

Minangnese Students' Language Choice and Language Attitude at a Public University in The Northern Region of Malaysia

A Research Paper

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Minangnese Students' Language Choice and Language Attitude at a Public University in The Northern Region of Malaysia

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Sebuah skripsi yang diajukan untuk memenuhi salah satu syarat memperoleh gelar Sarjana
Sastra pada Fakultas Pendidikan Bahasa dan Sastra

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PAGE OF APPROVAL

**MINANGNESE STUDENTS' LANGUAGE CHOICE AND LANGUAGE ATTITUDE AT
A PUBLIC UNIVERSITY IN THE NORTHERN REGION OF MALAYSIA**

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STATEMENT OF AUTHORIZATION

I hereby confirm this present study, *Minangnese Students' Language Choice and Language Attitude at a Public University in The Northern Region of Malaysia*, as the result of my work. I am aware of some quoted ideas from other sources. All quotations are acknowledged and appropriately cited.

Bandung, August 2024

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Nurul Fania Amri', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

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Minangnese Students' Language Choice and Language Attitude at a Public University in The Northern Region of Malaysia

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Abstract: As global multilingualism increases, language choice becomes more prevalent, particularly among overseas students. This study investigated the language choice of 30 Minangnese Indonesian students studying overseas at a public university in Northern Malaysia as well as the factors affecting their language choice. In addition, this study also examined their attitudes towards their language choices. To analyze the data, this study adapted frameworks on language choice from Fishman (1972), Myers-Scotton (2006), and Nalliannan et al. (2019). Theories drawing upon sociolinguistic and psychological approaches from scholars such as Holmes (2013) and Kurata (2007) were also used to analyze the factors affecting language choice. As for students' attitudes, Baker's (1992) 5-point Likert scale has been employed. Using a descriptive qualitative research design, the data were collected through questionnaires and in-depth interviews. This study employed a purposive sampling technique. The results of this study showed different language preferences, with Malay being the most dominant language choice used, particularly in three public spaces; Indonesian was used in family and religion domains; English was used in education; and Minang was used among friends. Although attitudes toward English and Indonesian languages were strongly positive, attitudes toward Minang and Malay languages had mixed results. The results indicated that language choices were closely linked to social identity, roles, intimacy, and cultural adaptation. This study also highlighted the complex interplay between language choice, attitudes, identity, and socio-cultural factors among Minangnese students abroad, demonstrating how multilingual communities balance heritage and global languages while adapting to new environments.

Keywords: *Language Attitude; Language Choice; Minangnese Students; Multilingual Communities*

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