

**EXPLORING STUDENTS' PERCEPTION AND ATTITUDE TOWARDS
PEERS' CODE CHOICE IN THE CLASSROOM DOMAIN**

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ABSTRACT

The aims of this study were to explore students' attitude towards their peers' code choices in the classroom domain and to investigate the effect of ethnicity on their code choices. To carry out the study, qualitative design was used in which six (6) students consisting of Iranian, Indonesian, Chinese, Malaysian Chinese, Malay and Tamil were interviewed. Besides the interview data collection, two classes were observed to support the interview data collection. The participants for classroom observation were students in SE301 Sociolinguistic and SE304 Cross-Cultural Communication in UCSI University. The findings of the study revealed that code choice occurred naturally and the students' attitudes and perceptions toward their peers' code choice were relatively positive among the Malaysian students but perceived as negative among the International students. Apart from this, the findings based on the classroom observations' reported that ethnicity does influence the code choice of the students by largely depending on the proficiency of the speakers. Therefore, in this study it is proven that a students' code choice can be motivated largely on the ethnicity.