

A taste of the past :

Uncovering food histories through Malayan newspapers

by

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(National Library Board, Singapore)



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- **Why newspapers?**
- **How newspapers?**
- **What then?**

Why food research?



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Government

Singapore's Breakfasts: A Slice of History

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30/05/2013
Kat Wong

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When it comes to breakfast, our multiracial country has no lack of ethnic choices. Here at **ConnexionSG**, we have compiled a list of the popular breakfast picks among the different races and a slice of their tasty history.



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11/07/13

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Sauce Kit contains: Rendang Paste, Premium Coconut (Prima Coconut Premix)

With a long history as a major crossroads for the ancient spice route of the Orient, Singapore is famous for her blend of exotic culinary influences. Her legendary dishes feature the best of Malay, Chinese, Peranakan and Indian heritage, reflecting the rich mix of cultures forged by a multi racial population. Prima Taste offers you an exotic spread of Singapore delights in ready to cook pastes and sauces, providing authentic tastes that represent the

Business

Raffles Hotel



Raffles Hotel is a Singapore landmark located at 1 Beach Road. Established in 1887, the colonial-era hotel with a rich history is well known for its period architecture and décor, luxurious accommodation and fine cuisine, and has won numerous accolades over the years. The hotel is known in particular for its popular Tiffin Room

buffet, and for the Singapore Sling cocktail created in 1915. Raffles Hotel was first gazetted as a national monument in 1987 and later re-gazetted in 1995.

Operation Sook Ching

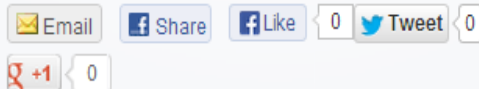
Operation Sook Ching was a Japanese military operation aimed at purging or eliminating anti-Japanese elements from the Chinese community in Singapore. From 21 February to 4 March 1942, Chinese males between the ages of 18 and 50 were ...


Selena Tan

Arguably one of Singapore's funniest women, talented local artiste Selena Tan (b. 1971, Singapore-) is a director, playwright, actress, producer and comedienne. As a versatile actress, Tan has performed in live theatre shows such as ...

Individuals

Curry puff



 [Feedback on article](#)

A curry puff is a deep-fried, crescent-shaped pastry filled with curried potato and meat. The origins of this snack are uncertain and attributed variously to the influences of the British Cornish pasty, the Portuguese *empanada* and the Indian *samosa*.

Description

The curry puff pastry is made of plain flour mixed with clarified butter that is rolled out and shaped into a crescent. It is filled with curried potato and meat, and sometimes half a boiled egg. Popular variants include a filling made of chilli sardines. In general, the filling is cooked separately and then folded into the pastry with a small pocket of air before the puff is closed and crimped at the sides.

History

Believed to be inspired by the British Cornish pasty, the dish was likely introduced into the Malay Peninsula with the arrival of British colonialists. Others have suggested that Portuguese colonialists brought it to the Malay Peninsula in 1511 because the curry puff is reminiscent of the Portuguese *empanada*, a meat pasty with crimped edges. Still others consider the curry puff influenced by the Indian *samosa*, which has a similar curried potato filling.

In post-war Singapore, Malay ladies often sold *epok-epok* door to door. This was a fried pastry filled with sardines or potatoes (*kentang epok-epok*) flavoured with a *rempah* (spice blend) of chillies but without curry. Sometimes, *taugeh* (bean sprouts) was used to enhance the flavours. In the 1970s, some vendors travelled from place to place on bicycles, with their goods displayed in glass cabinets. These epok-epok were sold accompanied by a sweet and sour chilli sauce.

~ Recommendations ~

[Polar Café](#)

Polar Puffs & Cakes is a food manufacturer and operator of a chain of cafés best known for their curry puffs. The business ...

[Old Chang Kee](#)

Old Chang Kee is a food retail chain best known for its Hainanese-style curry puffs, which were first sold in 1956. ...

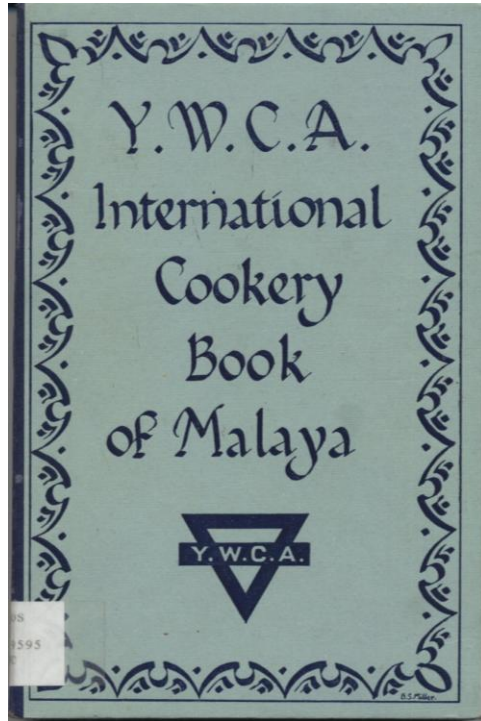
[Mee goreng](#)

Mee goreng is a dish primarily of fried noodles that is associated with South Indians but remains unique to this region. ...

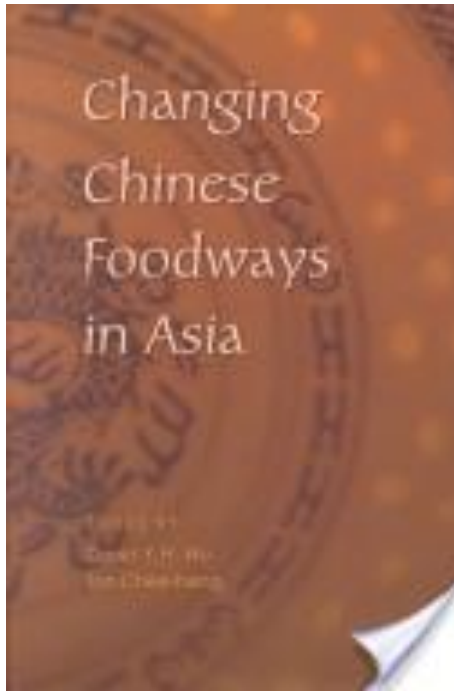
[Mee rebus](#)

Mee rebus is a dish comprising Chinese egg noodles in thick, spicy gravy. Reflecting the multicultural mix of Malaya, ...

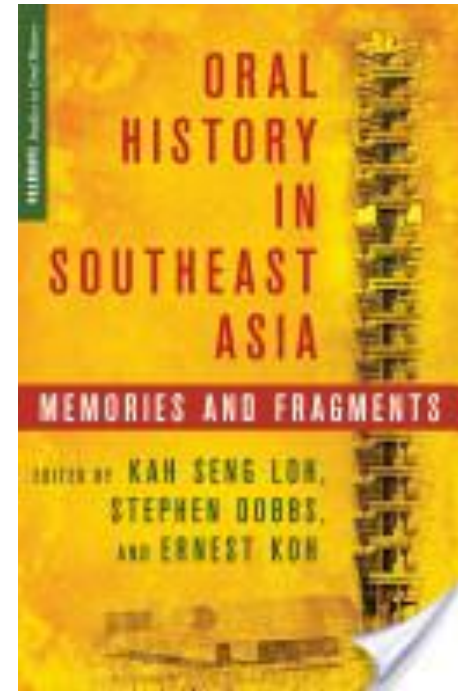




Cookbook



Food history



Oral history

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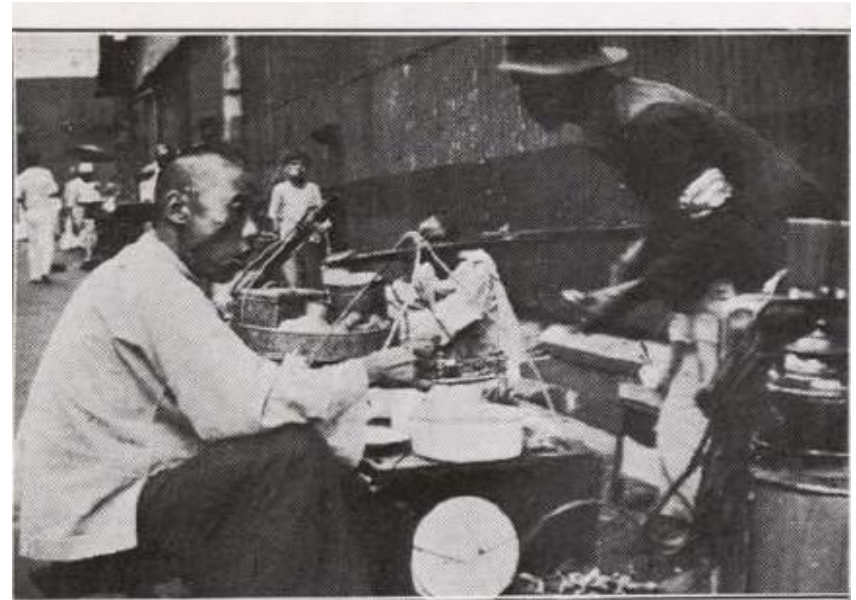
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California Sandwiche
 Shoppe (Willis, 1936, p.46)

Willis' Singapore Guide, 1936



Satai at the docks (Willis, 1936, p.149).

Why newspapers?

NewspaperSG is an online resource of current and historic Singapore and Malaya newspapers. You can search our digital archive of newspapers published between 1831-2009, or find information on over 200 newspaper titles in the National Library's microfilm collection.



Lianhe Zaobao 《联合早报》 and **Berita Harian** are now available on NewspaperSG. With the inclusion of these newspapers, we have introduced the multi-lingual user interface to allow users to navigate the site in English, Chinese or Malay. We have also made **Sin Chew Jit Poh** 《星洲日报》, **Nanyang Siang Pau** 《南洋商报》 and **Tamil Murasu** available for browsing in our Preview section.

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1,500 Children Enjoy Rotary Christmas Party



They were each given a toy and a bag consisting a tin of milk, a piece of fruit and another bag with a curry puff, a piece of cake and some chocolate.

Straits Times, 16

December 1939, p. 11

Lt.-Col. H. A. Lord, of the Salvation Army, helps a small boy on a "dodgem" at yesterday's Rotary Club Christmas treat for Singapore's poor children.—*Straits Times* picture

Singapore Free Press, 22
January 1932, p. 1

Straits Times, 3 April 1934,
p. 5

ADELPHI HOTEL

TO-NIGHT—Informal After Dinner Dance

Saturday, Jan. 23rd *BURNS NICHT* Special Dinner & Dance

DINNER MENU \$3.00

Trig an' Braw
Mutton Broth
Caller Haddies wi' Sma' Tatties
Roastit Grumphia
Sprouts—Chappit Neeps
Birsled Tatties
Haggis
Roastit Bubbly Jock wi' Trimmin's
Trifle
New Fanglet Ream wi' Biscuits
Ramequens
Aiples an' sic Like
Coffee

SUPPER MENU \$1.50

Consomme de Volaille
Mayonnaise de Saumon
Cold Buffet
Roast Chicken Cooked Ham
Sirloin of Beef
Salade de Americaine
Veal and Ham Patties
Curry Puff—Sausage Rolls
Sandwiches
Roquefort Cheese-Pate de Foir Gras
Extremets
Patisseries Francaise
Strawberry and Vanilla Ice Cream
Coffee

Supper will be served downstairs

RAFFLES CAFE AND CONFECTIONERY

Speciality

WEDDING, BIRTHDAY, AND
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Your results for: curry puff

curry puff + Advanced

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THE PALACE OF PUFFS

“ ... PALACE OF PUFFS. (From the Saturday Review) one who has studied the outside can doubt that Captain Fowko wants nothing but pood taste to be second Falladio or Wren. ... ”

Thursday 08 May 1862, *Stirling Observer*, Stirlingshire, Scotland
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- FANCY DRESS DANCE.**
The Brisbane Courier (Qld. : 1864 - 1933) Friday 8 July 1927 p 22 Article
... Curry ("Spanish Dancer"), Sally Higgins ("Good Luck"), Elsie Curry ("Powder Puff"), B. Spiller ... 153 words
- INDIAN PUFF.**
Evelyn Observer and Bourke East Record (Vic. : 1902 - 1917) Friday 12 September 1913 Edition: MORNING. p 5 Article
... INDIAN PUFF. Cold meat, **curry** powder, milk, pastry, egg, sauce. For this any- remains' of cold meat may be used: Mince the meat, flavour it, strongly with **curry** powder, . and' moisten with whitesauce or tomato' sauceO if, you have it, or ift not, an, egg and, a 'littler milk. Roll' some- ... 106 words
- Mixed Spice**

Books

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Lee, Raymond
[Book : 1991]
At UoN Library
- Karipap atau burger? / Sophie Othman**
Sophie Othman
[Book : 2011]
Languages: Malay
At WA State Library
- The great matzah-curry puff : a cross cultural study of Jewish, ...**

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*A Tamby takes it easy—
with a curry puff*

Street Characters No. 3

Straits Times, 23 February
1950, p. 12



Adam Ghat, who is in the background... is from India's United Provinces. (He sells) Bengali roti buns and curry puffs...gluey kaya jam... molasses and duck's eggs. .. He parks his travelling coffee-shop near Finlayson Green

How do we do food research?

Today, 28 October 2006, Page 30

snack, Attack!

Article also available on microfilm reel NL27075 [Lee Kong Chian Reference Library - On shelf, arranged by date]

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2,154 results found for **curry puff**



THREE-IN-ONE CURRY PUFF \$1 each

I'm such a fickle eater that I normally end up purchasing several **curry puffs** — each with a different filling — at one time. Until I chanced upon Fancy Delight's delicious three-in-one **curry puff**. Each segment in the light handmade pastry is filled with a different filling — **curry** potato, sardines and **curry** chicken — so each bite tastes absolutely different. Yum! — **EVELINE GAN**



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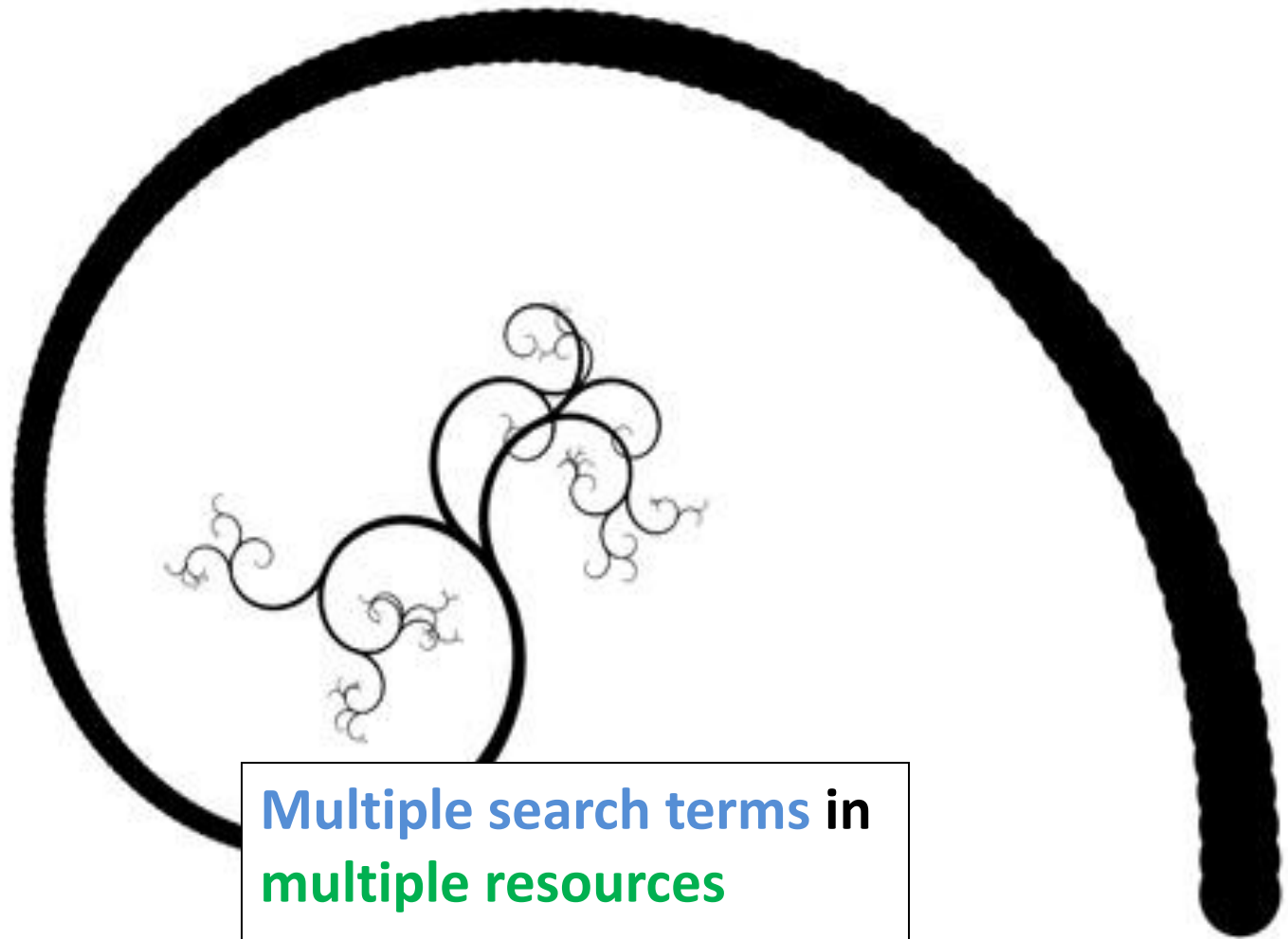
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The Straits Times, 4 December 2006,

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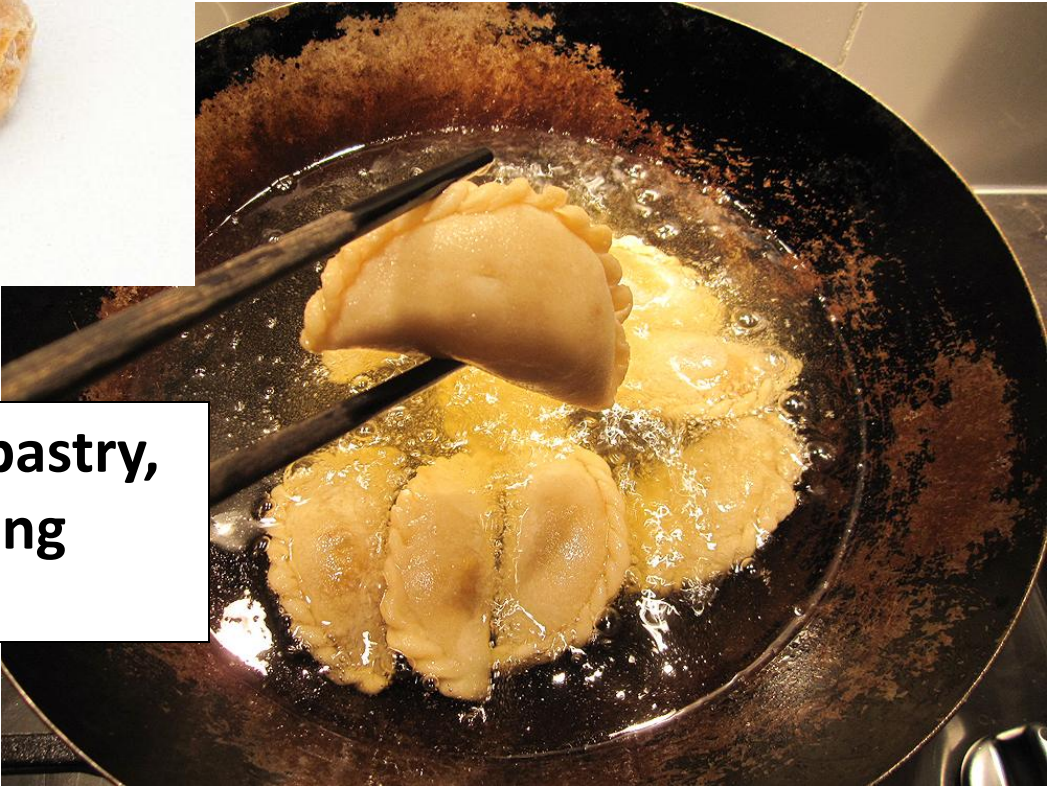








**Baked, puff pastry,
potato curried filling**



**Deep-fried, flour pastry,
potato curried filling
with egg**

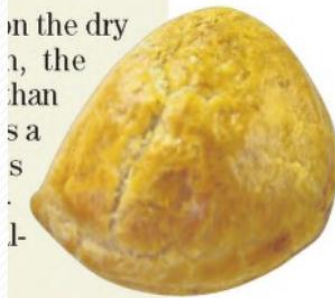
THE CURRY PUFF TEST

Straits Times, 14 October 2007, p. 72

Chinese fried



Western puff, baked



Indian samosa



Epok epok - Malay origins



Teochew, layered



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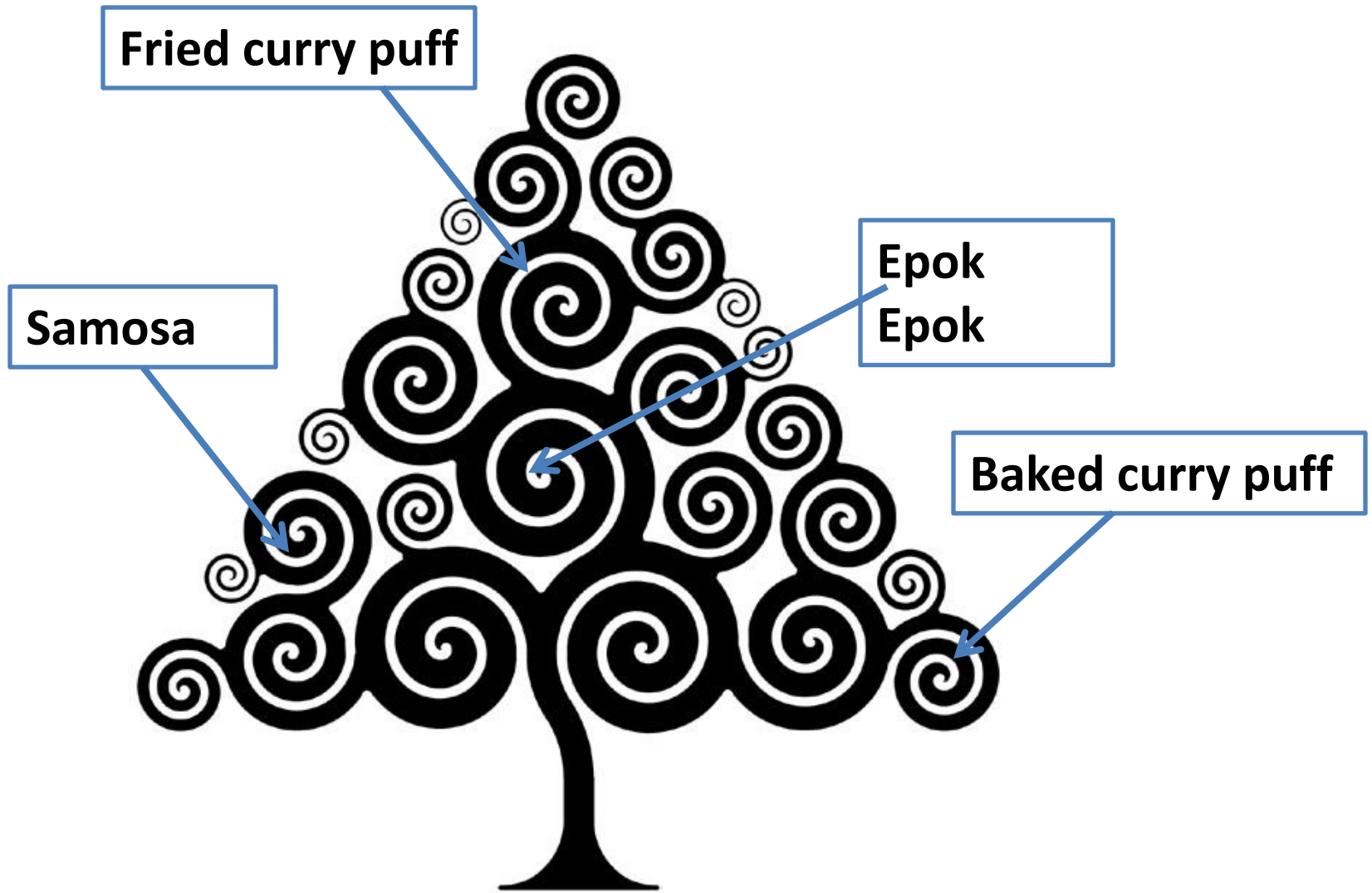
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Curry puff search tree

Old Chang Kee



Stroll down Kali Pup lane



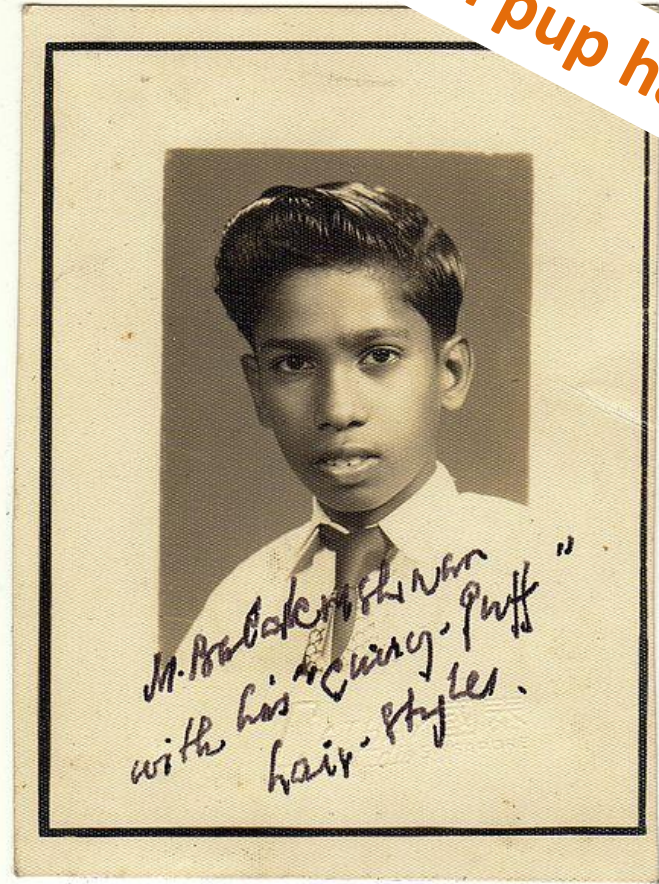
Straits Times, 26
December 1982, p. 16

Kali pup lane

Curry pop

Kari pop

Kali pup hairstyle






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