

ABSTRACT

This study attempts to investigate the variety of *Huayu* which exists in a certain group of Chinese speakers in Kuching, Sarawak. In this study, the researcher examined the production of some initial consonants in a variety of *Huayu* which are different from the initial consonants in Standard *Huayu*.

The present data was obtained through questionnaires, reading tests and literature references. Utterances were recorded in the form of continuous text and single syllables in order to identify the pronunciation consistency of the subjects between the two forms. In this study, a substantial number of utterances were found to differ from that of Standard *Huayu*, and is considered as a variety of *Huayu*. The transcription of utterances were written in IPA symbols for clearer descriptive comparisons.

In general, the existence of such a variety in the region of study as confirmed by the data, shows that the variety exhibits group and individual characteristics. The existence of a variety in retroflex [ʈ ʈʰ ʂ ʐ] and alveolo-palatal [ç] is also demonstrated within the *Huayu* variety.

The factors that contribute to the existence of this regional *Huayu* variety involve simplification process, influence of mother tongue, influence of closely similar sounds, and teaching which does not emphasize the pronunciation of Standard *Huayu*.

Based on the present identification of the existing variety and its causal factors, the researcher has also made several suggestions in order to promote the pronunciation of Standard *Huayu*.

ABSTRAK

Kajian ini cuba meneliti variasi *Huayu* yang wujud dalam kumpulan penutur tertentu di kalangan orang-orang Cina di Kuching, Sarawak. Dalam kajian ini, penyelidik mengenalpastikan sebutan konsonan initial variasi *Huayu* tersebut yang berbeza dari konsonan initial *Huayu Standard*.

Data kajian ini diperolehi menerusi soal selidik, ujian bacaan dan rujukan keperustakaan. Bunyi-bunyi ujaran dirakamkan dalam bentuk teks lanjutan dan suku kata berasingan untuk mengenalpasti keselarasan ujaran subjek-subjek kajian dalam dua bentuk tersebut. Sesuatu ujaran yang berbeza dengan ujaran *Huayu Standard* diandaikan sebagai suatu variasi di kawasan kajian. Transkripsi bunyi-bunyi ujaran ditulis dalam simbol IPA untuk menggambarkan bunyi-bunyi dengan lebih jelas.

Penganalisan data menunjukkan bahawa variasi tersebut bersifat kumpulan dan individu. Hanya variasi yang bersifat kumpulan dapat membuktikan wujud suatu variasi di kalangan mereka yang dikaji. Secara keseluruhannya, kajian ke atas konsonan initial variasi *Huayu* di kawasan kajian menunjukkan wujud variasi dalam konsonan initial retrofleks [tʂ tʂʰ ʂ ʂ] dan alveolo-palatal [ç].

Faktor-faktor yang menyebabkan kewujudan variasi tersebut melibatkan proses simplifikasi, pengaruh bahasa ibunda, pengaruh bunyi-bunyi yang berhampiran dan pendidikan yang tidak begitu mementingkan sebutan *Huayu Standard*.

Dengan memastikan variasi yang wujud serta faktor-faktor yang mempengaruhinya, penyelidik juga mencadangkan beberapa saranan untuk mempromosikan pertuturan *Huayu Standard*.