

**THE IMPACT OF DIFFERENT LANGUAGE POLICIES TO TEACH MATHS
AND SCIENCE ON LANGUAGE CHOICES OF UiTM SARAWAK'S DIPLOMA
IN SCIENCE STUDENTS**

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KELULUSAN PERMOHONAN PELANJUTAN TEMPOH PENYELIDIKAN KALI PERTAMA

Tajuk Projek : The Impact ~~of~~ National Language Choices Of UiTM Samarahan Students
Kod Projek : 600-RMI/SSP/DANA 5/3/Dsp (331/2009)
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ABSTRACT

This sociolinguistic study focuses on the younger generation of multilingual Malaysian tertiary students who have been exposed to different mediums of instruction when studying Science and Mathematics at school before joining UiTM. This study is limited to two domains, namely friendship and study, because these are the domains where the impact of the different language policies could be more obvious in influencing the language choices of the students.

Even though there has been both positive and negative feedback on the policy of using English to teach Science and Mathematics which was implemented in 2001, the sociolinguistic aspect of it has hardly been studied. There is no information as to whether the different mediums of instruction have affected the language choices of these students once they pursue tertiary education. The Diploma in Science students at UiTM Samarahan, Sarawak best represent these two cohorts of students . Parts 1, 2 and 3 have been exposed to the learning of Science and Mathematics in English when they were at school, since Form 1. Parts 4, 5 and 6 have been exposed to the learning of Science and Mathematics in Bahasa Malaysia at school since Year 1. Being exposed to two separate medium of instructions could possibly have affected the language choices of students who pursued Diploma in Science at UiTM where the medium of instruction is in English.

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Language choice is one of the concerns in sociolinguistics. It has been of interest to many researchers especially in bi or multilingual speech communities where there exist not only choices between varieties of a language but also choices between different languages and dialects involving different settings serving different reasons. Researchers such as Ferguson (1959), Fishman (1971, 1972a, 1972b), Wallwork (1978), Gumperz (1971, 1982) and Heller (1988) have studied language use by focusing on language choice.

Language choice is a sociolinguistic phenomenon which refers to selecting languages for different purposes in different contexts. Multilingual societies inevitably face conflict over language choice. What makes this language choice an obvious issue and concern in a multilingual society? Is the choice natural or forced? What are the intentions of an individual when making a choice? What are the factors that influence the specific choice? These are some of the issues that encouraged investigating the impact of language policies on language choices among undergraduates in UiTM Samarahan.

Education in Malaysia is overseen by two government ministries: the Ministry of Education for matters up to the secondary level and the Ministry of Higher