

ABSTRACT

The purpose of this research report is to investigate the main choice of language among the Ceylonese community in Klang. Besides that, it aims to investigate if there is a difference in language choice across the different domains as well as across the different generations. It will also examine if there has been a language shift from Ceylonese Tamil to Tamil Tamil or other languages by the Ceylonese community in Klang. First the study focuses on the proficiency of Ceylonese Tamil and other languages used by hundred and fifty (150) respondents belonging to three different generations of Ceylonese Tamil community and consider whether there are any significant generation related differences. Next, language use and choice will be presented with a focus on the domains of family, friendship, entertainment and religion. Finally, based on the findings and data collected, we will be able to see if language shift from Ceylonese Tamil to Tamil Tamil or other languages has occurred among the Ceylonese community in Klang.

The instrument used in this study was a 28-item questionnaire and the findings of the data analysis were presented in the form of frequency counts and percentages. The findings indicate that the use of Ceylonese Tamil among the respondents is decreasing in almost all the domains studied. It was found that in place of the Ceylonese Tamil, English is fast becoming the dominant language especially among the younger generation members.

In conclusion, the results of this study show that generally Ceylonese Tamils still have positive sentiments towards the Ceylonese Tamil language to some extent, but their dependence on the English language is increasing.

ABSTRAK

Tujuan laporan penyelidikan ini adalah untuk mengkaji penggunaan bahasa di kalangan sebuah kumpulan sampel masyarakat Ceylonese (salah satu kumpulan etnik India) di Klang. Ia juga bertujuan mengkaji samada terdapat perbezaan yang ketara dalam pemilihan bahasa di antara domain berlainan dan di antara generasi berlainan. Selain itu, laporan ini akan mengkaji jika terdapat perubahan bahasa daripada Ceylonese Tamil ke Tamil Tamil atau bahasa-bahasa yang berkenaan di antara masyarakat Ceylonese ini di bandar Klang. Pertama, fokus kajian ini adalah profisiensi terhadap bahasa Ceylonese Tamil dan bahasa-bahasa lain yang digunakan oleh seratus lima puluh (150) responden dari tiga generasi masyarakat Ceylonese dan menentukan samada wujud perbezaan yang signifikan berkaitan dengan generasi. Seterusnya, penggunaan dan pemilihan bahasa antara generasi dikemukakan dengan memfokuskan domain keluarga, persahabatan, hiburan dan agama. Akhir sekali, berdasarkan dapatan kajian, kita akan dapat lihat jika terdapat perubahan bahasa daripada Ceylonese Tamil ke Tamil Tamil atau bahasa-bahasa lain yang berkenaan di kalangan masyarakat Ceylonese di Klang. Instrumen yang digunakan dalam kajian ini ialah soal selidik yang mempunyai 28 soalan. Dapatan kajian dipersembahkan dalam bentuk frekuensi dan peratus. Hasil kajian menunjukkan bahawa penggunaan Ceylonese Tamil di kalangan responden adalah makin mengurang di dalam hamper semua domain yang dikaji. Adalah didapati bahawa Bahasa Inggeris menggantikan Ceylonese Tamil sebagai bahasa yang dominant terutamanya di kalangan generasi muda.

Kesimpulannya, dapatan kajian ini menunjukkan bahawa secara keseluruhannya, masyarakat Ceylonese Tamil masih mempunyai sentimen yang positif terhadap bahasa Ceylonese Tamil tetapi pergantungan mereka terhadap Bahasa Ingeris semakin bertambah.

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