UNIVERSITI TEKNOLOGI MARA

INVESTIGATING CHANGE IN STUDENTS’ BELIEFS ABOUT ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNING AFTER ATTENDING TUITION AID SCHEME PROGRAM

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

Master of Education

(TESL)

Faculty of Education

June 2012
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

First of all, I would like to thank my advisor, Dr. Beh Kian Lim for his time and support. I would like to thank the officers at Ministry of Education Department, at Terengganu State Education Department, at District Education Department, administrators, teachers and students of the involved primary schools who lend me their helps to conduct this study.

I must also recognize the tremendous contribution of my wife and family. Their personal sacrifice and prioritizing of family have made me the person that I am. Their consistent support, encouragement and understanding throughout the M. Ed. Tesl process have been unmatched. Honey, thanks for keeping the kid so that I could write. And to all my friends, thanks for listening, caring, and understanding.

I lovingly thank my daughter Yamna. Thank you for being such a great sleeper so daddy could study and write. Above all I thank my God, in whom I live and move and have my being. To God be the glory.
ABSTRACT

The government of Malaysia spent about RM200 million so far in financing Tuition Aid Scheme program which was started in the year 2004. The program was designed to assist poor and weak primary students to improve their achievements in Bahasa Melayu, English, Mathematics and Science subjects. Since it is a new program introduced by Malaysia Ministry of Education its impact on students' beliefs about English language learning after joining this English tuition is not yet revealed by any study. Therefore, this issue led the researcher to conduct a small study in order to seek answer of whether this program could really give significant impact to students' beliefs. By combining quantitative (through questionnaire) and qualitative (through personal interview) research approach, the researcher used a sample of 112 primary students from 10 selected schools around Kuala Terengganu district as sample in this study. The students' responses from the questionnaire administered before and after joining the program were compared and justified by the personal interview conducted. The study showed that the significant change existed in students' beliefs about English language learning after joining the TAS program for about a year. The result also revealed that their English achievement and English daily usage increased steadily. The results from this study are important to Malaysia government in considering the decision to continue and extend this program in the future. For the English teachers who involved directly with this program, these positive results will make them feel proud and motivated to continue this program.
ABSTRAK

CHAPTER ONE
INTRODUCTION

1.0 Introduction of the study

Malaysia education system has changed tremendously since Malaysia got its independent more than half century ago from the British government. The successful change from informal during the British occupation into more formal, better and systematic education system nowadays has illuminated many Malaysians including Malaysian leaders to continuously enhance the Malaysia education system. This is crucial not only to Malaysian government but all Malaysians as the Vision 2020 is now approaching. In the year 2020, Malaysia is supposed to join other countries in the world as another developed country. Therefore, every single field needs to be reinforced by Malaysia including education.

Malaysia, in its Education Development Plan for the year 2001 until 2010 has generated several comprehensive steps in order to make sure it is in the right path. The plan consists the development of preschool and primary education, secondary education and also tertiary education. One of the plan’s major aims is to enhance human capital development via a systematically planned education system. Apart from that, Malaysia government has introduced ‘Pelan Induk Pembangunan Pendidikan (PIPP)’ or Main Plan for Education Development for the year 2006 until 2010 in order to detail further every angle of education to support the previous plan (Utusan Malaysia, January 18, 2007).