

Does *Bentu Huayu* among Chinese- Speaking Community need to be purified? –  
A Study on Issues Concerning Lexical Used Phenomenon and Standardization of  
Malaysian Chinese language from the perspective of Dahuayu

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### Abstract

Malaysian Chinese is a branch of Mandarin Chinese and it is used commonly among the local Chinese community. The Chinese Language gradually became 'native tongue' for Malaysian Chinese after 'Speak Mandarin Campaign' which was promoted at the end of 1970s, and its Standard written and spoken forms were widely disseminated when the language has been taught officially at Chinese Vernacular School since early 80s. As a result, Chinese Language has become one of the effective communication tools for the Chinese-Speaking community(CSC). However, some significant linguistic features which differ from the mainstream Chinese were developed due to the language contact situations consistently experienced by the language in the region of SEA, lexical in particular. This study aims to identify a list of lexical with its regional features in 'Bentu Huayu' as well as to explore level of acceptance of 'Bentu Huayu' among CSC speakers. Besides, the study aims to analyse Chinese words with regional variations and cultural words that correlate closely with internet language in order to reveal the real language use phenomenon of Malaysian CSC. Since the tripartite of 'Bentu Huayu' - Standard Malaysian Chinese – Standard Modern Chinese closely related to the long-standing issue of standardization, therefore it is hoped that this study will contribute as a reference for scholars, researchers and language policy maker especially for the authorized party in decisions on defining the extent of standardization, and to break the deep-seated concept of "mainstream priority" as the normative standard of language.