

The language studies of Indian ethnic in Malaysia.

Abstract

Majority of the Indian ethnic in Malaysia who emigrated from India are Tamil speakers. This ethnic is greatly diversified internally in various aspects such as language, religion, social status, education, caste, even from the origin of homeland, either the poor Tamil laborer originated from Southern India or the English educated Tamil from Sri Lanka. This paper intends to look into the language issue of Malaysia Indian by investigating three different generations so as to indicate the changes in language use. It is found that Tamil language is still the most widely used language in the community or family. Though, the usage of English language, and even Malay language are in the growth which may be replacing Tamil language in the near future. With the changes in the language attitude, the language maintenance of Tamil is hardly optimistic.

Keyword: Malaysia; Indian; Language; Society