the final part of this chapter provides a restatement of the purpose of this study into clearly defined objectives.

3.1 The Domain Theoretical Construct

The concept of the domain was first used by Schmidt-Rohr in his efforts to study the German language (Fishman, 1972a). Fishman (1972a) feels that the domain is important in analysing language use and to study the phenomena of language maintenance and shift. He defines domain as

... a socio-cultural construct abstracted from topics of communication, relationships and interactions between communicators and locales of communication in accord with the institutions of a society ... (Fishman, 1972a: 20)

Similarly, Romaine (1995: 30) defines a domain as "an abstraction which refers to a sphere of activity representing a combination of specific times, settings and role relationships".

The three important components that are necessary to determine language use in a domain are the participants/interlocutors and their role relationships, the topic under discussion and the setting (Rubino and Bettoni, 1991). As far as the participants are concerned, factors such as age, gender, social status, socio-economic background and their role
relationship (close or otherwise) may influence the choice of language used. The topic is the next important factor in determining the choice of language use. Fishman (1972b) suggests that topics determine language use as some languages are more suitable to be used when handling a certain topic. Also, the setting, whether at home, in the office or school can influence the choice of language use.

Fishman (1972a) opposes the idea that there can be a fixed number of domains to study for all communities. The type and number of domains to be studied for a particular community depends largely on the nature of the group and their contact with the society at large (David, 1996).

Different researchers have used different numbers of domains to study different communities. Schmidt-Rohr, cited in Fishman (1972a) studied nine domains. Pauwels (1986) in her study of the German and Dutch immigrants in Australia looked at four domains (family, friendship, organised secular contact and the church). Rubino and Bettoni (1991) also considered four domains (family, friendship, work/school and transactions) and Young (1988) studied three (family, friends and work).

However, regardless of the number of domains in a study, the family domain is always consistently included (David, 1996). This may
be because in language shift studies, the home is the “last bastion of a subordinate language in competition with a dominant official language of wider currency” (Dorian, 1981: 105). This is also supported by Roksana (1989) in her study of the Malay community in Geylang, Singapore.

In this study, the researcher uses seven domains (prayer, work/school, transaction, family and kin, neighbourhood, friends and entertainment) as these are considered the domains in which the language may still be in use.

3.2 Subjects

The sample population for this study was taken from the Portuguese Eurasian community living in the Portuguese Settlement. A total of 64 respondents were selected, out of which there was an equal number of males and females (32 each). The ages of the male respondents ranged from 12 to 83 while the ages of the females were from 12 to 92 years. Table 3.1 provides a breakdown of the total number of respondents based on the four different age groups decided upon for this study.
Table 3.1: Number of Respondents and their Age Groups

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Group</th>
<th>Males</th>
<th>Females</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12 - 17</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18 - 29</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30 - 55</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>56 - onwards</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total: 64</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The rationale for breaking the sample population into the four different age groups as shown in Table 3.1 above was to determine whether age contributed to differences in patterns of language use across the four generations. It was also considered that group 1 (G1) would comprise respondents between the ages of 12 to 17 (secondary school going children), group 2 (G2), respondents from the ages of 18 to 29 (working adults who are probably not married), group 3 (G3) consisting of individuals around the ages of 30 to 55 (possibly married adults who are working) and the last group (G4), people above the age of 55 (comprising senior citizens who are retired).
The total sample population comprised fourteen school going children, five youths who have just completed their secondary education, twenty-one working adults, two recently unemployed adults, fifteen housewives and seven retired senior citizens.

The working sample population comprised individuals with a variety of professions. Among the women, there were cashiers, waitresses, restaurant helpers, a stall owner, a restaurant operator, a factory worker and a Quality Control officer. The men, on the other hand, also held a variety of jobs ranging from a stall owner, chefs, fishermen, fish mongers, restaurant operators, skilled labourers (machinist, sheet metal workers), a gardener and a businessman. The majority of the sample population can be classed as possessing low and average socioeconomic status whereas a small percentage are from the high socioeconomic levels.

3.3 Instrument

The instrument used for this study was a 42-item questionnaire (see Appendix 1). The questionnaire consisted of three different parts. The first part was designed to obtain information on the background of the
respondents while the second part was focused on the choice of language use in the seven domains under investigation in this study. The third part was formulated mainly to collect data on code switching and the attitude of the respondents towards Kristang and other languages used in Malaysia namely, English and Malay.

Questions 1 to 8 were designed to acquire some background data (personal history) of the respondents such as their age, gender, place of birth, number of years living in the settlement, etc. Questions 9 to 13 dealt with their verbal repertoire, i.e. the language they first spoke, the language(s) they can speak and understand, etc. Information on their education background was collected through questions 14 to 17. Questions 18 to 24 established information on occupation and household income corresponding to the size of the family in order to determine the socioeconomic levels of the respondents.

The primary reason for gathering such data from the first part (questions 1 to 24) was to build a profile of the respondents and to determine how variables such as age, gender and socio-economic status influence the choice of language use among the sample population in the various domains. It was also important to determine how these variables
affect the attitude of the respondents towards Kristang and the other dominant languages, namely Malay and English.

Questions 25 to 37 sought to discover the main language in use among the respondents in the seven domains. The domains selected for this study are the prayer domain (questions 25 to 29), the work / school domain (question 30), the transaction domain (questions 31 and 32), the family and kin domain (question 33), the neighbourhood domain (question 34), the friends domain (question 35 to 36) and the entertainment domain (question 37).

In the prayer domain, the respondents were asked the main language used in formal prayer (in the church) and also the main language they preferred to listen to in their religious services. They were also asked about their main language used in personal prayer.

For the work / school domain, the working adults were asked about their main language use with bosses, employees and colleagues of similar and different ethnic background. The school going children, on the other hand, were asked about their main language use among Eurasian and non Eurasian teachers and schoolmates.

In the transactions domain, the Portuguese Eurasian sample population were asked about the main language they use with
shopkeepers, market place sellers and restaurant operators who were either Eurasian or otherwise.

Questions on the family and kin domain were focused on the main language used with their immediate family members and also with their extended family members (relatives) who were living in the settlement and who they therefore had relatively frequent contact with.

Since all their neighbours living in the settlement were Portuguese Eurasians, the respondents were asked about their the main language use when talking with their neighbours (older and younger generation).

In the friendship domain, the respondents were asked about their choice of closest friends and also their language use among Eurasian and non Eurasian friends.

In the entertainment domain, questions on listening to Kristang songs and possessing Kristang cassettes were included to determine whether their language preference for music included Kristang songs.

The next part concentrated on the respondents’ attitude towards the languages used in Malaysia including Kristang. Questions 38 to 41 obtained information on the respondents’ attitudes towards Kristang. The final question (42) wanted to gauge the respondents’ attitude towards
the major languages in Malaysia (in relation to each other) including Kristang.

All in all, the majority of the questions were close ended. Apart from being simple to answer, they helped ensure that responses were made in a frame of reference that was specifically relevant to the purpose of the study. Wherever possible, a reasonable range of alternative answers were included in some close type questions to ensure a fair representation of probable responses corresponding to the respondents’ answers.

Most of the questions came with a free option, thereby allowing the respondents to respond with their own answer in the event those supplied were not applicable. Only one question was a rating question requiring the respondents to circle a number from 1 to 5 corresponding to what each number represented.

3.4 Procedures and Data Collection

This section presents the procedures taken in the collection of data for the study. It includes a description of the pilot test and the data collection conducted at the Portuguese Settlement in Malacca.
3.4.1 Pilot Test

A pilot test was conducted on the 27 of February 1999 among eight Portuguese Eurasians living in the Klang valley. They comprised two each from the four different age groups. Suggestions provided by these subjects in the pilot test were taken into account to ensure that those questions that were vague or appeared confusing were rephrased and additional information was added for clarity.

3.4.2 Data Collection

After making the necessary changes to the questionnaire, the data collection was conducted from 4th March to 7th March 1999. With the help of the ‘regedor’ or headman, Mr Peter Gomes and a committee member from the Regedor Panel, Mrs Eileen Fernendez, both the researcher and his assistant were able to interview the total sample population as illustrated in Table 3.1 earlier. The respondents were assured that all information given was strictly for the purpose of research and anonymity would be maintained.
The interviews were conducted throughout the days and nights and in places such as coffee shops, stalls, restaurants, the Regedor Panel’s office and also at some of the respondents’ houses (all of which were in the Portuguese Settlement). Generally, most of the sample population members from groups 1, 2 and 3 were interviewed outside their houses whereas the majority of the respondents in group 4 were interviewed at their homes.

All interviews were conducted in a similar fashion. Every respondent was given a copy of the questionnaire for reference while the researcher recorded their answers in a separate copy. By collecting the data using the interview technique (face to face), whatever questions or uncertainties faced by the respondents were dealt with immediately and it also helped ensure that all questionnaires were answered in full and correctly.

The majority of the respondents understood English especially those from the first three groups (G1, G2 and G3). A few of the male and female respondents from group 4 (G4) were not very proficient in English and therefore, a combination of English and Kristang had to be used. Two respondents, a 72-year-old man and a 92-year-old woman had a very poor
command of English and their interviews with the researcher’s assistant were conducted almost entirely in Kristang.

3.5 Data Analysis

As the primary purpose of this study was to determine the language maintenance and shift of Kristang among the Portuguese Eurasians living in the Portuguese Settlement, the data collected has been presented in the form of frequency distribution and percentages to allow for comparison across generations, gender and socio-economic levels.

This comparison is done based on its analysis in the seven domains studied. The patterns of language choice and use of the sample population is studied based on the independent variables mentioned above to determine language maintenance and / or shift within the Portuguese Eurasian community in the settlement.

3.6 Restatement of Purpose of Study into Research Objectives

In Chapter 1, under Section 1.1, the broad purpose of this study was mentioned. However, in order to facilitate clear presentation and
analysis of the data, the purpose of this study shall be restated below into clearly defined objectives and shall be discussed in that particular order in the following chapters.

The purpose of this study is to determine the patterns of language use according to the variables of age, gender and socio-economical status in the domains of:

1. work/school
2. transaction
3. family/kin
4. neighbourhood
5. friendship
6. entertainment
7. prayer

Another objective is to determine the attitude of the respondents towards Kristang and the other main languages in Malaysia according to the variables of age, gender and socio-economic status.