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

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

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**Source** GEMA ONLINE JOURNAL OF LANGUAGE STUDIES

DOI: 10.17576/gema-2023-2302-12

Published MAY 2023

Indexed 2023-08-22

**Document Type** Article

**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.

Keywords

Author Keywords: Malaysian Parliament; Official language; Malaysian

Hansard; Code-switching; Corpus-based approach

Keywords Plus: ENGLISH-LANGUAGE

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Categories/

Research Areas: Linguistics

Classification

Citation 1 Clinical & Life 1.7 1.7.191 Language

Topics: Sciences Neuroscanning Neurocognition

**Web of Science** 

Categories

Language & Linguistics

Language

English

Accession

WOS:001043160200009

Number

ISSN

1675-8021

**IDS Number** 

O3WT1

# **Citation Network**

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