

ABSTRACT

One dimension of language-related attitudes which is central to the ethnographic description of speech community is the extent to which linguistic identity is a criterion for language membership.

One of ethnic group in Indonesia is Chinese. Similar with other ethnic, Chinese also has a local language. As we known, Chinese was once forbidden to use for several years. However, this condition has changed because of some reason, such as the changing of political situation. Nowadays, Chinese language is used in society. Especially for Chinese young people, mostly they can not speak this language fluently, because they use Indonesian language in their daily conversation.

This study is aimed to find out whether these students still preserve their ethnic identity or abandon it by using Chinese language. Moreover, this research is concerned with attitudes of Chinese students of SMUK Santa Maria Surabaya toward Chinese language and is aimed to find out if these attitudes reflect their ethnic identity. The research was guided by two questions: (1) What attitudes do the students have toward Chinese language? and (2) Do their language attitudes indicate their ethnic identity? Descriptive quantitative method was used to analyze the phenomenon. The analysis was done on the basis of data from the respondents. From the research, the writer found that 67 % of the respondents have positive attitudes toward Chinese language for example they are learning Chinese language and their language attitudes toward Chinese language indicate their ethnic identity.

