

ABSTRACT

Research about language choice that involves the minority ethnic group of Bugis in Malaysia has not been conducted. Therefore this research is to observe the language choice of the Bugis community. Language choice used by the Bugis in Kampung Parit Keroma, Pontian, Johor in three domains i.e. home, intra-community interaction and at work are the main focus of this research. In addition, comparisons of language choice are also made with Bugis who have migrated to Kuala Lumpur. The research methodologies used include questionnaire, recordings, interviews and also observation. Research results have shown that respondents aged 70-89 are still using the Bugis in the domains of home and intra-community interactions, the group aged 50-69 are bilingual and use both Malay and Bugis, accommodating to their interlocutor, the group aged 30-49 use both languages as well but the majority only use Malay in the home domain and in intra-community interactions. In sharp contrast the majority of the group aged 13-29 use Malay as their dominant language. For all age groups in the job domain, the dominant language used is Malay. The majority of the respondents who live in Kuala Lumpur, use Malay in the home and job domains and in intra-community interactions. The community still living in Kampung Parit Keroma compared to the community in Kuala Lumpur have the opportunity to speak Bugis since the majority are from the same ethnic group. In contrast, the use of Bugis among the respondents who live in Kuala Lumpur is limited.