

## **DECISION ON TREATMENT LANGUAGE CHOICE IN PEADIATRIC SPEECH PATHOLOGY CLINICAL SETTINGS**

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### **ABSTRACT**

Malaysia is a multicultural and multilingual country. Deciding on a language choice constantly occurs in the lives of Malaysians and it is increasingly becoming an issue in speech therapy clinics. Therefore, the purpose of this study is to determine the range of possible languages that are options for treatment language choice and factors involved in the decision making of language choice in clinical settings. Elicitation methods used were interviews and survey through questionnaires. Interview questions and questionnaire were checked by linguists and speech language pathologists to ensure validity. Questionnaire was tested using SPSS 15 software and the result showed that reliability was high. A total of 43 out of 48 questionnaires distributed were collected from speech language pathologists and parents of paediatric clients in the Klang Valley. 10% of the 43 subjects were interviewed. The data obtained was analysed using descriptive statistics and qualitative analysis. The result showed that the options for language choices are English, Malay, Mandarin, Tamil and Cantonese. Factors that are important in the decision making of language choices are; the child's need to use the language in the surrounding environment', 'the child's ability in using the language', 'the child's dominant family language', 'school' and 'the child's future'. This study can facilitate discussion between speech language pathologists and clients' parents about the choice of language for therapy. In conclusion, treatment language choice option and factors involved in choosing treatment language were determined through this study.

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