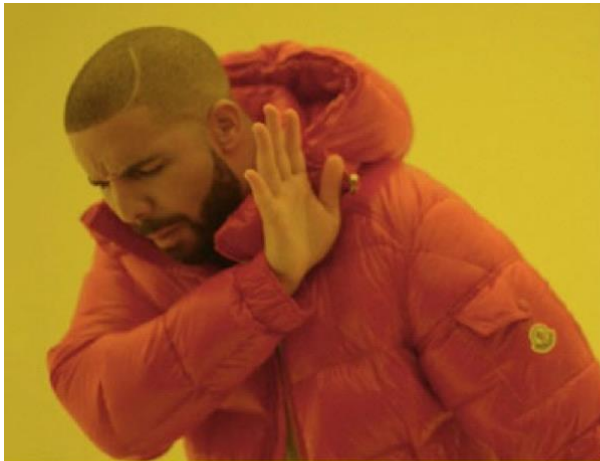


Student Choice Project

Done By Adri Ananya



Assignments
requiring readings,
research, essays,
citations



Assignments
requiring
meme
knowledge

1. (Original)



Context: We Southeast Asian folks tend to grow up calling anyone remotely close to our parents' age as 'uncles' or 'aunties' whether it's parents' friends, or random middle-aged people in general. Funnily, unlike people in Western societies, we do not refer to our biological uncles/aunts as 'uncle X' or 'aunt Y' because in our culture, we have different names for them such as 'Chacha,' 'Chachi,' 'Fupa,' 'Fupi' (paternal uncles and aunts) and 'Mama,' 'Mami,' 'Khala,' 'Khalu' (maternal uncles and aunts). Being a Bengali, it's hard to imagine calling people our parents' age by their first names. It's been a common culture shock among quite a few of my relatives who settled overseas a long time ago and I got to hear some funny stories about it growing up.

2. (Original)



Context: While there are exceptions that goes without saying, a very common observation about Bengali families in general, especially from people who have been around them for long enough, is that we are a quite friendly and hospitable bunch and we surely know our way around FOOD. About 2 months ago, a Portuguese family moved to our neighbourhood in Toronto from Peterborough and rented the house next to where me and my older brother live. The son who's roughly about my age (2-3 years younger) had that very reaction from this meme when the family learned we were Bengalis. That's because the daughter of that family is happily married to a Bengali guy and both of them are working individuals who live near Etobicoke, and needless to say, everyone in that Portuguese family loves and adores him. Therefore, it was quite easy becoming close to my new neighbours especially with their love for Bengalis and biryani.

3. (Collected)

Aunties at weddings



Context: The concept of arranged marriage has been stereotyped as an “Indian thing” across pop cultures for a long time now. Although there has been a change in this practice even in Southeast Asia because more people now marry after being together for some time, the jokes about brown mothers trying to find the perfect bride for their son, especially from another wedding ceremony, is still quite the classic. So the CCTV in this meme is basically supposed to symbolize a brown mother wearing her saree being on the lookout for a bride for her son in some wedding ceremony.

4. (Collected)



Context: The Big Bang Theory being one of my favorite sitcoms, I knew I had to use Raj to poke some fun at brown parents. While it's true that becoming a doctor is as prestigious as it gets regardless of geographical location, I have personally seen a whole nother level of obsession among brown parents with their children having to become a doctor/engineer. However, even after Raj becomes an astrophysicist, his parents still seem to be unsatisfied with him for his failure in letting them feel the fulfilment of having a daughter-in-law. Bottomline: They don't care if you're happily married or not, they need you to get married for them to enjoy extra company (LOL).

5. (Collected)



Context: This is a very old meme from one of the first successful meme pages in Bangladesh that got popular when memes were just starting to become a thing there around 2010/2011. The funniest thing about this meme is that this keeps recurring every year around December because that's the wedding season in Bangladesh. Most recently, as I was looking into memes for ideas for this project, my female cousin who's currently pursuing a MA at UBC, shared this on facebook the other day while she's visiting Bangladesh. Once again, funny as it is, this is indicative of a constant societal pressure on women in regards to getting married early in majority Southeast Asian societies.

**The word 'shaadi' is Hindi for marriage, but that's not how we call it in Bangladesh. The Bengali term for marriage would be 'biye' (pronounced: bee-yeh). 'Shaadi' is just a good alternative when the intention is to sound funny/dramatic.

