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Code-Switching in The Malaysian Hansard Corpus: A Corpus-Based Approach

[Penukaran Kod dalam Korpus Hansard Malaysia: Analisis Berpandukan Korpus]

[GEMA Online Journal of Language Studies](#) • Article • Open Access • 2023 •

DOI: 10.17576/gema-2023-2302-12

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Abstract

The Malaysian Rules of the House of Representatives Council are the laws pertaining to rules and regulations in the Malaysian Parliament. Regulation 8 of the Rules of the House of Representatives Council (Peraturan-Peraturan Majlis Mesyuarat Dewan Rakyat), the Parliament of Malaysia pursuant to Article 62 (1) provides that "The Official Language of the Council is bahasa Melayu, but the speaker may authorize the use of English". However, recent report from a newspaper suggested that the status of bahasa Melayu as an official language of the parliament is being neglected as such some parliament members have been reported of using English blatantly during the parliamentary debate. Thus, this study aims to identify the trend of English language usage in Parliament 13 of the House of Representatives. The data used were codeswitching of Malay and English languages in 224 files of

the Malaysian Hansard Corpus of Parliament 13. The present paper illustrates the use of the corpus-based approach to determine the frequency of English words used in the Malaysian Hansard Corpus. The results revealed that there is an increase in the usage of English words from the first to the fourth quarters. This finding also proposes that English is gaining more attention among the parliamentary members as a medium to express ideas in the Malaysian parliament which statement contradicts the law stating bahasa Melayu as the official language of the Malaysian parliament. Information gained from this study will help to provide insight on whether the claim that the status of bahasa Melayu as the official language of the Malaysian parliament is true or otherwise. © 2023, Penerbit Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia. All rights reserved.

Author keywords

Code-switching; Corpus-based approach; Malaysian Hansard; Malaysian Parliament; Official language

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