ATTITUDES TOWARDS LEARNING ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE AMONG FORM FOUR STUDENTS

MARTINA ANAK PHILIP LANAT

Dissertation submitted in partial fulfilment of the requirements for the degree of Master of Education in Teaching of English as a Second Language (TESL)

Faculty of Education

March 2011
The study seeks to achieve two main aims namely, to determine the students’ level of attitudes towards learning ESL and to explore the students’ views on their attitudinal motives of learning ESL. The study involved Form Four students of SM Tarat, situated about 20 kilometres from Kuching, the capital city of Sarawak. To assess the students’ attitudes, a questionnaire was adapted from Karahan’s (2007) Inventory derived from Buschenhofen (1998) comprising 23 items representing 6 main domains: educational and social status of English, social and instrumental value of English, the use of English would detract from cultural identity, orientations towards English, the intrinsic value of English language and English-based culture, and discomfort about Malaysian speaking English. The questionnaire was distributed based on a survey research design, employing a convenience sampling technique to 60 Form 4 students. The questionnaires were returned and analysed using Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) Version 17.0 for descriptive statistics. The results indicate that the students’ attitudes were generally positive with mean scores within 3.0 for most of the 23 items. The study therefore revealed that Malaysian students to some extent were positive in their attitudes towards learning ESL.
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 acknowledged as referenced work. This topic 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 agree to be subjected to the disciplinary rules and regulations of Universiti Teknologi MARA.

Name of Candidate : Martina Anak Philip Lanat
Candidate’s ID No : 2008427196
Programme : ED 720 Master in Education (TESL)
Faculty : Education
Thesis Title : Attitudes towards learning English as a second language among Form Four students

Signature of Candidate : [Signature]
Date : 14/9/10
Acknowledgements

First and foremost, special thanks to my supervisor, Dr. Bromeley Philip for his guidance and inspirations throughout the study. Thank you to UiTM Kota Samarahan Branch for their cooperation in making this thesis possible. My sincere appreciation goes to my beloved family members in Kuching. Most important of all, thank to God Almighty for my being here and blessed me throughout my study.
# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CONTENTS</th>
<th>PAGE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Title page</td>
<td>i</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abstract</td>
<td>ii</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acknowledgements</td>
<td>iv</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Table of contents</td>
<td>v</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>List of tables</td>
<td>ix</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>List of figures</td>
<td>x</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION

1.0 Introduction 1
1.1 Background to the study 1
1.2 Statement of the problem 2
1.3 Objectives of the study 3
1.4 Research questions 3
1.5 Scope of the study 4
1.6 Significance of the study 4
1.7 Delimitations of the study 4
1.8 Limitations of the study 5
1.9 Definitions of terms 6
1.10 Conclusion 6

## CHAPTER 2: REVIEW OF LITERATURE

2.0 Introduction 7
2.1 Learner Attitudes 7