# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Abstract</td>
<td>i</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abstrak</td>
<td>ii</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acknowledgement</td>
<td>iii</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>List of Tables</td>
<td>iv</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>CHAPTER I: INTRODUCTION</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.0  Introduction</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.1  Background of the Study</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.2  Statement of the Problem</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.3  The Objectives</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.4  The Scope of the Study</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.5  Purpose of the Study</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.6  Definition of Terms</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.6.1 Lexical Items</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.6.1.1 Multi-word Units</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.6.1.2 Collocations</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.6.1.3 Idioms</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.6.2 Lexical Gap</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.6.3 Spoken English</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.6.4 Domain of Friendship</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.6.5 Borrowing</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.6.6 Code Switching</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
1.6.7 Code Mixing
1.7 Significance of the Study
1.8 Conclusion

CHAPTER II: REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

2.0 Background
2.1 Bilingualism
   2.1.1 Translation and Bilingualism
2.2 Origins of Bilingualism in Malaysia
2.3 Code Switching
2.4 Malaysian English
2.5 Domains of Language Interaction
   2.5.1 Origins of the Concepts of Domains of Language Behaviour
2.6 Studies on Lexical Items
2.7 Conclusion

CHAPTER III: METHODOLOGY

3.0 Introduction
3.1 The Research Questions
3.2 The Research Methodology
3.3 Tools of Analysis
3.4 Sampling Procedures
3.5 Non-Participant Observation
3.6 Tape Recording 44
3.7 The Helpers 45
3.8 The Interviews 46
3.9 The Interviewees 46
3.10 Fieldwork Experience and Problems 46
3.11 The Transcriptions 48
3.11.1 Tamil Lexical Items 49
3.12 Conclusion 49

CHAPTER IV: FINDINGS AND ANALYSIS 50

4.0 Introduction 50

4.1 Tamil Primary-school and the Non-Tamil school Educated 51

English-speaking Malaysian Tamils

4.2 Use of Tamil Lexical Items 53

4.2.1 Use of Tamil Lexical Items by the 10-20 Year Age Group 54

4.2.1.1 Use of Tamil Single Words 54

4.2.1.1.1 Names of Indian and Tamil Food 56

4.2.1.1.2 Names of Hindu Religious Terms 57

4.2.1.1.3 Names of Indian Musical Terms 58

4.2.1.1.4 Kinship Terms 59

4.2.1.1.5 Kinship Terms used as Nicknames 60

4.2.1.1.6 Mock Insults 61

4.2.1.1.7 Body Parts 63

4.2.1.1.8 Coined Words 64
4.2.1.9 Question Words
4.2.1.10 Names of Tamil People
4.2.2 Use of Tamil Expressions
  4.2.2.1 Mock Curses and Insults
  4.2.2.2 Tamil Songs
  4.2.2.3 Complain to Friends
  4.2.2.4 Expressions of Irritation
  4.2.2.5 Expressions of Surprise
  4.2.2.6 Attention Seeking and Persuading
  4.2.2.7 Advice and Warnings
4.2.3 Conclusion
4.3 Use of Tamil Lexical Items in the 21-49 Year Age Group
  4.3.1 Use of single Tamil Words
    4.3.1.1 Names of Indian and Tamil Food
      4.3.1.1.1 Vegetarian and Non-vegetarian Food
      4.3.1.1.2 Ingredients in Indian and Tamil Traditional Dishes
    4.3.1.2 Hindu Religious Ceremonies
      4.3.1.2.1 Hindu Religious Festivals
      4.3.1.2.2 Hindu Gods and Goddesses
      4.3.1.2.3 Hindu Holy Words and Religious Taboo Words
    4.3.1.3 Names of Tamil People
    4.3.1.4 Nicknames
    4.3.1.5 Kinship Terms
4.3.1.6 Mock Insults and Vulgar Words 92
4.3.1.7 Caste 94
4.3.1.8 Skin Tones 96
4.3.1.9 Processes 98
4.3.1.10 Question Words 100

4.3.2 Use of Tamil Expressions 102
4.3.2.1 Expressions of Surprise 103
4.3.2.2 Description of People 105
4.3.2.3 Expressions of Hunger 107
4.3.2.4 Expressions of Farewell 107
4.3.2.5 Vulgar Expressions 108
4.3.2.6 Comparison of Age 109
4.3.2.7 Teasing Friends 110

4.3.3 Conclusion 111

4.4 Use of Tamil Lexical Items in the 50 ≥ Year Age Group 112
4.4.1 Hindu Religious, Traditional, and Cultural Words 113
4.4.1.1 Hindu Temples and Festivals 113
4.4.1.2 Hindu Religious Terms 114
4.4.2 Kinship Terms 118
4.4.3 Greetings and Honorific Terms 120
4.4.4 Indian Musical Instruments 123
4.4.5 Traditional Tamil and Indian Food 123
4.4.6 Numbers 125
4.4.7 Colours 129
4.4.8 Names of Animals 130
4.4.9 Nicknames 132
4.4.10 Names of Tamil People 132
4.4.11 Question Words 133
4.4.12 Use of Tamil Expressions 134
  4.4.12.1 Farewells 135
  4.4.12.2 Tamil Idioms 137
4.4.13 Translated Tamil Idioms 139
4.4.14 Conclusion 140
4.5 Other Findings 141
  4.5.1 Sanskrit Lexical Items 141
  4.5.2 Hindi Lexical Items 142
  4.5.3 Bahasa Melayu Lexical Items 143
  4.5.4 Chinese Lexical Items 145
  4.5.5 Malaysian English 146
4.6 Main Findings 148
  4.6.1 Literal Translation of Tamil Lexical Items 148
4.7 Summary 151

CHAPTER V: CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

5.0 Introduction 153
5.1 Summary of Findings 153
  5.1.1 Research Question 1 153
5.1.1.1 The Use of Tamil Lexical Items in the 10-20 Year Age Group 154

5.1.1.2 The Use of Tamil Lexical Items in the 21-49 Year Age Group 156

5.1.1.3 The Use of Tamil Lexical Items in the 50 ≥Year Age Group 159

5.1.2 Research Question 2 161

5.1.2.1 Categories of Tamil Lexical Items in the 10-20 Year Age Group 162

5.1.2.2 Categories of Tamil Lexical Items in the 21-49 Year Age Group 163

5.1.2.3 Categories of Tamil Lexical Items in the 50 ≥Year Age Group 165

5.1.3 Comparison of the Categories of Tamil Lexical Items 167

5.1.4 Research Question 3 171

5.1.4.1 Bahasa Melayu, Sanskrit, Hindi and Chinese Lexical Items 175

5.2 Conclusion 176

5.3 Recommendations for Future Research 177

Bibliography 178

Appendix A 193

Appendix B 195

Appendix C 196

Appendix D 212
LIST OF TABLES

Table 2.1  Language Choice at the Unofficial Level in Malaysia  23

Table 4.1  Number and Minutes of Conversations  50

Table 4.2  The Number and Percentage of Tamil-Educated and Non-Tamil Educated Malaysian Tamils  52

Table 4.3  Distribution of Participants According to Their Ability to Read, Write and Speak the Tamil Language  53

Table 4.4  Use of Tamil Words in the 10-20 Year Age Group  54

Table 4.5  Use of Tamil Expressions in the 10-20 Year Age Group  67

Table 4.6  Use of Tamil Words in the 21-49 Year Age Group  77

Table 4.7  Use of Tamil Expressions in the 21-49 Year Age Group  102

Table 4.8  Use of Tamil Word in the 50 ≥ in the Year Age Group  112

Table 4.9  Use of Tamil Expressions 50 ≥ in the Year Age Group  135

Table 4.10  Use of Sanskrit Lexical Items  141

Table 4.11  Use of Hindi Lexical Items  143

Table 12  Use of Bahasa Melayu Lexical Items  144

Table 4.13  Use of Chinese Lexical Items  145
Table 4.14  Use of Malaysian English  146
Table 5.1  Number of Tamil words, Expressions, and Idioms Used by the Participants  154
Table 5.2  Some of the Tamil Words Used by the 10-20 Year Age Group  154
Table 5.3  Tamil Expressions Used by the 10-20 Year Age Group  156
Table 5.4  Some of the Tamil Words Used by the 21-49 Year Age Group  157
Table 5.5  Tamil Expressions Used by the 21-49 Year Age Group  158
Table 5.6  Some of the Tamil Words Used by the 50 ≥ Year Age Group  159
Table 5.7  Tamil Expressions Used by the 50 ≥ Year Age Group  160
Table 5.8  Comparison of the Categories of Tamil Lexical Items  167