TSL 755

CANDIDATES’ PERCEPTION ON MALAYSIAN UNIVERSITY ENGLISH TEST (ENGLISH LANGUAGE); A CASE STUDY AT MARA UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY DUNGUN CAMPUS

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A DISSERTATION SUBMITTED TO THE FACULTY OF EDUCATION, MARA UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY IN FULFILLMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE DEGREE OF THE MASTER OF EDUCATION IN TESL (ED720)

FACULTY OF EDUCATION
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OCTOBER 2008
Candidate’s Declaration

I declare that the work in this thesis was carried out in accordance with the regulation of MARA University of Technology. It is original and is 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 of conferment of my degree and agree and be subjected to the disciplinary rules and regulations by the MARA University of Technology.

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ABSTRACT

When the Malaysian University English Test (MUET) was introduced, it has certain implications for the level of English Language (EL) proficiency among the undergraduates in the public universities. Taking from the cue, a research which uses questionnaires as the main source of data collection was administered on 86 undergraduates from various degree courses at MARA University of Technology (UiTM) Dungun Campus become the respondents. This research has three objectives, firstly, the researcher saw the need to provide feedbacks from the target group for consideration for improvements of EL program in universities, secondly, to determine the skills and course contents students regard as important and thirdly, to understand their attitudes towards MUET(EL). The research reveals that the respondents do not have a positive attitude towards English thus affecting their MUET (EL) achievements to score a higher band thus the objectives of the research are achieved.
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

This study involved a lot of effort and time. It would not have been possible without the help and co-operation of many people and I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere appreciation and gratitude to all the people who contributed and helped me in making this study possible.

First and foremost to Mr. Rozlan bin Abd Rahim, my supervisor for his patience, encouragement, professional advice and guidance through this study.

I would also like to extend my appreciation to all the lecturers of UiTM for TSL.755, especially to Dr. Faizah Bt Mohamad, Assoc.Prof. Dr. Faezah Abd. Majid, Semester one 2008 UiTM Terengganu undergraduates, namely the Bachelor in Office Systems Management (Hons), Bachelor of Business Administration (Hons) Islamic Banking, Bachelor of Business Administration (Hons) Finance and Bachelor of Business Administration (Hons) Marketing who acted as respondents for this study.

I would also like to convey my thanks to the final semester Bachelor in Islamic Banking undergraduates 2007 students in UiTM who acted as my respondents for the pilot study.

Special thanks to my children. Nur Shezwani Akmal, Mohamad Shezaz Benjamin, Mohamad Sheraz Shahamier and Nur Shezrin Emiera, for their support and encouragement.

Finally, I wish to thank my mother. Hajjah Rokiah and my spouse, Hajjah Wan Mayuni who have always been a source of encouragement to me.

Thank you.

MOHD. SHARIF BIN MOHAMAD NOOR
October 30, 2008
1.0 Introduction

Trained and competent human resources are essential for Nation Building. Thus, one of the main objectives of education in Malaysia today is to train and provide manpower, using all available human capital to make VISION 2020 a reality. In order to meet these objectives, more emphasis is concentrated on learning the English Language (EL).

1.1 Background to the Study

In the National System of Education, EL is taught as a second language to all students, right from their first year of primary education through eleven years up to the end of their secondary education. However, EL ceased to be taught at the Sixth Form or pre-university phase of education. Yet upon entry into the local public tertiary institutions, these students are required to undergo a course in EL proficiency.

It is with the dual purpose of filling the gap with respect to the teaching and learning of EL as an important second language and that of consolidating and further enhancing the EL ability of pre-degree students that the Malaysian University English Test (MUET) is introduced.