TABLE OF CONTENTS

Page

Abstract…….. iii

Abstrak …….. iv

Acknowledgements……..... v

List of figures…… …… xiv

List of tables……... xv

Abbreviations ……. ……..… xvii

CHAPTERS

1 INTRODUCTION TO THE STUDY…….1

1.1 The changing language ecology in Sarawak……..……... 1

1.2 An overview of progression of *LSLM* and related studies……. 4

1.3 Statement of the study…… 14

1.4 Research objectives……...…. 15

1.5 Research questions……..... 17

1.6 Research framework……..…. 17

1.6.1 Stages in data collection and analysis …… 18
1.6.2 Prior observation……. 28
1.6.3 Approaching the community…….. 28
1.6.4 Field work: An outsider's perspective…… 29

1.7 Significance of the study……... 30

1.8 Conclusion…….. 31

2 ETHNOGRAPHIC BACKGROUND……..…….. 32

2.1 Introduction…… 32

2.2 Demography and historical background…… 33

2.3 Life in the *Kupuo* or 'village' …… 35

2.4 The impact of "modern religions" on the Bidayuh community …… 38

2.5 Socio-cultural transformation of the Bidayuh community……. 42

2.6 The present day Bidayuh …….. 45

2.6.1 Socio-economic development in Bidayuh areas……. 45
2.6.2 Education and socio-economic level……... 46
2.6.3 Political unity and aspiration……... 47

2.7 Conclusion…….. 48

3 THE BIDAYUH LANGUAGE ……..…49

3.1 Introduction…… 49

3.2 Earlier classification of the Bidayuh people and their language…… 51

3.3 The Bidayuh language family…… 52

3.3.1 Bidayuh dialect groupings and related languages ……..…… 53
3.3.2 Cognates and mutual intelligibility between isolects of Bidayuh…… 54
3.3.2 Phonological variation between isolects of Bidayuh …… 56

3.4 Earlier development of the Bidayuh language …….. 56

3.4.1 Wordlists……..…….…… 57
3.4.2 Christian materials…… 58

3.5 Publication of reading materials in the Bidayuh dialects……... 58

3.6 More recent development on the Bidayuh language……. 59

3.6.1 Preservation of Bidayuh customary law and oral traditions…...……. 60
3.6.2 The use of the Bidayuh language in the media…… 60
3.6.3 Bidayuh Language Development Project (BLDP)…….. 61

3.6.3.1 Activities conducted by BLDP……..…….…….. 61
3.6.3.2 Linguistic research and orthography ……...…… 62
3.6.3.3 Dictionaries…….…….…… 62

3.7 Conclusion…….. 63

4 LITERATURE REVIEW…….. 64

4.1 Language choice, social variation in language and LSLM…… 64

4.2 The domain construct…….…… 69

4.3 Diglossia…….…… 70

4.4 Bloom and Gumperz's (1972) method of observation…….. 71

4.5 Situational and metaphorical code-switchings and social meanings in speech…. 73

4.6 Language attitudes and identity……..….. 75

4.7 Variation in language choice and implicational scaling technique…… 78

4.8 Speaker variation in language choice and social network theory…….. 80

4.9 Conclusion…….…..... 82

5 THE SURVEY: LANGUAGE CHOICE PATTERNS IN THE FAMILY DOMAIN……..…… 83

5.1 Introduction……. 83

5.2 Objective of the survey……..……...…….. 83

5.3 The questionnaire…….……... 83

5.3.1 The design of the questionnaire ……..…..... 84
5.3.2 Parts of the Questionnaire……..….... 84

5.4 Administration of the questionnaire……..... 85

5.5 Validity and reliability of survey data …… 86

5.6 Survey respondents ……. 88

5.7 Method of analysis of survey data……..... 90

5.8 Distribution of respondents according to demographic background…….. 92

5.9 Exposure to Malay and English as medium of instruction ……..... 93

5.10 Measurement of language ability……..... 94

5.11 Language repertoire ……..... 95

5.11.1 Competency in the Bidayuh language…… 95
5.11.2 Competency in Malay and English……..... 96
5.11.3 Competency in the Iban language……. 98
5.11.4 Competency in languages of other ethnic groups……..… 99

5.12 Degree of bilingualism among Bidayuh speakers……..…..... 99

5.13 Analysis of language choice in the family domain with age as a variable..... 102

5.14 Frequency of occurrence of languages with immediate and extended family members……..…… 103

5.15 Patterns of language choice in the family domain…….…. 105

5.15.1 Patterns of choice with grandparents …….…… 108
5.15.2 Patterns of choice with siblings……...……... 108
5.15.3 Patterns of choice with parents and children……...……... 110
5.15.4 Patterns of choice in intra-ethnic marriages……...……..... 112
5.15.5 Patterns of choice inter-ethnic marriages ……..……. 114

5.16 Summary……. 116

6 THE SURVEY: LANGUAGE CHOICE PATTERNS AT THE WORKPLACE ……...…….. 118

6.1 Introduction …… 118

6.2 The influence of setting on language choice patterns at the workplace…..….... 119

6.2.1 Working environment in organisations and language choice patterns…. 119
6.2.2 Language practices in different types of organizations……..…….. 121

6.3 Summary of patterns of choice of respondents at the workplace……..…. 123
6.3.1 Patterns of choice of respondents from Chief Minister's Department….. 125
6.3.2 Patterns of choice of respondents from the Department of Agriculture….. 127

6.3.3 Patterns of choice of respondents from Universiti Malaysia Sarawak … 129
6.3.4 Patterns of choice of respondents in school setting…..…… 131
6.3.5 Patterns of choice of respondents from Sarawak Biodiversity Centre …. 133
6.3.6 Patterns of choice of respondents in private organisations……... 134

6.4 Language choice patterns with of the respondents with various types of interlocutors at the workplace…….……... 135

6.4.1 Language choice patterns of older respondents with various types of interlocutors…….. 137
6.4.2 Language choice patterns of younger respondents with various types of interlocutors…….. 138

6.5 Conclusion…….……. 139

7 LANGUAGE CHOICE IN THE SOCIAL AND RELIGIOUS DOMAINS, AND INTRA- AND INTER-ETHNIC INTERACTIONS …….. 140

7.1 Introduction …… 140

7.2 Participant observation in various settings and domains of language use…...…. 141

7.3 Language choice patterns in the social domain……...…. 142

7.4 Social circle and language choice patterns in the social domain ……..... 145

7.5 Patterns of language choice and social profiles of speakers……. 146

7.5.1 Social profiles of speakers in category one…….…..….. 147
7.5.2 Social profiles of speakers in category two……..……. 150
7.5.3 Social profiles of multilingual Bidayuh (category three)……...… 156

7.6 Language choice at recreational places……..……..… 162

7.7 Language choice during community activities …… 163

7.7.1 Observation of appointment for new office bearers of DBNA and BGA……... 164
7.7.2 Observation during *Gawai Dayak* house visiting ……...…….…. 166
7.7.3 Observation during DBNA women's dinner function……..…. 167

7.8 Language choice in the domain of religion…….. 168

7.8.1 Language use in church service……...….. 168
7.8.2 Language choice for praying……..… 170

7.9 Summary of dominant languages used in various domains of language use…… 171

7.10 Language choice patterns in intra- and inter-ethnic interactions ……... 172

7.10.1 Social parameters determining choice in intra- and inter-ethnic interactions…….. 172
7.10.2 Code-switching among Bidayuh speakers ……. 175
7.10.3 Social meanings expressed in speech…….. 178
7.10.4 Dialect differences and accommodation in intra-ethnic interaction…… 182

7.11 Conclusion…….…….. 184

8 LANGUAGE SHIFT PHENOMENON……..……..185

8.1 Introduction…….. 185

8.2 The Bidayuh language as a threatened language ……. 186

8.3 The process of language shift among Bidayuh speakers……..……. 193

8.4 Cases of non-acquisition of the mother tongue ……..…… 199

8.5 Bilingualism and language shift……. 201

8.6 Category of speakers and various forms of bilingualism practice……. 204

8.7 Determinants of language shift and factors in support of maintenance of the Bidayuh language……... 207

8.8 Concluding remarks……...…… 211

9 CONCLUSION AND IMPLICATION OF FINDINGS…….....214

References ……... 221

Appendices…….…... 228

A Dialect groupings, and other related languages…….…...…… 228

B List of Borneo Literature Bureau (BLB) publication titles in Bidayuh dialects from 1961-1976…….……... 229

C Example of application of the implicational scaling technique……..... 230

D Sample of questionnaire…… 231

E Categories of speakers based on patterns of language choice in the family domain……..... 239

F Overall language choice patterns of younger Bidayuh speakers in domains of language use……. 241

G Overall language choice patterns of older Bidayuh speakers in domains of language use……. 242

LIST OF FIGURES

Fig Title Page

1.1 Research framework of the study …….…..... 22

1.2 Relationship between variables in language shift…….. 23

2.1 Distribution of major sub-groups of Bidayuh …… 34

4.1 Schema representing the formation of attitudes……...……. 76

6.1 Types of interactions observed at the workplace ……..……..... 136

7.1 Language choice of educated Bidayuh speaker in intra- and inter-ethnic interactions……...……..… 172

7.2 Language choice and code-switching……..... 174

LIST OF TABLES

Table	Title	Page
1.1	Edward's (1992) typology of minority languages…….….....	24
3.1	Lexical contrast between Malayic Dayak and Land Dayak ..……..….	51
3.2	Phonemic contrast of /l/ and /r/ in Malayic Dayak and Land Dayak languages …….....	51
3.3	The cognate percentages between major dialect clusters in the Bidayuhic sub-family ……...……....	55
5.1	Distribution of respondents based on age-group …….....	92
5.2	Distribution of respondents based on gender……...……...…	92
5.3	Distribution of respondents based on marital status……...…..…	92
5.4	Distribution of respondents based on type of marriage ...…….…	92
5.5	Competency in Bidayuh among younger and older speakers ……..……..	96
5.6	Respondents' competency in the Malay language……..…	97
5.7	Respondents' competency in the English language……...	97
5.8	Respondents' competency in the Iban language……	98
5.9	Respondents' competency in languages of other ethnic groups……...….	99
5.10	Main languages spoken with immediate family members…….	104
5.11	Main languages spoken with extended family members……...……	104
5.12	Summary of overall patterns of language choice of the respondents in the family domain……..	106
5.13	Summary of patterns of choice of the respondents with grandparent……	108
5.14	Summary of patterns of choice of respondents with siblings……	109
5.15	Patterns of choice of younger and older speakers with parent……..……	110

5.16	Patterns of language choice of younger and older speakers with children..…..	111
5.17	Language choice patterns of respondents with spouse and children in intra ethnic marriages…….	112
5.18	Language choice patterns of respondents with spouse and children in inter-ethnic marriages ……...…	115
6.1	Summary of overall patterns of language choice of the respondents at the workplace……...…	123
6.2	Summary of patterns of choice at the workplace and speaker profiles…….....	124
6.3	Patterns of choice of respondents from the Chief Minister's Department…..	125
6.4	Patterns of choice of respondents from the Department of Agriculture……	128
6.5	Patterns of choice of respondents from University Malaysia Sarawak …….....	130
6.6	Patterns of choice of respondents in school setting……...	131
6.7	Patterns of choice of respondents from Sarawak Biodiversity Centre …….	133
6.8	Patterns of choice of respondents in private agencies……..….	134
7.1	Choice of languages spoken in the social domain……...……	143
7.2	Patterns of choice between younger and older respondents in the social domain…….....	144
7.3	Categories of speakers based on language choice patterns in the social domain…..……....	144
7.4	Patterns of choices in the social domain and speaker profiles……...	160
7.5	Summary of the choice of languages used for praying……	170
7.6	Patterns of choice for praying…….…....	171
7.7	Dominant languages used in various domains……...…	172
7.8	Social meanings of languages in various social situations within a setting (i.e.the workplace) ……...…	181
8.1	Overall language choice patterns of respondents of mixed parentage and competency in the mother and father's tongues ……	200

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

Unimas	University Malaysia Sarawak
TESL	Teaching English as Second Language
SM	Sarawak Malay dialect
SPU	Sarawak Planning Unit
DBNA	Dayak Bidayuh National Association
BGA	Bidayuh Graduate Association