

UNIVERSITI TEKNOLOGI MARA

**A NEEDS ANALYSIS ON ENGLISH LANGUAGE
CURRICULUM FOR COMMUNITY COLLEGES**

ZULIANA BT ZULKIFLEE CHANDRA

Dissertation submitted in partial fulfilment of the requirements for the
degree of

Master of Education in TESL

Faculty of Education

October 2008

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 is the result of my own work, unless otherwise indicated or acknowledge as referenced work. This thesis has not been submitted to any other academic institution or non-academic institution for any other degree or qualification.

In the event that my thesis be found to violate the conditions mentioned above, I voluntarily waive the right of conferment of my degree and be subjected to the disciplinary rules and regulations of Universiti Teknologi MARA.

Candidate's Name :

Candidate's ID No :

Programme :

Thesis Title :

.....

.....

Candidate's Signature :

Date :

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The writing of this dissertation has been one of the most significant academic challenges I have ever had to face. Without the support, patience and guidance of the following people, this study would have not been completed. It is to them that I owe my deepest gratitude.

I am extremely pleased to thank Associate Professor Dr. Abu Bakar Bin Hj. Ibrahim, my lecturer and supervisor from the Faculty of Education, Universiti Teknologi MARA. Despite his many other academic and professional commitments, his wisdom, knowledge, support, guidance and commitment to the highest standards has inspired me to complete this study with persistence and perseverance.

A special thank you to Puan Voviana Binti Zulkifli for helping me in analyzing data gathered for this study using the Statistical Package for Social Science (SPSS) software. Her contribution to this study has been especially significant.

Izwan Bin Ismail, my husband, without whom this effort would have been worth nothing. Your love, support and constant patience have taught me about sacrifice, discipline and compromise and thanks a million for taking care of our beloved child, Irfan Zahwan.

My parents and parents-in-law, who have always supported, encouraged and believed in me. Thank you

Last but not least, a special thank you to the Director of KLCC, the staff, English lecturers and Semester 4 students of KLCC for their cooperation and support in making this dissertation a success.

Abstract

The Malaysian government has taken the decision to use English as a medium of instruction for the teaching of Mathematics and Science subjects in schools beginning 2002. Due to the change in the language policy the Community Colleges (CC) are also involved in implementing the teaching of Mathematics, Science and technical subjects in English. To meet these needs, the CC adopts the English for Communication (EFC) modules for Semester 1 and Semester 2 students. After its implementation, it is timely to review the EFC modules at CC by carrying out a needs analysis. This study investigates the students and English lecturers' opinion towards the effectiveness of the current English for Communication (EFC) modules. It also attempts to identify if there is a need to have specific English for the Community Colleges. Two sets of questionnaires were constructed and used for the purpose of this study. Five English Language lecturers and 90 Semester Four students at Kuala Langat Community College participated in this preliminary study. The findings from the study indicate that English and the four skills are important to the students with speaking and writing indicated as the most important. The study also indicated that the majority of students agreed that the EFC modules have helped them to understand the Mathematics, Science and technical subjects besides helping them to prepare for the job market. However, the lecturers indicated otherwise. They stated that the EFC modules have not helped the students to understand the Mathematics, Science and technical subjects and have not helped them to prepare for the job market. Findings also suggest improvement and changes should be made in accordance with the data gathered from the study. Among them are the content of the modules should be based on the students' field of study and the syllabus should be tailored to the students' needs. The study also shows that the lecturers indicated there is a need for a specific type of English. English for Specific Purposes (ESP) was chosen as the most suitable type of English for the Community Colleges. As this study was carried out on one group of students and English lecturers from one community college, that is, the Kuala Langat Community College (KLCC), it is recommended that a more comprehensive study be done involving all community colleges in Malaysia.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	iii
LIST OF TABLES	vii
LIST OF FIGURE	x
ABSTRACT	xi
CHAPTER I : INTRODUCTION	
1.1 Background of the Study	1
1.1.1 Establishment of Community College	1
1.1.2 Kuala Langat Community College	2
1.2 Statement of the Problem	3
1.3 Purpose of the Study	5
1.4 Significance of the Study	5
1.5 Research Questions	6
1.6 Limitation of the Study	6
1.7 Definition of Terms	7
CHAPTER II : LITERATURE REVIEW	
2.1 Introduction	8
2.2 Curriculum and Syllabus	8
2.3 Curriculum Development Model	9
2.4 Syllabus Design	10
2.5 Needs Analysis	11
2.6 English for Specific Purposes (ESP)	12
2.6.1 Characteristics of ESP	13
2.6.2 Language Skills in ESP	15
2.6.3 Needs Analysis in ESP Programme	16
2.7 Designing Community College Curriculum	18
2.8 Conclusion	20