristics of invariable tags.*

Keywords: *invariant question tags; canonical tags; lexical tags; English varieties; GloWbE;*