

ABSTRACT

This study attempts to investigate L1 attrition manifested by two native speakers of English residing in Surabaya (Indonesia) for more than ten years and the role of positive attitudes in determining the degree of retention or attrition. The main objective of this study is to discover whether or not prolonged resident in the L2 community may result in a certain undesirable effect on the L1 (i.e. language attrition). In order to arrive at the appropriate conclusion, the author employs qualitative method to measure the subjects' L1 attrition, L2 proficiency, and attitudes towards L2 community.

Furthermore, believing that affective factors (e.g. attitudes and motivation) are very likely to play an important role in accelerating attrition, it was hypothesized that positive attitudes have more bearing than length of residence in the L2 community. However, findings suggest that there is little correlation between length of residence and the amount of L1 attrition that is present in the two subjects, irrespective of the fact that none of them develops negative attitudes towards the L2 community. The results seem to indicate that length of time only matters when contact with L1 is inadequate for various reasons, thus positive attitudes may not be significance anymore for determining attrition under this particular condition. Thus, suggestions are made for taking preventive measures to counteract language attrition if it is viewed as something unwanted.

