

**LANGUAGE CHOICE OF CHINESE STUDENTS AT UCSI UNIVERSITY  
LANGUAGE INSTITUTE**

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## ABSTRACT

This study examined the language choice of Chinese students in UCSI University Language Institute in Malaysia. Eight participants from different regions of China were chosen to participate in this study. The data were collected through interviews which were recorded and transcribed. The interview transcripts were analyzed using Communication Accommodation Theory (Giles, 1973) and domain analysis (Fishman, 1972). The findings suggested that Chinese participants in home domain always spoke Chinese because Mandarin is their mother tongue and they can easily communicate with their roommates. In the school domain, they preferred to choose English because students use English as lingua franca with international students, not Chinese. They chose Chinese or English in the friendship domain, and they applied both convergence and divergence as accommodation strategies. Finally, this paper explains the issue of language choice in Malaysian society. The participants thought language choice was useful and it was recommended for future study. This project was exploratory, so the researcher suggested that more participants should be interviewed to study language choice in relation to other socio-linguistic variables.