## UNIVERSITI TEKNOLOGI MARA

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

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M.ed (Tesl)

FEBRUARY 2015

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### **NORAINE BINTI JAMIL**

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

**Faculty of Education** 

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### **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.

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#### **ABSTRACT**

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

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