

ATTITUDES AND PERCEPTION OF MALAYSIANS TOWARDS
MALAYSIAN ENGLISH

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ABSTRACT

Malaysian English is a new variety of English which is widely spoken in Malaysia. It can be categorized in three levels such as the basilect, mesolect, and acrolect. The emergence of new varieties of Englishes brought confusion to various speakers of English such as English as a native language (ENL), English as a second language (ESL) and English as a foreign language (EFL). Even among Malaysians, they are confused with Malaysian English and Manglish also known as Malaysian Colloquial English. To carry out the study, Malaysian students from UCSI University were chosen for interviews in the first phase of the data gathering. In the second phase of the study, a group of students took the survey on the perception and attitudes of Malaysians towards Malaysian English. The findings of the study show that Malaysian English is widely accepted in Malaysia but learning a more standard form of English is given more importance because people view Malaysian English as non-standard. Further studies related to the perceptions and attitudes towards English among ESL speakers might be useful to support the findings of this research.

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