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Translingual English: New languages and new identities

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Abstract : The recent bi/multilingual scholarship shows that the knowledge of 'translingual English' is understood in terms of transcultural flows of linguistic, semiotic and cultural resources, where these resources re-transform and are recontextualised to form new specific languages and perform new identities in diverse societal contexts. Drawing on linguistic ethnographic data from contemporary popular music artist in Mongolia, this paper addresses two main critical questions: (1) how new forms of specific languages are created when English becomes translingual English in local contexts; and (2) how new varieties of local identities are constructed and performed when English transforms into translingual English. The paper argues that popular music artists in post-socialist Mongolia should better be understood as active cultural producers, contrary to those dominant discourses which position artists in the periphery as passive recipients of popular culture. Positioned within the creative nature of the global digital resources and the increasing transcultural spread of linguistic and cultural modes and features, these young Mongolian popular music artists produce not only new forms of linguistic practices in the local contexts but also create varied new forms of identities of what it means to be a young Mongolian person in the modern society.

Keywords: multilingualism, translingualism, mongolia, english

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