

UNIVERSITI TEKNOLOGI MARA

**INTEGRATING ICT INTO THE
LANGUAGE CLASSROOM:
A CASE STUDY ON ACADEMICS OF
AKADEMI PENGAJIAN BAHASA UiTM**

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

Faculty of Education

December 2005

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 thesis 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 be subjected to the disciplinary rules of Universiti Teknologi MARA.

Candidate's Name

Candidate's Signature

Date

Acknowledgements

Alhamdulillah for this beautiful life, a journey of discovery of His many creations and inventions. Thank You Allah for giving me this opportunity to live during this era of information and communications technology, to look and see, to listen and hear, and to touch and feel His very own Technologies.

My sincere thanks to my supervisor Professor Madya Dr Abu Bakar Hj. Ibrahim for his assistance, support and guidance. To Dr Faizah Abd. Majid, the program coordinator, thank you for the advice and encouragement. To one Mr Mohammad Radzi Manap of Akademi Pengajian Bahasa (APB) UiTM, a true friend indeed during good and bad times, my TESL brother, a million thanks. My humble appreciation to the academics of APB who have given their full cooperation in carrying out this study.

My family members, my parents—the true educators—my late father Zakaria Ngah Mohd and my beloved mother Maimunah Uteh Ibrahim, my loving wife Siti Hadijah Shukori, my beautiful children and cheering team, Muhammad Abu Hafiz, Ummu Dina Hannah and Ummu Maisarah Hani, my source of strength and motivation, how can I thank all of you. My classmates of M. Ed. TESL UiTM 2002-2005 batch, thank you for the memories. To ICT inventors, practitioners, enthusiasts and dreamers, thank you for living IT.

Abstract

The advent of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) presents both opportunities and threats to the world of education. Globalisation and the new K-economy are pressuring learning institutions to change and adapt themselves to the demands of the new educational wave. While teaching and learning is supposed to improve, the actual use of ICT among academics is found wanting. Academic staff, a very important and integral part of the whole process of ICT implementation in institutes of higher learning, are always left out in the ICT planning process. This study investigates the integration of ICT into the language classroom by the 28 academics of Akademi Pengajian Bahasa UiTM. The research used the structural equation model that examines four main factors that influence the use of ICT in classroom teaching by the academics. The results show that ICT device ownership, perceived usefulness, ICT knowledge and skills as well as perceived difficulty are the factors that determine the success of ICT integration process by the academics. While the study found that ICT is being used by some of the academics, the level of usage is still very low. Their experience and knowledge of ICT do help in their effort to integrate online technologies in the language teaching and learning activities but they were bogged down by other barriers. The perceived difficulty/barriers factor has to be addressed carefully by ICT administrators if the university were to assist academics in integrating ICT into the classroom. The academics' recommendations discussed in this study stress on the need to include proper training and support system that allocate a large amount of time for them to prepare and research new approaches in teaching and learning using ICT.

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.0 Introduction to the Study

We live in a world full of technology whether we realise it or not. From the ancient time of the Neanderthal to state-of-the-art nanotechnology of today, technology is very much part of human evolution. In today's world, technology news that we read a few seconds ago from RSS reader is already considered obsolete and the most expensive DELL laptop computer money can buy today is actually a piece of hardware designed three to four years ago and has already been considered outdated once it came out from the assembly line. On the virtual world, personal reporting and writing straight from the mind have become a culture that challenges the established media. Blogging, chatting, online gaming or video-conferencing are so popular that millions of people are practically connected to each other all over the world. Therefore, we have been living with technologies around us to assist us in managing and developing ourselves as human being and the world we live in. For good and bad, many technologies have been integrated into our life and some considered-old technologies can still be seen today such as the manufacturing of apparel, the use of cooking utensils, the development of houses and the making of foods. We might overlook toothbrush, pen, paper, books, shoes, fork and spoon that we buy and use every time we need them. These things are so basic that many people did not even realise that they have been integrated into our life engine and daily system.

When we look at the modern world, the invention of computer and the birth of the internet during the last quarter of the millennium mark an interesting episode in human civilisation (Buckingham, 2003; Burge and Haughey, 2001). The revolution that follows was amazing and it still amazes us today with new invention of software and hardware to refine the way we work and live. From million dollar business server machines to mobile phone prepaid cards, information and communications technology or ICT as it is avidly known, rules the world today. Not long ago, we