

LANGUAGE CHOICE OF MALAYSIAN CHINESE STUDENTS IN UCSI
UNIVERSITY AND UPM

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ABSTRACT

Language choice has been a subject in linguistic field. There has been rising evidence that the choice of language is playing an important role in people's daily life. However, there has been lack of empirical studies that focus on Malaysian Chinese's language choice, especially qualitative research. This study specifically examines the language choice of Malaysian Chinese students in UCSI University and University Putra Malaysia (UPM). In addition, the objective of this study is to identify domains, medium of instruction, and language choice as factors that affect Malaysian Chinese students' language choice. These two universities were chosen because they have different medium of instruction which are English and Bahasa Malaysia. There were two students from UCSI University and two students from UPM participated in this study. They came from different Kuala Lumpur, Muar and Kluang (Johor) and they have different educational background. A structured interview and electronic e-mail interview were conducted respectively with the four participants. The interviews were transcribed for a detailed analysis. The analysis focuses on how the factors affect language choice. In addition, the findings show that domains, medium of instruction, and language attitudes are the factors that affecting Malaysian Chinese's language choice. These factors are not mutually exclusive but linked to each other. In conclusion, language choice is crucial for Malaysian Chinese students in order to communicate to each other smoothly and avoid the misunderstanding.