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**THE INFLUENCE OF TAMIL LEXICAL ITEMS IN THE ENGLISH SPOKEN  
BY MALAYSIAN TAMILS IN THE DOMAIN OF FRIENDSHIP**

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## ABSTRACT

The study is about the level of mother tongue Tamil influence among Malaysian Tamils who speak English in the domain of friendship. The researcher divided the participants into three age groups so as to get a comprehensive data for the study. The three age groups are as shown:

- i. 10-20 Year Age Group.
- ii. 21-49 Year Age Group.
- iii.  $50 \geq$  Year Age Group.

The researcher selected helpers from each of the group to aid in the recording of the English conversations of the participants. This was done in order to determine the influence of Tamil as well as Bahasa Melayu, and other lexical items in the English that the participants speak. The researcher as well as the helpers also recorded the interviews that were conducted. Much evidence and insights were gleaned from the conversations and interviews.

The findings show a distinct pattern of linguistic behaviour and linguistic adaptation among the three age groups. The qualitative method of analysis adopted for the study helped in revealing many interesting and unique patterns of language behaviour among the participants in the study.

The Malaysian Tamils in the domain of friendship display a colourful and interesting form of language mixture in the English that they speak. There is also a striking evidence of the usage of Tamil lexical items in the English that they speak. These Tamil lexical items are used for various reasons, which all point to the ultimate function of language itself: **COMMUNICATION**.

## ABSTRAK

Kajian ini menyelidik tentang tahap pengaruh Bahasa Tamil di dalam Bahasa Inggeris yang dipertuturkan oleh masyarakat Tamil Malaysia di dalam domain persahabatan. Penyelidik kajian ini telah membahagikan para responden yang terlibat kepada tiga kumpulan umur. Hal ini dilakukan untuk memperolehi data yang komperhensif dan berkualiti. Kumpulan umur yang tersebut adalah seperti di bawah:

- i. 10-20 Tahun.
- ii. 21-49 Tahun.
- iii. 50 Tahun ke atas.

Penyelidik kajian ini juga telah memilih beberapa orang pembantu untuk menolong beliau untuk merekodkan perbualan-perbualan Bahasa Inggeris para responden. Hal ini telah dijalankan untuk mengenalpasti tahap pengaruh Bahasa Tamil dan juga pengaruh Bahasa Melayu serta bahasa-bahasa lain dalam perbualan Bahasa Inggeris masyarakat Tamil Malaysia di dalam domain persahabatan. Penyelidik dan pembantu-pembantu penyelidik itu juga telah merakamkan temubual-temubual yang telah dijalankan bersama dengan para responden yang telah dipilih.

Analisa kajian telah dijalankan mengikut kaedah kualitatif. Dapatan kajian daripada rakaman perbualan dan temubual ini telah digunakan untuk menjawab soalan-soalan kajian.

Perbualan Bahasa Inggeris masyarakat Tamil di Malaysia menunjukkan satu percampuran bahasa yang kompleks dan indah. Terdapat juga unsur-unsur pengunaan Bahasa Tamil yang ketara di dalam Bahasa Inggeris yang dipertuturkan oleh masyarakat Tamil Malaysia di dalam domain persahabatan. Unsur ini menuju ke arah fungsi bahasa yang unggul: **KOMUNIKASI**.

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