ATTITUDES OF RURAL UPPER SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS TOWARDS LEARNING ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE (ESL) IN SARAWAK

NORAIN BINTI JAMIL

M.ed (Tesl)

FEBRUARY 2015
ATTITUDES OF RURAL UPPER SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS TOWARDS LEARNING ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE (ESL) IN SARAWAK

NORAIN BINTI JAMIL

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

Faculty of Education

FEBRUARY 2015
AUTHOR’S DECLARATION

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

I hereby, acknowledge that I have been supplied with the Academic Rules and Regulations for Post Graduate, Universiti Teknologi MARA, regulating the conduct of my study and research.

Name of students: NORAIN BINTI JAMIL  
Student I.D. No: 2011109103  
Programme: Master of Education(TESL)  
Faculty: Education  
Dissertation Title: Attitudes of Rural Upper Secondary School Students Towards Learning English as A Second Language (ESL) in Sarawak  
Signature of student:  
Date: February 2015
In particular, the study was designed to investigate and explore rural upper secondary students’ attitudes towards learning English as a second language with regards to the contents of the attitude, context and individual variable in Sarawak. In addition, the study also sought to explore the relative significance of the language attitudes thus identified. Mixed-method was chosen with the implementation of cross-sectional survey and semi structured interviews. Cluster sampling set out with a total of 70 Form 4 students from 3 selected rural secondary schools in Sarawak. Data obtained was analysed by using SPSS software while the interviews were transcribed to refine the findings. The findings from this study indicated that the students have an excellent knowledge on the importance of English language even though they agreed that their mother tongue/first language interfere when they speak English. In addition, study also discovered the relative significance of the language attitudes thus identified as the result indicated that the irregular use of English also related to the uncertainty of the thoughts about learning English as a second language.

Keywords: Attitude; Rural; Upper secondary students; ESL
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

To acknowledge others’ deed is indeed a virtue. Therefore, I would like to thank all those who helped me with the production of this dissertation. First and foremost, I would like to express my gratitude to Allah S.W.T for giving me the ability, courage, health, knowledge, and sincerity throughout completing this dissertation.

Secondly, I would like to thank my parents, family, lecturers, colleagues, and friends particularly for their understanding and patience towards me all this while. The advice given to me was very helpful and thoughtful.

Many thanks to my supervisor, Dr Baljinder Singh, his encouragement and motivation gave me the strength and mettle needed in completing my dissertation. The knowledge delivered to me is very sincere as well as his consideration on keeping up with me. He was not only provided support when I needed, but also challenge for me to think and write from an entirely different perspective. Not forgetting my former lectures who have guided me through the process of developing and writing my research proposal.

Not forgotten my questionnaire reviewers, Madam Lee Choi Jin, Miss Lily Dripin and Miss Sei Sed Fong and as well as my supportive respondents who have contributed data for this research. May God bless and ease our journey.