CANDIDATE’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 is the result of my own work, unless otherwise or acknowledged as a 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, University Teknologi MARA, regulating the conduct of my study and research.

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"In the name of God, the Most Gracious and Most Merciful"

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ABSTRACT

This study aims to investigate secondary school students’ ability to perform higher order thinking skills through relating their personal experiences and ideas and what affects the students’ ability to do so. There are four research objectives; i) to examine students’ ability to relate their personal experiences or ideas to the literary text, ii) to examine how teaching method employed in the classroom is related to the students’ ability to relate their personal experiences and ideas to the literary text, iii) to examine how the students’ interest in literature is related to their ability to reflect their personal experiences and ideas to the text, and iv) to examine how the students’ attitude towards learning literature is related to their ability to reflect their personal experiences and ideas to the text. This research employed a mixed method design with a total of 131 secondary school students selected as the sample of this study. The instruments used were surveys and Reader Response semi-structured questions. The findings revealed that the majority of students were unable to relate with the literary text in a deep and meaningful way and students’ interest is the only factor that plays a role in it. Furthermore, English literature lessons focus heavily on the language and content aspect of the literature component. The study via the findings, hopes to improve the teaching of the English literature component in secondary school so as to produce students with high order thinking skills.
ABSTRAK

Kajian ini bertujuan untuk mengkaji keupayaan pelajar sekolah menengah untuk melaksanakan kemahiran berfikir aras tinggi melalui mengaitkan pengalaman dan idea peribadi mereka dan mengkaji faktor - faktor yang mempengaruhi kemampuan pelajar untuk berbuat demikian. Objektik kajian ini adalah untuk; i) untuk mengenalpasti keupayaan pelajar untuk mengaitkan pengalaman peribadi mereka atau idea kepada teks sastera, ii) untuk mengkaji bagaimana kaedah pengajaran yang digunakan di dalam kelas mempengaruhi keupayaan pelajar untuk mengaitkan pengalaman peribadi dan idea-idea mereka kepada teks sastera, iii) untuk mengkaji bagaimana minat pelajar dalam kesusasteraan mempengaruhi keupayaan mereka untuk mencerminkan pengalaman peribadi dan idea-idea mereka kepada teks, dan iv) untuk mengkaji bagaimana sikap pelajar terhadap pembelajaran sastera mempengaruhi keupayaan mereka untuk mencerminkan pengalaman peribadi dan idea-idea mereka kepada teks. Penyelidikan ini menggunakan reka bentuk kaedah yang bercampur dengan sejumlah 131 pelajar sekolah menengah dipilih sebagai sampel dalam kajian ini. Instrumen yang digunakan ialah borang soal selidik dan soalan separa berstruktur yang menggunakan pendekatan Response Reader. Hasil kajian menunjukkan bahawa majoriti daripada pelajar tidak dapat mengaitkan pengalaman dan idea dengan teks sastera secara efektif dan minat pelajar adalah satu-satunya faktor yang mempunyai peranan di dalam fenomena tersebut. Tambahan pula, pelajaran sastera Inggeris lebih menumpukan kepada aspek bahasa dan kandungan komponen sastera. Melalui dapatan kajian, berharap dapat meningkatkan komponen sastera Bahasa Inggeris di sekolah menengah dengan harapan untuk melahirkan kebersanan pelajar yang mempunyai kemahiran pemikiran aras tinggi.