UNIVERSITI TEKNOLOGI MARA

BULETIN Kampus

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by Nor Jana Salim & Rajmi Mustaffa

# Labour Migration and "Malaysia Truly Asia"

The countries in the Asia Pacific region have seen the issue of labour migration as an important feature of economic growth and structural adjustment over the past three decades. According to Kaur and Metcalfe (2007), there are three categories of international labour migration faced by these countries: emigration, immigration and both emigration and immigration of labours. Malaysia and Thailand fall into the third categories which they both provide and receive labours from the international market.

Labour migration occurs for many different reasons. Earnest Ravenstein (1885), an English Geographer who was also regarded as the earliest migration theorist had developed "Law Of Migration" (1889) and concluded that migration was governed by a push-pull process in which unfavourable conditions in one place would push out people to other places while favourable conditions would pull them in. The multiracial society in Malaysia is the evidence of the long established issues of migration. The Colonial rule during the nineteenth and the early twentieth centuries had opened doors to the migration of the Chinese and Indians to work in the tin mines and rubber estates respectively. After Independence, the inflow of other foreign labours began in the 70s to meet the demands for labours in land development, estate sectors, expansion of infrastructure and services for the Second Malaya Plan (1970-1975). The policy on immigrant workers was only effective in the early 80s. It started with the signing of the Medan Agreement between Malaysia and Indonesia in 1984 and the policy eventually came into full effect in the early 90s. The present policy on employment of foreign nationals is determined by the Cabinet Committee on Foreign Workers (Azizah, 2005).

In the 80s, most of the foreign labours in Malaysia were from Indonesia, the Philippines and Thailand. Later in the 90s the population of foreign workers grew larger and comprised or workers from Pakistan and Bangladesh. The population had further expanded in 2003 with the influx of foreign workers from Cambodia, Vietnam, Nepal and Uzbekistan. As reported by Bernama (2010), until December 2009 Malaysia has recorded 1.9 million of foreign workers in the country, with the highest population came from Indonesia (99,9940) followed by Bangladesh (31,9020) and Myanmar (182,668).

A lot of negative consequences are associated with the flood of foreign labours such as the loss in revenue through their remittances, threats to security due to various crimes involving them, delayed automation and mechanization (Azizah, 2005), centre of international crime syndicates such as human and drug trafficking, and fraudulence of documents. It is really ironic to discover that the number of foreign workers in Malaysia has vastly outnumbered the country's third race, Indians (1.8 million). "Malaysia Truly Asia" slogan not only truly depicts Malaysia as a multi racial and multicultural country but also a country with multi-nations too!.

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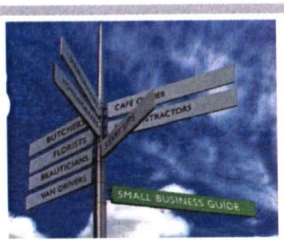
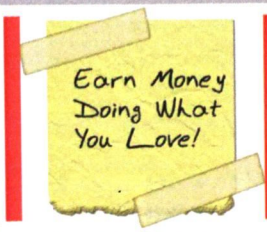
# STARTING YOUR OWN BUSINESS




By : Noorul Huda Zakaria

Are you thinking about starting a business? Many people who work for other individuals or companies these days are deciding to start their own businesses. These are possibly because of the shrinking in current job or career opportunities, due to company future safety measures, benefits offered by entrepreneurial companies themselves or maybe because of the ambitions of the people themselves who wanted to have their own businesses and/ or to continue the success of their family empires. Whatever the reasons are, when we talk about starting our own business, we are actually preparing ourselves to be an entrepreneur. Many of us believe that there are plenty of reasons and rewards that can be gained by being an entrepreneur, but it totally requires lots of hard work. Entrepreneurs however get to do what they want and can also make their own decisions. A committed entrepreneur who starts his own business actually will be his own boss and be able to set his own hours. Normally, that is what most people are looking for; freedom to decide what your business are, where it should be and who are going to be your workers. In fact, starting and maintaining a successful business is a dream of all entrepreneurs.

In starting a business however, we always forget that the most crucial part in a business endeavor is to prepare ourselves with lots of criteria and elements that may contribute to the business succession by taking into account all of the dimensions involved. For that reason, ask yourself; why do you want to start the business? For a new entrepreneur, answering this question will entail the examination of entrepreneurial motivation and this will definitely help in building a great business. Motivational theories are based on the idea that behavior is essentially purposeful and direct towards the attainment of certain goal. Thus, entrepreneurial motivation is viewed as the willingness of an entrepreneur to sustain his or her entrepreneurial behavior. There are many different reasons why people want to start up their own business so you need to clearly define what your motivations are. They are usually all about money, freedom, achievement, control or any combination of these. All of these motives may exist together in an entrepreneur. However, usually one of them is more dominant compared to others. Identifying this will help you to construct the whole structure of your business including where you want your business to go, the vision and long-term goals of your business. It will absolutely affect the preparation of the entire business plan for your business. Therefore, you have to decide what to accomplish and what ideas (products and/ or services) that you want to deliver to your prospects or potential customers based on their needs, wants and marketability.

Furthermore, be vigilant in identifying who will actually be your potential customers or target market. They play the most important roles in this process. Without them, no selling process can take place and that will cause products and/ or services to be piled up at production house. Hence, assessing what are their common needs and wants and how both would be satisfied by the products and/ or services is so important. Remember to know your customers and prospects better than your competitors do!

These days, many entrepreneurs fail in their business due to the wrong selection of business location. As an entrepreneur, you have to decide which business location is the best for the business to operate. Always remember that business location is a place where you can market your products and services and make them recognized by customers. Your business services and sales opportunities are greatly affected by your business location. Choice of location will not only affect the sales revenue, but also business operation cost and the long-term investment. Every ideal business location should provide convenience for employees as well as give accessibility with appropriate utilities.

Next, it is very important to identify whether you have enough money to start up your business and come up with a planned strategy to gather resources to start up your business. You need to analyze the financial requirements for your business and evaluate how to distribute them for the marketing, operation and administration budget effectively to ensure your business can be run smoothly.

Huge marketing efforts are so essential for a new business to introduce not only the products or services but also the business premise and the entrepreneurs themselves. Without this, your products and/ or your service will fail to be known by your potential customers. Well-planned marketing strategies will help you to increase sales of the products and or services. It may deliver customers' satisfaction and provide business with competitive advantages. It is so important to assess yourcompetitors by identifying their market position and strategies, strength and weaknesses, duration in the market and their customers. This will help you to evaluate your strategies and come up with excellent ideas to boost up your business.

Finally, to be a good and committed entrepreneur, you should possess personal competencies or specifically, entrepreneurial competencies. It refers to the key characteristics that should be possessed by successful entrepreneurs in order to perform entrepreneurial functions effectively. According to McClelland and McBer (1985), there are thirteen characteristic of entrepreneurial competencies:

- *As a good entrepreneur, you should have initiative. It means that you are able to take any actions that go beyond your job requirements, to act faster and able to become a leader in the field of business.*
- *Sees and Acts on Opportunity - Always looks for and takes action on opportunities.*
- *Persistence - Able to make repeated efforts or to take different actions to overcome an obstacle that gets in the way of reaching goals.*
- *You are able to take action on how to seek information to help achieve business objectives or clarify your business problems.*
  *Concern for High Quality of Work- Acts to do things that meet certain standards of excellence that gives you greater satisfaction.*
- *Commitment to Work Contract - Makes personal sacrifice or expands extraordinary effort to complete a job, accepts full responsibility for problems in completing a job for customers and expresses a concern for satisfying the customers.*
- *Efficiency Orientation - Always finds ways to do things faster or with fewer resources or at a lower cost.*
- *Systematic Planning - Develops and uses logical, step-by-step plans to reach goals, evaluate alternatives and takes a logical and systematic approach to activities.*
- *Problem Solving - Identify new and potentially unique ideas to achieve your goals, generates new ideas or innovative solutions.*
- *Self-Confidence - Has a strong belief in yourself and own abilities to complete a task and meet the challenges.*
- *Assertiveness - Able to confront problems and issues with others directly by telling them what they have to do.*
- *Persuasion - Able to persuade or influence others for mobilizing resources, obtaining inputs, organizing productions and selling your products or services.*
- *Use of Influence Strategies- Able to make use of influential people to reach your business goals, use a strategy to persuade or influence others.*

*(SOURCE: McClelland & McBer 1985)*

Aside from considering the elements and factors that have been pointed out, it is also important to clearly identify all the characteristics that should be possessed. They will drive you to perform high quality work and achieve your business goal successfully. So ask yourself, do you have all of these characteristics? Can you bear to cope with all of the elements that may exist and be needed in starting up your business? If you have a YES answer, then, it means you are ready to be in the business and entrepreneurship could be right for you. So, prepare yourself before you decide to start your own business.

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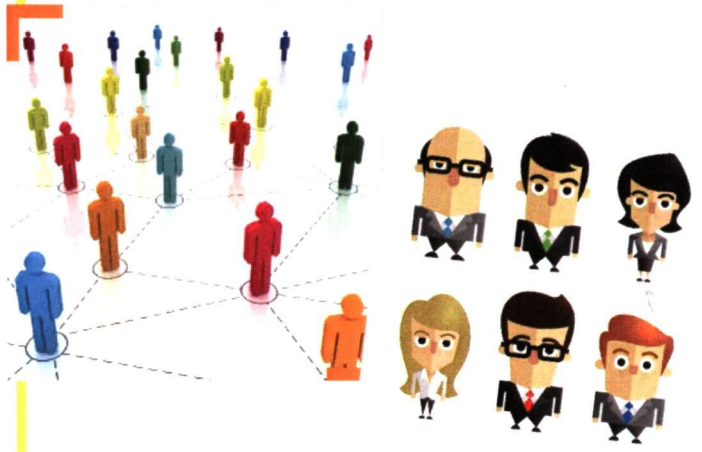
# CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY (CSR) DISCLOSURE IN REVIEW

By Suzana Sau



Current trends of globalization imposed a lot of pressure to companies which are focusing on the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) activity and disclosure rather than traditional financial performances. CSR proponents argue that companies should have the sense of obligation towards other stakeholders such as employees, customers, suppliers, society, environment and other parties rather than only emphasizing on maximizing profit to their shareholders (Mohd Ghazali, 2007). Capitalistic economic system promoted by Western countries also faces ongoing severe criticism due to solely profit maximization motive. This has led to vocal voices among the stakeholders expressing their dissatisfaction with the business community's lack of effort in social contribution (Zadek, 1998). They forced the companies to be socially responsible, particularly due to worldwide attention on unethical behaviour and corporate collapse (Laan, 2004).

One of the medium to communicate its CSR activities is through the disclosure in the annual report. Mathews (1984) defined CSR disclosure as a voluntary disclosure of information to inform audience either on financial or non-financial terms. Thus, CSR disclosure could be seen as the way to report non financial information in order to inform stakeholders that the companies conducted their business operation in an ethically proper manner.

From companies' perspective, their concern in disclosing CSR activities stem from their own business objectives and external factors. One of the reasons is due to strategies to penetrate the global market because CSR disclosure acts as a buffer to ensure sustainability of the company globally. Mahalingam (2010) claimed that more major Malaysian companies incorporated green agenda in their dail operation to follow the global trend. Another reason is due to increasing pressure from stakeholders (Nik Ahmad, Sulaiman & Siswantrao,(2003) and to enhance the companies' performance (Inoue & Lee, 2010 and Clarkson, Li, Richardson & Vasvari, 2008). They found positive relationship between CSR disclosure and company's performance. Hence, these factors could influence the companies in disclosing CSR activities.

However, the main player who plays the most significant role in enhancing CSR disclosure is the regulator itself. In Malaysia, before the Bursa Malaysia took the initiative in enforcing CSR disclosure among the public listed companies (PLCs) as effective on 31st December 2007, not much progress on the voluntarily disclosure development had happened in Malaysia. In contrast, after it imposed mandatory CSR disclosure in financial report for PLCs, companies has had to follow the rules set by the government. Thus as stated by Darus, Arshad, Othman & Jusoh (2009) the Malaysian government has contributed positive impact in enhancing the extent and the quality of CSR disclosure.

It can be concluded that CSR disclosure brings a solution to all stakeholders such as among the society, regulator, employees, environmental groups and business entity itself. However, a lot of works need to be done in improving this activity to satisfy each other's interests. The company should be fair and accountable in reporting CSR disclosure. Then, regulator should be the mediator for both parties to make sure every company is more responsible in every business activity and decisions considering that their decisions affect other stakeholders.y

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# TECHNOSTRESS : Are we the victims?

*By : Mimi Zazira binti Haji Hashim*

The latest information technology including computer and gadgets were introduce almost every day. The effects of these technologies can be varied. It brings numerous benefits to us in various fields such as in learning, communication, business, entertainment and many more. Meanwhile, overuse of the technology will bring negative impact to human, psychologically and sociologically. The roles of technology should free up our time but it seems to make people more hectic. This shows the syndrome of technostress. Weil and Rosen (1997) define "TechnoStress" as any negative impact on attitudes, thoughts, behaviors, or body physiology that is caused either directly or indirectly by technology. Brod (1984) has stated that technostress can be considered as a "modern disease" as some people cannot use it properly. People tend to get stressed if they heavily use technology without being concern about their physical and mental health. Life routines also will be disturbed and those who are addicted will ignore some biological needs such as sleeping, eating or socializing. Thus, this article will therefore discuss the cause, symptoms and ways to cope with the technostress.

According to Qiang, et al (2005), technostress has become a serious issue for both users and IT professionals in China due to its potential effect on users' mental health and on-the-job productivity. One of the causes of technostress is information overload. Information overload is a situation in which you get more information than you can deal with at one time. The more information you gathered while browsing Internet, you will become more tired and confused. Shenk (1997), claimed that information overload is an important new emotional, social, and political problem in society. Do you experience this situation in your workplace? Some of us did but most of us may not be aware that it could potentially bring stress.

A person with technostress has all the signs and symptoms of traditional stress such as headaches, neck and back pain, feelings of loneliness or worthlessness, irritability, frustration, hostility, intolerance, panic, etc. Ken (2010), claimed that computers and cell phones are making most of the Japanese ill. Most of them suffer stiff shoulders and dry eyes - the two most common symptoms of technostress. Extensive use of computer will cause eyestrain and blurry vision due to prolonged staring at a display device.

Since technology enables multitasking, people tends to be busy 24 hours per day and 7 days a week. In an office, there are various tasks need to do with the help of technology but when they come back from office, they would still be busy with 'unnecessary tasks' such as chatting with friend in facebook or any instant messaging, updating blog, transfering picture from digital camera, editing pictures, checking and sending e-mail, replying sms, etc. It seems that people have an endless tasks to do involving the use of technological devices. This multitasking life style will cause the brains to become overloaded and will gradually affect thinking. In fact, eventually technostress will affect even the thinking quality as people become forgetful and sometime confuse of what they want to do or say. People might also become incapable of having a good rest and sleep because their brain keeps working overtime.

Meanwhile, Kaplan (2010) has reported that a recent study conducted by Oxygen Media and Lightspeed Research revealed that:

**34% women 18-34 say checking Facebook is the first thing they do when waking up in the morning**

**26% women 18-34 get up in the middle of the night to read text messages**

**37% women 18-34 have fallen asleep with their PDA in their hands**

The finding shows that technology is affecting people as they have changed their normal routine. They are getting less sleep and rest as they wake up in the middle of the night and make PDA their sleeping partner. This phenomena will bring a lot of consequences in our society as the study also showed that 53% of women post their personal problems for all their friends to see while 42% thinks it is acceptable to upload pictures of themselves visibly to others.

Technology provides a range of benefits that can improve quality and efficiency in our lives. We should not let technology control ourselves and we must be rational in using it instead. Give ourselves a chance to be physically and mentally healthy as technostress is now linked to many illnesses. Be fair to ourselves by living a healthy life style such as get an adequate sleep, eat proper diet, do exercise and use ergonomic facilities to avoid technostress. As muslims, we must make use of our time by doing beneficial things especially because those will make us closer to Allah and enable us to earn His Mercy. It must be borne in everybody's mind that technology is not everything and we must know when and how to use it and when to put it aside. Avoid being a technology victim as nobody wants to live in a stressful society.

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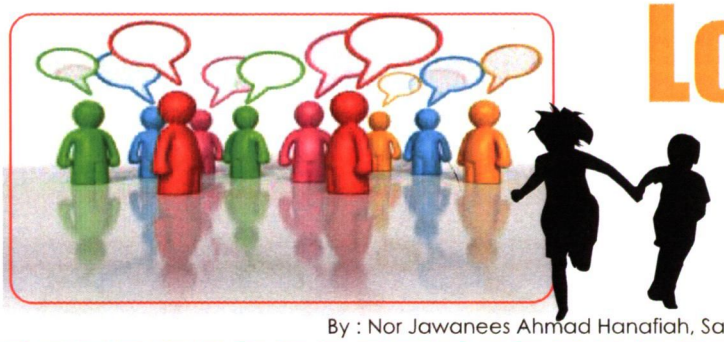

# Loan Words in Terengganu Dialect

By : Nor Jawanees Ahmad Hanafiah, Salihah Abdullah, Amiruddin Zani ,Yusof Daud & Norhamimah Rani

There are many ways of how some words in Terengganu dialect have been formed. One of them is through borrowing. According to Yule (1996), borrowing refers to the adoption of a word from one language to another. The process could sometimes result in changes of pronunciation, meaning and spelling. Do you know that there are hundreds of English words being used in Terengganu dialect? Let's find out!!!

Terengganu Dialect

Klenek

Mung gi doh klenek?

English Words

Clinic

Have you gone to the clinic?

Terengganu Dialect

Kola

Koto blokoh kola baju mung ni!

English Words

Collar

Your shirt collar is very dirty.

Terengganu Dialect

Repok

Ambe nok gi balla poleh ni, nok repok muto ambe kena curi.

English Words

Report

I am going to the police station to lodge a report of my stolen bike.

Terengganu Dialect

Nekta

Mok, ambe takuk cikgu maroh kalu ambe dok paka nekta meghoh tu.

English Words

Necktie

Mom, I'm afraid the teacher will scold me if I don't wear the red necktie.

Terengganu Dialect

Lemenek

Pok, wi ambe air lemenek sboto

English Words

Lemonade

Give me a bottle of lemonade.

Terengganu Dialect

Sekkuk/biskuk

Mung bahang sekkuk aku?

English Words

Biscuit

Did you eat my biscuit?

Terengganu Dialect

Sekbeng

Jusoh kerak doh sekbeng dia mareng.

English Words

Side burn

Jusoh got his side burns cut yesterday

Terengganu Dialect

Someng

Aku khije kak someng dekak ghumoh Mok Joh.

English Words

Sawmill

I work at the sawmill near Mok Joh's house.

Terengganu Dialect

Blebe

Lijoh, jadi-jadilah blebbe pasa kambing mung tu!

English Words

Blabbering

Lijoh, stop blabbering about your goats

Terengganu Dialect

Welpe

Dolloh eh, mung buleh tulong ato mok gi jabbak welpe esok?

English Words

Welfare

Dolloh, could you please send me to the welfare department tomorrow?

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# MAKA
## 14 Feb 2012

# AKTIVITI KAMPUS

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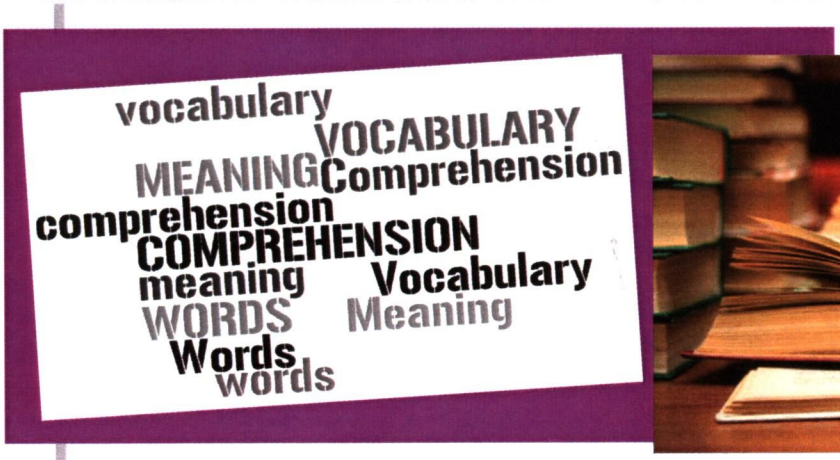
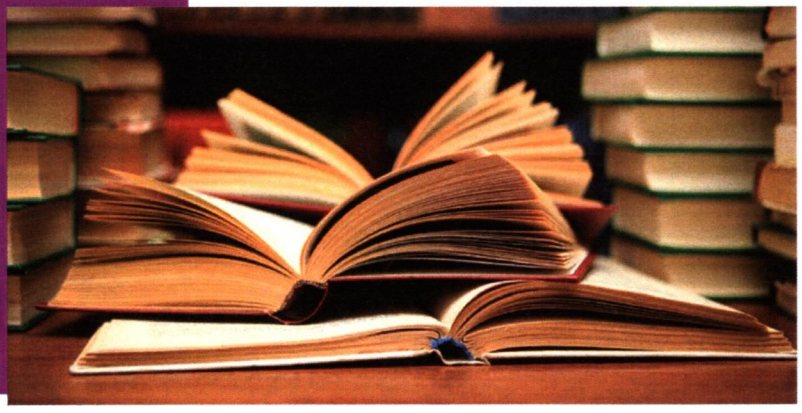
# Vocabulary knowledge among ESL learners

By: Hazma Shazaziana Muhazer



Expanding vocabulary knowledge is one of the fundamental targets of second language learners. This is because vocabulary is very important in conveying message and ideas. Whether we are using the right vocabulary or not, no linguist can deem a word chosen is wrong even though a much more dominant group might perceive it as wrong. Modern Language Association (MLA) defines vocabulary as a list or collection of the words or phrases of a language, technical field, etc .Vocabulary as very important as it conveys meanings of the word in a particular language. Vocabulary as often seen as of secondary importance, as grammar has been regarded, thus the most important aspect of a language, is the central of linguists and researchers' attention.

Words are not always about meaning but inevitably it is always about it (Williams, 1985). When learners learn a second language, the first thing they will do after receiving words is to define them. Therefore dictionaries are considered to be the most important thing to second language learners. Second language learners not only learn about the target language but with the knowledge of the target language they are also learning the culture of the second language.

In academic institution, especially English, students have to write and speak as part of their assignment. When writing, a choice of word is very important in conveying the message since meaning is obviously related to it. Researchers are interested in the performance of the four skills which are reading, writing, listening and speaking especially students who are getting ready for higher institutional level. Research focussing on these four skills is a growing body of research. The result obtained from these research give insight into the language of academic discourse and the various register that make up the discourse, demonstrating the vocabulary and associated grammar characteristic (Biber & Conrad, 1999, 2004; Biber, Conrad, Repper, Byrd, & Helt, 2002; Coxhead, 2000; Schleppegrell, 2004; Schleppegrell & Colombi, 2002). Thus teachers may have difficulties and may be unclear in teaching their students especially in the area of writing is the learners are not equipped with the knowledge of vocabulary. The limited access of vocabulary may lead to many errors.

A second language learner must have sufficient vocabulary knowledge in order to excel in all four types of skills. Teachers must also know the size of their students' vocabulary when choosing materials to teach in class so the students will be able to understand their lessons better.

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# TEROKAI POTENSI

## *Arundina graminifolia (D. Don) Hochr.*

NURLILY SHARNIE AHMAD, FSG, UiTM Kuala Terengganu

Famili orkid (Orchidaceae) telah direkodkan dan dianggarkan mempunyai 800 generasi dan 25,000 spesis di seluruh dunia. Di Malaysia, secara umumnya orkid dikenali kerana kepentingan ekonomi dalam industri atau nurseri lanskap dan kurang direkodkan tentang nilai perubatannya. Hanya sesetengah spesis sahaja telah direkodkan mempunyai nilai perubatannya yang tersendiri, di antaranya adalah Dendrobium crumenative, Eulophia campestris, Orchis latifolia, Vanda roxburghii and Vanda tessellate. Menerusi kajian fitokimia, kebanyakan orkid secara umumnya didapati mengandungi alkaloids, triterpenoids, flavonoids and stilbenoids. Sehingga hari ini hanya Vanilla planifolia yang dikomersilkan secara berterusan sebagai sumber perasa makanan.

Bagi menambah dan meneruskan lagi kajian nilai perubatan terhadap orkid, beberapa institusi pengajian dan jabatan penyelidikan negara telah meneruskan kesinambungan kajian tersebut. Antaranya, kajian nilai perubatan terhadap orkid yang berpotensi, iaitu Arundina graminifolia (D. Don) Hochr. atau panggilan tempatannya, orkid buluh (bamboo orchid) yang merupakan salah satu spesis orkid liar yang berasal (native) dari Asia Tenggara. Orkid buluh ini mula adaptasi dan ia membawa kepada penyebaran populasinya ke beberapa buah negara, antaranya ialah India, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Laos, Kemboja, Vietnam, Cina, Jepun, Taiwan, Malaysia, Indonesia dan Singapura.

Sejarah orkid buluh ini bermula apabila pertama kali dijumpai dan dikaji oleh David Don berdasarkan koleksi tumbuhan yang beliau kaji dari Nepal dan ia dinamakan sebagai Bletia graminifolia di Prodromus Florae Nepalensis pada tahun 1825. Berlaku perubahan genus di dalam taxonominya apabila pada tahun 1910, Benedict Hochreutiner telah menukarkannya kepada Arundina di dalam Bulletin of New York Botanic Garden dan ia kekal sehingga ke hari ini.

Arundina graminifolia ini berasal dari campuaran bahasa Yunani (Greek), iaitu 'arundo' merujuk kepada 'batang menyerupai rantai' (reed-like stem) manakala 'gramineus' pula berasal dari bahasa Latin yang bermaksud 'menyerupai rumput' dan ditambah dengan 'folius' yang memberi makna daun. Orkid buluh ini merupakan angiosperm dan sering ditemui tumbuh meliar di atas tanah (terrestrial) di kawasan 1500 meter dari aras laut.

Di Semenanjung Malaysia, ia tumbuh meliar di sepanjang lebuhraya Utara – Selatan (PLUS), di lereng-lereng bukit yang dipenuhi semak dan juga kawasan lapang yang terdedah kepada pancaran matahari yang tinggi. Populasinya nyata jelas kelihatan, terutama dari Simpang Pulai ke Cameron Highlands. Morfologi bunga orkid ini bergantung kepada iklim dan nutrien sesuatu kawasan contohnya di kawasan tanah tinggi yang beriklim sejuk seperti di Cameron Highlands, sepal dan petal orkid ini berwarna putih manakala di kawasan tanah rendah pula, bunganya lebih besar serta sepal dan petalnya bewarna merah jambu atau ungu. Orkid ini boleh mencapai ketinggian sehingga 200 cm dan mekar berbunga di kawasan yang terdedah kepada cahaya matahari.

Kajian sitotoksik terhadap orkid buluh ini telah dijalankan oleh penyelidik dari Jabatan Biologi, Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM) pada tahun 2002, menggunakan dua jenis sel kanser iaitu T- lymphoblastic leukemia (CEM-SS) dan Promyelocytic leukemia (HL-60) dan direkodkan bahawa bahagian akar mempunyai kesan sitotoksik yang tinggi atau tafsirannya ekstrak etanol akar tersebut berupaya membunuh 50% dari sel-sel kanser tersebut dalam kepekatan yang rendah berbanding bahagian batang dan daun. Walau bagaimanapun bahagian bunga tidak terpilih di dalam kajian ini.

Manakala para penyelidik dari Yunnan University of Nationalities pula telah merekodkan kajian antioksida terhadap orkid buluh ini yang diekstrak menggunakan klorofom, ethyl acetate dan butyl alcohol. Keputusan yang diperolehi membuktikan bahawa orkid buluh yang diekstrak dengan ethyl acetate mempunyai tahap antioksida yang sangat tinggi berbanding yang lain. Selain itu kajian fitokimia dari Cina, merekodkan wujudnya kandungan benzyldihydrophenanthrene dan telah dinamakan sebagai arundinaol (7-hydroxy-1-(p-hydroxybenzyl)-2,4-dimethoxy-9,10-dihydrophenanthrene) yang telah diasingkan daripada rizom orkid ini. Selain itu juga kandungan lain yang diasingkan dari rizom orkid ini adalah (2E)-, 2-propenoic acid, 3-(4-hydroxy-3-methoxyphenyl)-decosyl ester (I), p-hydroxybenzyl alcohol (II), triacontanol (III) dan p-hydroxybenzylethyl ether (IV), 3-hydroxy-5-methoxybibenzyl (V) yang dipercayai boleh merencatkan pertumbuhan bakteria (antibakteria).

Secara keseluruhannya bahagian akar dan rizom orkid buluh ini mempunyai potensi besar sebagai antikanser, antibakteria dan antioksida. Semoga kajian dapat diteruskan bagi menyelami keistimewaan orkid buluh ini selain menggunakan data yang sedia ada untuk menghasilkan produk baru dalam mengkomersilkannya untuk dimanfaatkan sepenuhnya oleh masyarakat selaras dengan objektif penyelidikan negara. Selain itu juga, orkid buluh ini diharapkan dapat dikomersilkan sebagai tanaman lanskap bandar kerana potensi ketahanannya yang tinggi terhadap iklim di Malaysia serta mudah dibiakkan selain morfologi bunganya yang sempurna dan cantik seperti spesis orkid- orkid yang lain.

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# What Is cooperative learning?

Mohd Ariff Nafizi B. Ibrahim

Cooperation is defined as "working together to accomplish shared goals" (Deutsch, 1962: p.33). According to Deutsch, people tend to seek outcomes that are beneficial to themselves and beneficial to all other group members within cooperative activities. In the perspective of teaching and learning process, cooperative learning is the instructional use of students in small groups so that the students work together to maximize their own and each other's learning (Kagan, 1989). In this instructional strategy, the class members are organized into small groups after receiving instruction from the teacher. They then work through the assignment until all group members successfully understand and complete it. Cooperative efforts result in participants striving for mutual benefit so that all group members gain from each other's efforts, recognizing that all group members share a common fate, knowing that one's performance is caused by oneself and one's colleagues, and feeling proud and jointly celebrating when a group member is recognized for achievement. Moreover, in cooperative learning situations there is a positive interdependence among students' goal attainments; that is students perceive that they can only reach their learning goals if the other students in the learning group also reach their goals (Deutsch, 1962; Johnson & Johnson, 1989).

There is a long history of research showing the effects of cooperative learning on developing students' character competence and social skills (Berkowitz & Bier, 2003). "Whether assessed in isolation or as part of a character education initiative…cooperative learning resulted in better conflict resolution skills, greater cooperation, and higher academic achievement, among other outcomes" (Berkowitz & Bier 2003, p.13). Cooperative learning is an alternative to the competitive-individualistic structures and the recitation-presentation teaching methods commonly used in classrooms. While it is not suggested that cooperative learning be the only teaching method used, it is a powerful approach to facilitate the development and practice of prosocial skills, to develop understanding of diverse perspectives, and to contribute to the process of making the classroom a community of learners. Through cooperative structures, students have the opportunity to work together in pursuit of a common goal which enhances their social, ethical, and cognitive growth (Vessels, 1998, as cited in Vincent, 1999, p.71).

*"Cooperative learning promotes prosocial behavior. Having children learn from one another creates powerful bonds between them and sends a message very different from that sent by a classroom in which each child is on his or her own—or, worse still, one in which the success of each is inversely related to the success of the others….Cooperation is an essentially humanizing experience that predisposes participants to take a benevolent view of others. It allows them to transcend egocentric and objectifying postures and encourages trust, sensitivity, open communication, and prosocial activity" (Kohn 1991, as cited in Vincent, 1999, p.74).*

Cooperative learning can be as simple as two students pairing up to discuss a piece of learning. It can also be complex and can include team development activities; cooperative classroom atmosphere through class building activities; special training in social roles and social skills; specialized tasks for teams; and special scoring, recognition, and reward systems structured for individuals, teams, and classes (Kagan, 1989). With some thoughtful modifications, traditional direct instruction lessons can be delivered using cooperative strategies (Kohn 1991, as cited in Vincent, 1999, p.74).

The Differences And Similarities Between Traditional Learning And Cooperative Learning Groups

| Cooperative Learning Group | Traditional Learning Group |
|---|---|
| Positive interdependence | No interdependence |
| Individual accountability | Individual accountability |
| Heterogeneous membership | Homogeneous membership |
| Shared leadership | One appointed leader |
| Responsible for each other | Responsible only for self |
| Task and maintenance emphasized | Only task emphasized |
| Social skills directly taught | Social skills assumed or ignored |
| Teacher observes and intervenes | Teacher ignores groups |
| Group processing occurs | No group processing |

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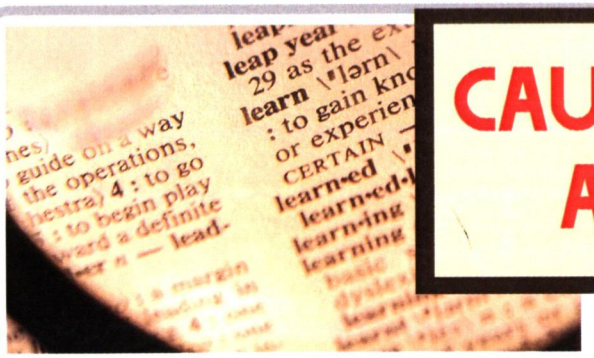
Note: Taken From "Developing Character In Students: A Primer For Teachers, Parents, And Communities" By Kohn, 1991 As Cited In Vincent, P. P. 74. Copyright 1999 By Character Development Publishing.



# CAUTION! TRANSLATE AT YOUR OWN RISK!

By : Juliana Md Nor

What big news it was when recently the Malaysian Ministry of Defence decided to save cost and posted English language content on their official website. The problem was that, the content was actually translated from Malay to English using the popular machine translator, the Google Translate. The translated product was some jumbled up information that confused many, tickled more and embarrassed a lot of individuals especially because the posting went viral immediately on the internet. Many blogs, tweets and news websites picked up the mishaps soon enough and that had caused those responsible at the ministry to immediately removed the posting. What happened went down in Internet history but there are lessons to be learned for many, especially for those involved in producing English language writings. The lessons are these; writers should know why they should proceed with extreme caution when using machine translators, be aware of the effects of using machine translation on their translated words and understand what steps to take in order to solve the problems which come up when using such method.

Caution is a necessity because even though machine translation is convenient, it is not perfect. The machine operates on program which uses computer algorithm. Thus, it functions within a certain computer-like limit. If a user inputs data beyond the program's capabilities, the product produced will make no sense. Unfortunately, many users do that all the time, being aware or unaware of the fact that language is semantically complex and when processed without proper context can be very ambiguous. This is because humans can process language differently as compared to machines. We are born with an innate language ability that enables us to understand even things which are not being said out loud. Even if the words are said out loud, the words can have as many meanings as meant by the human speaker/writer and hearer/reader. Linguists like Noam Chomsky named it the surface structure and the deep structure of language. Human beings can map (make sense of) the surface and the deep structure for as long as they can speak the language. However, a machine translator can only map the surface structure (Machine Translation Fact, 2012). This means the machine translator can only translate the meaning of the words typed by the writer not what the writer is thinking. The machine is not a mind reader. Thus, the writer who uses the machine translator may end up with a skewed translation. That is why this saying is important when using a machine translator. Say what you mean, mean what you say!

Since the machine translator functions on the basis of machine sensibility, its product tends to be very literal. It may not just be semantically erroneous but also grammatically perplexing. Or is it the other way round? Although the field of machine translation has advanced so much in the sense that it is not as literal as it once used to be, it is still far off from human perfection. Thus,

Google-Translate-prone writers may get gems such as "I do not want banana to fruit two times" ( aku tidak mau pisang berbuah dua kali) or "flash cock fight" (kilat sabung menyabung). Vilar, Xu, D'Haro and Ney (2006) actually spotted several types of errors produced by machine translators and they are errors in forms of word order, missing words, incorrect words, unknown words and punctuation problems. All these errors could possibly be committed by an actual human translator but can usually be caught and rectified by the discerning eye.

Machine translators such as Google Translate could only translate word for word, leaving rooms for improvement of the phrases, clauses or sentences syntactically, lexically or semantically. Thus, machine translator users must choose the best machine translator available in order to get the best benefit from this technology. Google Translate like any other free translation services on the internet is good but it is not as good as other translation programs which do not come for free. If you are serious about quality, maybe you should seriously buy one such program. Such programs or machines give you the options of various interfaces which may suit your genre of writing (Machine Translation Fact, 2012). Different programs may offer different advantages and disadvantages. Furthermore, not every program can translate Malay to English or the vice versa. So, it is advisable to research the tool of your choice. One needs to simply Google the internet to find out which is which and which is best. Another option is of course to employ a professional translator to translate your work. The odds are the professional translators might also use machine translation but they know how to check for mistakes. The Ministry of Defence should have used one before they posted the information on their website (the Google Translate version). Being an official website which is frequently visited by millions of people, it is always better for them be safe than sorry.

All in all, machine translation is just another technology which aims to make our life easier. Similar to other technologies, it too can never replace humans. However, with technological advancements, it is possible that one day it may be able to translate words as perfect as humans do. But until then one should bear in mind the previously discussed pointers and proceed with extreme caution.

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# Pertandingan Dikir Barat Bahasa Mandarin

Oleh : Ngo Kea Leng

Pada 17 Februari 2012 yang lepas, Kelas Bahasa Mandarin UiTM Kuala Terengganu telah mengadakan satu program Pertandingan Dikir Barat dalam Bahasa Mandarin bersama-sama pelajar UiTM Kedah. Antara objektif pertandingan ini adalah seperti berikut:

- Meningkatkan minat dan kemahiran pelajar UiTM Kuala Terengganu dalam usaha mempelajari bahasa Mandarin.
- Meningkatkan penggunaan bahasa Mandarin dalam kalangan pelajar UiTM Kuala Terengganu dan UiTM Kedah.
- Memupuk semangat keberanian pelajar untuk berinteraksi dalam bahasa Mandarin.
- Merapatkan hubungan silaturahim di antara pelajar Semester 3, 4 UiTM Kuala Terengganu dengan pelajar UiTM Kedah.
- Mendedahkan peserta mengenai budaya Cina.
- Melahirkan pelajar UiTM yang berfikiran positif, proaktif ,kreatif, inovatif dan komited dalam melaksanakan sesuatu program.

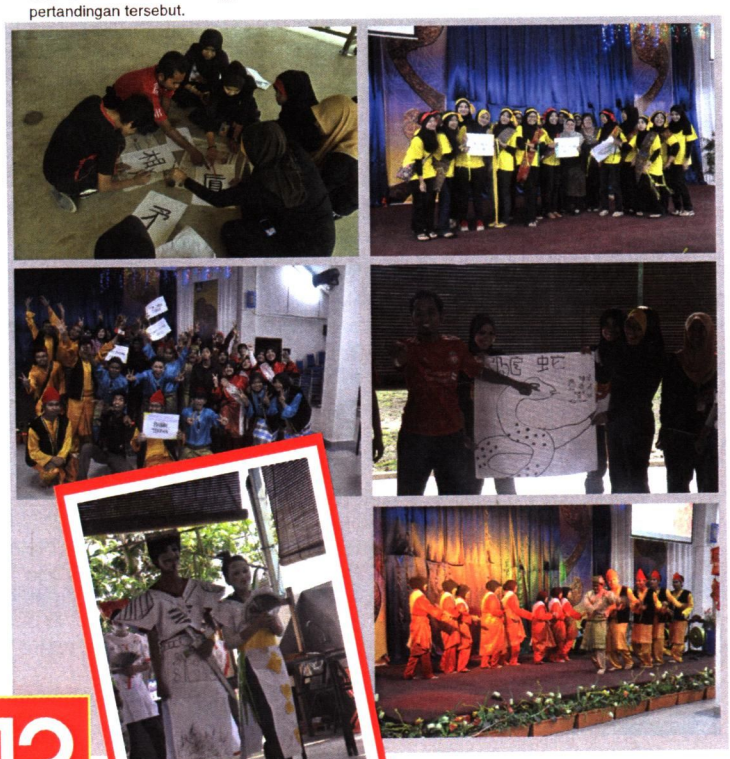
Pertandingan Dikir Barat bersama UiTM Kedah ini dimulakan dengan majlis perasmian oleh Puan Fadhilah Mustafa, Timbalan Rektor UiTM Kuala Terengganu tepat pukul 8.30 malam. Sebagai simbolik perasmian, Puan Fadhilah telah memalu gong pada malam tersebut sebelum acara berlangsung. Selesai perasmian, semua pelajar UiTM Kampus Kuala Terengganu telah dihiburkan dengan persembahan dikir barat dalam bahasa Mandarin oleh semua peserta yang bertanding yang terdiri daripada pelajar Semester 3 dan 4 yang mengambil subjek Mandarin. Turut terlibat dalam menjayakan dikir barat ini ialah pelajar-pelajar dari Kelab Bahasa Mandarin UiTM Kedah.

Pertandingan dikir barat dimulakan dengan persembahan pertama dan kedua daripada UiTM Kedah diikuti oleh persembahan yang seterusnya daripada UiTM Kuala Terengganu sehinggalah persembahan yang terakhir iaitu kumpulan yang ke-6.
Persembahan yang dipertandingkan mendapat sambutan yang memberangsangkan oleh para penonton daripada pelajar UiTM Kuala Terengganu dan UiTM Kedah. Pertandingan ini juga amat sengit kerana peserta yang terlibat sangat hebat serta persembahan mereka amat menarik. Para juri akhirnya memilih pemenang berdasarkan kriteria-kriteria yang telah ditetapkan.

Pemenang-pemenang pertandingan tersebut pada malam tersebut adalah seperti berikut:

| | |
|---|---|
| Pemenang tempat pertama | UiTM Kedah |
| Pemenang tempat kedua | OM1144A |
| Pemenang tempat ketiga | UiTM Kedah |
| Pemenang tempat keempat | OM1144B |
| Pakaian terbaik | UiTM Kedah |
| Multimedia terbaik | OM1144A |
| Tok Juara | UiTM Kedah |
| Awok-awok terbaik | OM1144A |

Pertandingan ini berakhir dengan upacara menerbangkan permainan bercahaya ke udara. Semua peserta telah melepaskan permainan mereka di kawasan lapang di depan Dewan Utama UiTM Kuala Terengganu. Berikut dilampirkan gambar-gambar kenangan sempena pertandingan tersebut.



# SELOKA TERENGGANU KITA-Dr Ghani

Negeri cantik budaya menarik,

Rakyat pula semuanya baik-baik,

Sebut saja Terengganu janganlah serik,

Kepada pengunjung semuanya kami tabik.

Kerepok lekor, kuih akok dan nasi dagang,

Makanan tradisi negeri terbilang,

Batik dan songket jangan tak pandang,

Itulah warisan yang tak pernah hilang.

Rodat dan Ulik Mayang sungguh menghibur-kan,

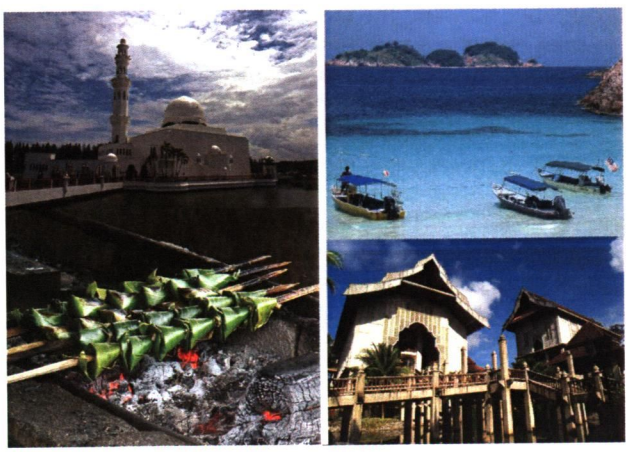
Pelancong terpesona tak dapat nak dibayang-kan,

Mencandat sotong dan berkelah di pulau jangan dilupakan,

Gembiranya hati sukar nak diluahkan.

Pantai Batu Burok mengganit riang,

Hotel Primula sentiasa terluang,

Datanglah tuan sekeluarga dengan girang,

Gembiranya menyambut tidak terbayang.