

**UNIVERSITI TEKNOLOGI MARA**

**AN ANALYSIS OF BORDER SECURITY  
DISCOURSES**

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Dissertation submitted in partial fulfilment  
of the requirements for the degree of  
**Master in International Relations and Diplomacy**

**Faculty of Administrative Science and Policy Studies**

**June 2018**

## **ABSTRACT**

Throughout history, border security has been framed in many different views and perspectives. Border security is socially constructed and have great impact to the state and the people because it identifies the significance of the border in particular areas. Recent reports about border security have shown the impact to other issues like terrorism, illegal immigrants, human smuggling, transnational crime and drug trafficking. This dissertation taking into account a number of key findings from previous border security reports and journal articles together with the needs of the current research, to identify and analyze the main issues consistently reported in border security discourses. These included making the criteria of border security perspective more relevant to the current research by supporting the analysis with academic research and dividing the border security perspective into various categories. This dissertation utilized data from previous research, article journal and reports from different borders across the region in order to obtain a set of qualitative data. This study concluded that scholars construct multiple frames of border security and the main issues consistently reported in border security discourses are illegal immigrants, terrorism and drug trafficking.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

First of all, Alhamdulillah I thank Allah S.W.T for the opportunity to live and the ability to complete this dissertation passionately. I am grateful for having the chance to participate and contribute my knowledge and ideas as well as gaining experience in completing this dissertation.

I would like to thank my supervisor Pn. Asiyah Kassim. Her attitude, commitment and support are truly exemplary. Without encouragement and guidance from her, I would not be able to complete this work.

I also want to thank my parents and family who have always trusted me in my all undertakings. I wish I can serve them better especially in their old age as I will never be able to compensate them for their sacrifices. May Allah (SWT) bless them. Finally, I must thank to my dearly lecturers, classmates and colleagues who helped me and never stopped believing in me and all those who have directly or indirectly contributed to the completion of this work. Thank you.

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# CHAPTER 1

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Research Background

During the last decades, border security studies have undergone a major transformation since the post 9/11 and this has changed the view of scholars about border security. It is crucial for us to understand how border security works as it give impact on our life. Furthermore, the state also must take the issue of the border as a serious matter since no country in the world exempt from security threats. According to Akinyemi (2013), border security has come to assume heightened importance in the world today as the rate of crime activities have also increased in scale especially since the end of Cold War and in the wake of globalization. It has become easy for transitional crimes to be conducted such as the moving of money, people and goods across the world because of advancement in telecommunications, transportation and technology in general. According to Border Security Report 2017, border security is one of the most complex and critical security challenges that governments face today.

Border security has been high on public-policy agendas in Europe and North America since the September 11, 2001, attacks on the World Trade Center in New York City and on the headquarters of the US military in Washington, DC. Governments are now confronted with managing secure borders, a policy objective that, in this era of increased free trade and globalization, must compete with intense cross-border flows of people and goods. Border-security policies must enable security personnel to identify and filter out dangerous individuals and substances from among the millions of travelers and tons of goods that cross borders daily, particularly in large cross-border urban regions. For scholars the events of 9/11 triggered a greater interest in border studies (Jailly, 2007).

It is widely known that, most of countries' security is being jeopardized by the border security issues. Borders are significance for many people. While for some people borders are defends with protecting them against violence, for others, borders are the first barriers hindering movement, human contact, and economic development. There are many