

MANDARIN AND ENGLISH AS LINGUA FRANCA AMONG UYGHUR STUDENTS
AT UCSI UNIVERSITY

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ABSTRACT

This is a qualitative descriptive study, this study focuses on Fishman's Idea on Domain, Fishman's Language Attitudes and Myers Scotton's code switch in Uyghur students' daily language choice. The purpose of this study is to investigate the Uyghur students from XinJiang of China who are study in UCSI University in Malaysia their language choice in daily life as English and Mandarin as common lingua franca. The research questions are 1) How do the different domains such as university, home and friendship domains affect the Uyghur students' language choice? 2) Which domain do the Uyghur students use their native language? 3) What are the reasons that Uyghur students code switch? 4) How do the language attitudes affect Uyghur student's language choice? The findings of this study show, 1) different domain does affect the Uyghur students' language choice. In Malaysia, the most common lingua franca is English and Mandarin. People around them mostly English speakers and Mandarin speakers, the only way to communicate with the speakers through English and Mandarin. 2) their native language appears when they calling parents and hometown friends. 3) the code switching happened when they cannot explain what they want to express and what they exactly what to say and make the conversation easier and have better understanding with speakers. 4) Since these participants study abroad, the English language became the main language to communicate with others, English as their third language, but it is plays a really important role in their daily life. Between the languages they can speak, the English is the main language for them to use. Also because of the power of English language, participant would continue to learn and study English language for having a better plan.