

LANGUAGE MAINTENANCE AND SHIFT:
A STUDY OF MALAYALEE FAMILIES IN SUBANG JAYA

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RESEARCH PAPER SUBMITTED IN FULFILMENT OF THE
REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEGREE OF
B.A.(HONS) ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND COMMUNICATION

FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES AND LIBERAL ARTS
ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND COMMUNICATION DEPARTMENT

UCSI UNIVERSITY

KUALA LUMPUR

APRIL 2014

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ABSTRACT

This study seeks to explore whether Indian Malayalee families are preserving or losing their mother tongue in Malaysia. These are the research questions proposed: 1) What language is used by the Malaysian Malayalee family and in what domain do they use this language? 2) How has multilingualism affected the Malayalee families in Malaysia in communicating with each other? 3) What are the causes of language shift in Malayalee family in Malaysia? This research uses a qualitative study using questionnaire as the data collection technique. Open ended question and multiple choice questions were asked. The finding for the first research question is English is used in all domains of communication. The finding for the second research question is; Media was the major cause of multilingualism effect in Malayalee family communication. It played a major role in how each family communicated with each other. The finding for the third research question is; the causes of language shift are Attitudinal, political, educational, social status, social approvals.