

5. Conclusion

In conclusion, certain languages seem to be favored in certain contexts. In this study, the Minangnese students have dominant preferences towards the language used in all seven domains, with Malay as the language that is widely spoken in the neighborhood, transactions, and employment domains, followed by Indonesian as the chosen language in the family and religion domains, English is predominantly chosen in the education domain, and finally Minang is in the friendship domain. The reasons for these language choices in these domains are motivated by factors like participants (including their age, ethnic group, linguistic proficiency, and intimacy), social role, social identity, and content of discourse. The other factors found are dimensions of formality, social function, and language education policy. The study reveals a diverse range of language attitudes among Minangnese students, with a strong positive perception of the Indonesian and English languages. Indonesian is seen as friendly and national identity, and English is seen as the lingua franca in globalization and socio-economic opportunity, while Minang and Malay are viewed neutrally. This means that the students tend to avoid sensitive issues with an unbiased answer. Overall, language choices and language attitudes are closely linked to social identity and function, roles, intimacy, and cultural adaptation. This study also highlights the complex interplay between language choice, attitudes, identity, and socio-cultural factors among Minangnese students abroad, promoting multilingualism in how multilingual communities balance heritage and global languages while adapting to new environments. This study is limited to language choice and language attitude among Minangnese students studying abroad in Malaysia. For those conducting similar research on this topic in the future, it suggests to expand a more comprehensive analysis on language-used phenomena such as code-switching, to have a larger number of participants by using a quantitative approach, and to use the “Matched-guise test” technique for measuring attitude toward languages.