

**LANGUAGE CHOICE IN DIFFERENT DOMAINS OF COMMUNICATION
AMONG MALAYSIAN CHINESE STUDENTS IN CHERAS AND KAJANG
AREA**

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ABSTRACT

This study examined and analyzed the reasons and the factors that affected the language choice of Malaysian Chinese students in different domains of communication. Fifty respondents and four interviewees from SMK Cheras, UTAR (University Tunku Abdul Rahman), and UCSI University had participated in the survey questionnaires and interviews respectively. The data collected from the survey questionnaires was tabulated and the recorded interviews were all transcribed for analysis. The analysis focused on the language choice, the factors that affected the language choices, and the effects of the national language policy on the language choices. The findings showed that most respondents and interviewees chose to use Mandarin or Chinese dialect at home and school. They would only choose to use Malay mostly in the school as guided by the national language policy. Factors identified to affect the language choices in three specific domains of communication included participants, topic, setting, social identity, and social distance between participants. It is recommended that for future studies more participants should be included, for instance Indians and Malays and more domains of communication can be explored. The effect of national language policy and the factors that affect their language choices can be studied as well.