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TEACHERS’ PERCEPTION TOWARDS THE USE OF GROUP WORK ACTIVITIES IN ESL CLASSROOM AT SMK PETRA JAYA

HAYATI BTE EDWARD

Thesis submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of

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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 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.

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Name of Candidate : HAYATI BTE EDWARD
Candidate’s ID No : 2005669510
Programme : MASTER OF EDUCATION IN TESL
Faculty : FACULTY OF EDUCATION
Thesis Title : TEACHERS’ PERCEPTION TOWARDS THE USE OF GROUP WORK ACTIVITIES IN ESL CLASSROOM AT SMK PETRA JAYA

Signature of Candidate .................................................................................
Date 10 FEBRUARY 2008
ABSTRACT

The purpose of the study was to investigate teachers’ perceptions on the use of group work teaching and learning in classrooms and to find out whether they perceived the implementation of group work in KBSM programme as feasible. It is also to examine problems faced by teachers in conducting group work activities and to identify these problems. The theory that lies in this study is based on Vygotsky’s “Zone of Proximal Development” or ZPD which emphasizes that learning is, fundamentally, a socially mediated activity. A non-experimental research in the form of a survey was conducted to achieve the purpose. The study focuses on four perspectives which influence teachers’ perceptions on the implementation of group work in an ESL classroom; the Group Structure, the Designated Time, the Amount of Material and the Level of Complexity. The subjects in the study were fourteen English teachers teaching English to the Transition, Form 1, Form 2, Form 3, Form 4 and Form 5 students in SMK Petra Jaya. All the subjects were asked to answer a questionnaire and be involved in an interview. Three observations in three different classes using group work strategy were also carried out for the data collection. Findings from the study showed that teachers do perceive group work strategy as feasible under the KBSM concept of Communicative Approach in language teaching and learning. However, some teachers are rather reluctant to use group work strategy regularly in classrooms due to the constraint of time, the big classes and other factors.
ABSTRAK

DEDICATION

This study is especially dedicated to my beloved husband, ASP Ibrahim bin Naihat, who had proven to me his words, ‘your vision is mine’ through his love, care, patience, encouragement and motivation in completing this course and this study. The most special blessings in my life, my children; Ahmad Khairul Hafeez, Ahmad Fahdilil Muttaquin, Ahmad Khairil Annas for their sacrifice, patience and also their assistance in completing this research by rendering their knowledge of computer skills and my lovely little daughter, Aina Fatima Hayati, who inspired and stunned me with her extraordinary understanding of my tight schedule. My colleagues; Evelyn Batik, Wee Ling and Loh Kim Foong for their sincere advices, help and support in starting off this thesis.