

AN ANALYSIS OF THE PATTERNS OF USE, MOTIVATION
AND INCIDENCE IN BILINGUALISM AMONG TEENAGERS
IN THE AREA OF IPOH

BY

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ABSTRACT

This study examines the patterns of language use, motivation and incidence in bilingualism among the teenagers from the area of Ipoh. A sample of 110 respondents has been selected randomly from the teenage population in Ipoh. The main languages spoken by them are Bahasa Malaysia, Chinese, Tamil and English. Five domains such as the personal, friends and peer group, education and school, recreation and family domains will be covered by the survey in order to study the relationships between the language(s) and the teenagers. The age of the teenagers varies from 13 to 19 years and the respondents selected should be, as far as possible, representatives of the different race and age groups residing in the area of Ipoh. Frequencies and percentages of the responses from the survey will be tabulated and recorded in a quantitative manner and then comparisons of responses made after analysing the results.

A literature review has been carried out in chapter II to find out the views of other linguists and authorities. Chapter IV analyses the data that have been collected from the survey. It has been found that bilingualism is a common feature among the teenagers. Bahasa Malaysia and English are the two most popular languages. The education policy of the country is an important influential agent in raising the prestige and popularity of the languages mentioned. Most of the languages spoken by the teenagers are either learnt as the first language at home or as the second language learnt in school. The native tongue is mostly used in the family and friendship