Kelantanese in a new ethnolinguistic environment

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Abstract

This study undertakes to examine the ethnolinguistic vitality of the Kelantanese who have been exposed to an environment of "high ethnolinguistic vitality" to a new ethnolinguistic environment. The aim of this study is twofold: (1) to assess how speakers of the Kelantanese dialect subjectively perceive their own group position on important vitality dimensions and (2) to determine whether the vitality perceptions of the Kelantanese are reflected in their intra- and intergroup interactions in their new setting.

The data for the first part of the study came from the answers provided by 72 first-year Kelantanese undergraduates to a Subjective Vitality questionnaire.

Introduction

Being a central component of ethnolinguistic formation for the people of Kelantan, it is assumed that the Kelantanese dialect is important not only in the process of constructing an inclusive sense of statehood but also in maintaining membership of being a Kelantanese. To date, no research has been conducted to validate or dispute this assumption. This study undertakes to examine the ethnolinguistic vitality of Kelantanese who have been exposed to a new environment.