

UNIVERSITY MALAYA

ORIGINAL LITERARY WORK DECLARATION

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Female Teenage Malaysians  
Field Of Study : Sociolinguistic

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## ABSTRACT

This study was to determine the varieties of English used with different people in different domains among female teenage Malaysians. It was also carried out to find out to what extent these respondents are able to switch from the acrolect to the mesolectal variety of English and at the same time how is language use related to one's language identity. The investigation was done by using various instruments such as interviews, reflective journals and questionnaires and written test to obtain much needed information to help facilitate this paper. The main findings were that these respondents use the mesolectal variety when they are communicating with their peers who are less proficient in English and family members and at the same time they use the acrolectal variety when they are in formal domains such as during examinations and English lessons in schools. These respondents were also able to switch from one variety to another according to their needs. It also revealed that the respondents were able to take up different roles at different domains. It was concluded that teenagers are able to use the varieties of English mentioned earlier, according to the domains and the people they are with and at the same time switch from one variety to another accordingly. It can also be concluded that the respondents take up different identities to avoid 'othering' and they resort to 'styling' to blend into the group that they are in and this means that language plays a pertinent role in forming identities

## **ABSTRAK**

Kajian ini adalah untuk mengenalpasti jenis Bahasa Inggeris yang digunakan oleh gadis remaja di Malaysia dengan orang lain dalam domain yang berlainan. Ia juga dijalankan untuk mencari setakat mana Bahasa Inggeris jenis akrolektal dan mesolektal digunakan dan bagaimana penggunaan jenis-jenis Bahasa Inggeris ini berkaitan dengan identity seseorang. Kajian ini telah menggunakan pelbagai instrumen untuk mendapat maklumbalas dari para responden. Antaranya ialah sesi temuduga, borang soal-selidik, ujian bertulis dan journal refleksi. Penemuan yang utama kajian ini ialah para responden menggunakan jenis mesolektal bila berkomunikasi dengan ahli keluarga dan rakan sebaya yang kurang arif dalam Bahasa Inggeris dan menggunakan jenis akrolektal dalam situasi yang formal seperti semasa peperiksaan dan di dalam kelas Bahasa Inggeris di sekolah. Pada masa yang sama para responden dapat beralih dari satu jenis Bahasa Inggeris ke jenis yang lain mengikut keperluan mereka. Mereka juga menggunakan jenis Bahasa Inggeris yang sesuai supaya mereka dapat diterima dalam kumpulan yang mereka berinteraksi. Sebagai rumusan, boleh dikatakan bahawa responden memeluk identiti yang berbeza untuk mengelakkan 'othering' dan mereka menggunakan 'styling' untuk diterima ke dalam kumpulan yang mereka berada dalam dan ini menunjukkan bahasa memainkan peranan yang penting dalam membentuk identiti

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