UNIVERSITI TEKNOLOGI MARA

ATTITUDE, PARENTAL ENCOURAGEMENT AND PERCEPTION OF THE IMPORTANCE OF ENGLISH IN ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNING. - A SURVEY AMONGST FORM SIX STUDENTS IN MARANG DISTRICT, TERENGGANU.

ZAFRI BIN ABDUL KADIR

Dissertation submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Master of Education (TESL)

Faculty of Education

June 2012
Candidate’s Declaration

I declare that the work in this thesis was carried out in accordance with the regulations of Universiti Teknologi MARA. It is original and the result of my own work, unless otherwise indicated or acknowledged as referenced work. This thesis has not been submitted to any other academic institution for other degree or qualification.

In the event that my thesis was found to violate the conditions mentioned above, I voluntarily waive the right conferment of my degree and agree to be subjected to the disciplinary rules and regulations by the UiTM.

Name of Candidate
Zafri bin Abdul Kadir
Candidate’s ID No.
2010615132
Programme
TESL
Faculty
Education

Signature of Candidate

Date
01st June 2012
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

In the name of ALLAH s.w.t, The Most Gracious and The Almighty.

This paper is completed to fulfill the requirement of the course TSL 755 (Dissertation). In completing this study I have had the honour of being assisted by many people, without whom this project might not have materialized.

Most of all I would sincerely like to thank my supervisor AP Dr Nor Aziah Alias, for the invaluable knowledge and information on the finer points of conducting a research, as well as for her guidance, advice, understanding and her special approach in giving me the confidence to complete this dissertation this semester.

I also wish to express my gratitude to my programme coordinator Dr Lee Lai Fong for the relevant information and assistance in making this research a success; AP Dr Baharom Abdul Rahman, my lecturer for EDU702 (Research Methodology), and Dr Eddy Johan Luaran, my lecturer for EDU705 (Statistical Analysis For Educational Researchers) for imparting the necessary knowledge in completing this study.

Additionally, I would like to dedicate my appreciation to my former Bed TESL lecturers from UiTM, Dungun campus, for their consistent guidance and encouragement.

My thanks also go to the principals of the six secondary schools involved in this research, the respective senior assistants for Form Six and the teachers who assisted in administering the questionnaire as well as the 180 students randomly selected to complete the questionnaire.

Last but not least, my gratitude and appreciation go to my wife and our children who have been very understanding and supportive and who have had to share many of the complexities that I have had to experience in the process of accomplishing this project.
TABLE OF CONTENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Contents</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ACKNOWLEDGEMENT</td>
<td>i</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TABLE OF CONTENT</td>
<td>ii</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LIST OF TABLES</td>
<td>iv</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LIST OF FIGURES</td>
<td>v</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ABSTRACT</td>
<td>vi</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

CHAPTER 1 INTRODUCTION

1.0 Introduction 1
1.1 Background of the Study 3
1.2 Problem Statement 5
1.3 Research Objectives 6
1.4 Research Questions 7
1.5 Null Hypotheses 8
1.6 Significance Of The Study 8
1.7 Scope of the Study 10
1.8 Delimitations and Limitations of the Study 11
1.9 The Theoretical Model and the Research Model 13
1.10 Significant Words and Phrases 15
1.10.1 Attitude 15
1.10.2 Favourable Perception of Importance of English Language 15
1.10.3 Positive Attitude towards Learning English Language 16
1.10.4 Adequate Parental Encouragement and Support for English Language Learning 16
1.10.4 English Language Performance 16
1.11 Summary 16

CHAPTER 2 LITERATURE REVIEW

2.0 Introduction 18
2.1 Attitude 19
2.2 Review of Literature 19
2.2.1 Importance of English Language 19
2.2.2 Attitude Towards Learning English Language 22
2.2.3 Awareness of the Importance of English Language 24
2.2.4 Parental Encouragement and Support 24
2.3 Summary 25
ABSTRACT

This study investigated the students’ perception of the importance of English language amongst a sample of 150 Upper Six students from a population of 755 students from six schools in the district of Marang, Terengganu. Also studied was whether their attitude towards learning English language is positive and whether they receive sufficient parental encouragement and support in their English language learning. It was found that the students were well aware of the importance of English language and also had a very positive attitude towards English Language learning. The parental encouragement and support scores also recorded a high total mean. In all three instances the sample means were well above the mid-point means indicating that the sample means fell in the higher halves of the mean scores. This implies that students are well aware of the importance of English language, are very positive about learning English language and receive more than adequate parental encouragement and support in their English language learning. Correlation analysis showed that there was a significant and positive relationship between the students’ perception of the importance of English language and their attitude towards learning the language. Since the students’ attitude and parental encouragement and support seem to be satisfactory, future researchers should investigate whether the curriculum offered is suitable for rural students.