

**A STUDY ON THE PERCEPTIONS OF SEMESTER 8  
TESL STUDENTS OF UiTM TOWARDS THEIR DAY TO  
DAY LANGUAGE USAGE PRACTICES;  
FLUENT ENGLISH VERSUS ACCURATE ENGLISH**

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*“In the name of God, the Most Gracious and Most Merciful”*

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## **ABSTRACT**

This research investigates the perception of students in semester 8 of Degree of Bachelor of Education (Honours) in the teaching of English as a second language (TESL) specifically towards fluency and accuracy in their daily English language usage. Data was gathered through questionnaires and were analyzed descriptively using percentage and average count. The results shows that a majority of semester 8 students were more inclined to use fluent English language and most of these fluent users admitted to be less competent in grammar and structure of English language. Many reasons were given by respondents behind the usage of fluent English and accurate English.

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# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.0 Introduction

The English language serves as powerful tool of communication not only to the native speakers, but to people who do not share a common language background. According to Britannica encyclopaedia (1999), English is the mother tongue of more than 350 million people and according to Steve (2008), ten years ago British Council estimated there are 1 billion English learners, and a report, *English Next*, in 2006 published by Council predicted that the number of English learners will increase to 2 billion by 2016. From the statistical number, it is very common to hear people speak English everywhere especially here in Malaysia where English is the second language.

People speak English for many reasons such as to express feelings and opinions, persuade and inform. Various topics are chosen for conversation such as sports, fashions, entertainment, politics, news etc. Observation done by researchers among second language speakers, when speaking English, some people use fluent English while others accurate English. Accurate English focuses on form, the correct grammar and structure of the sentence. Fluent English does not emphasize on grammar and more concerned with the content of the message. According to Thornbury (1999, p. 147) "Fluency ranges from hesitant to fluid and interacts poorly to interacts well. While accuracy ranges from highly accented to slightly accented and