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**MALAYSIAN INTERRACIAL COUPLES' LANGUAGE CHOICE IN THE
HOME DOMAIN**

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ABSTRACT

This study explored and analyzed the reason and factors that affected the language choice of Malaysian Interracial couples communication in the home domain. The participants are four couples consisting of Malaysian Indian, Malaysian Chinese and Malaysian Malay. The recordings of the interviews were transcribed and analyzed. The analysis focused on the language choice and the factors of the language choice, how they accommodate to each other and also their surroundings while communicating. The findings showed that the interracial couple's uses English at home and other dialects such as Mandarin, Tamil and Chinese to accommodate others when necessary or when among their own race. The children of the couples use Bahasa Malaysia at times because it is used as the medium of instruction in schools. The factors that affected language choice are the spouse's first language, family members, in laws and social network. It is recommended that for future studies more couples should be included, for instance Indian-Thai or Chinese-Malay in different domains of communication that can be explored.