

## LANGUAGE IN INDIA

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### Language Choice of Malaysian Chindians

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#### Abstract

This paper focuses on a minority group of Malaysians called *Chindians*, a group comprising children of mixed marriages between mainstream Chinese and Indians. This paper aims to identify the language choice of the *Chindians* in four domains: family, education, employment and religion. In particular, this paper examines where *Chindians* are likely to use their native languages such as Chinese (including dialects) and Tamil (including sub-varieties) which are linguistically passed on by their parents and the two other languages of official status: Malay and English. Interlocutors involved, domains and their reasons for using or refraining from using these languages are explored. Little research has been done on *Chindians* due to their small demography in this country. In this study selected respondents were 18 children aged from 10 to 31 and 11 parents who are 6 Chinese and 5 Indians respectively. All are from an urban area located in the Klang Valley of Selangor, the biggest state of peninsular Malaysia. A questionnaire that has been refined from a pilot study was then administered. A structured interview was also conducted with the parents to validate the findings. Analysis of data was done based on the items of the questionnaire and these were then presented in percentages. Findings suggest that *Chindians'* main choice of language rests on English.

Language in India [www.languageinindia.com](http://www.languageinindia.com)

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