



RMU e-Bulletin



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Research Management Unit
Universiti Teknologi MARA Cawangan Kedah

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Embracing Innovation and Discourse: A Message from the Rector



Esteemed colleagues, students, and friends of UiTM Kedah Branch,

I am pleased to announce the launch of the second edition of the **RMU4U E-Bulletin**. This publication showcases the intellectual energy and a wide range of expertise that have bloomed within our esteemed university.

The 38 articles presented in this issue exemplify a remarkable spectrum of scholarly inquiry. From insightful legal studies to captivating cultural reflections, from thought-provoking discussions on business and finance to explorations of the ever-evolving technological landscape, the **RMU4U E-Bulletin** offers a glimpse into the minds that are shaping the future. This e-bulletin is more than just a collection of articles; it is a platform for discourse, a springboard for critical thinking, and a catalyst for innovation. By engaging with the diverse perspectives presented here, we can cultivate a deeper understanding of the complex issues facing our world today.

I am particularly heartened by the focus on the transformative power of technology. Discussions on Industrial Revolution 5.0 and the integration of AI serve as crucial reminders of the need to embrace innovation and equip ourselves with the skills to navigate the rapidly changing landscape. The articles on learning methodologies, from self-directed learning to mobile-assisted language acquisition, further underscore UiTM Kedah's commitment to providing our students with the tools and resources they need to thrive in the 21st century.

To our esteemed contributors, I extend my sincere gratitude for sharing your valuable insights and expertise. Your dedication is what fuels the intellectual engine of our university.

To our readers, I encourage you to delve into the articles, engage with the ideas presented, and later share your perspectives. Let this e-bulletin be the spark that ignites lively dialogues and fosters a culture of continuous learning within our university community.

Together, let us leverage the power of knowledge and innovation to shape a brighter future.

Sincerely,

Prof. Dr. Rohima Sa'id

Rector, UiTM Kedah



A Message from the Chief Editor

Dear Readers,

Welcome to the second issue of the RMU4U E-Bulletin from UiTM Kedah. I am excited to present 38 insightful articles that showcase the diverse academic interests and expertise within our university. Each article brings a unique perspective, contributing to a rich array of knowledge and ideas.

In this issue, our contributors have explored a wide range of subjects. We have compelling legal studies on topics such as home-schooling and child marriage, alongside cultural reflections that delve into the Semai heritage and contemporary Malaysian art. These pieces highlight the importance of preserving and understanding our cultural and societal norms.

Our business and finance section offers fresh insights into the gig economy, the integration of AI in accounting, and the nuances of tax compliance. These articles provide a closer look at the evolving economic landscape and the challenges and opportunities it presents.



Technological innovation is another prominent theme, with discussions on Industrial Revolution 5.0, the critical role of information professionals, and the integration of AI in education. These articles underscore the rapid pace of technological change and its impact on various sectors.

We also feature thought-provoking pieces on self-directed learning, mobile-assisted English learning, and the transformative power of social media in libraries. These articles explore the intersections of technology, education, and communication, offering valuable insights into modern learning environments. Our goal with this e-bulletin is to foster a deeper understanding and spark meaningful conversations among our readers. We hope that the knowledge and ideas shared here will inspire and engage you.

A heartfelt thank you to all our contributors for their hard work and dedication. And to our readers, thank you for your continued support and interest in the RMU4U E-Bulletin.

Happy reading!
Warm regards,

Dr Azyyati Anuar
Chief Editor, RMU4U E-Bulletin



EMPOWERING SELF-DIRECTED LEARNING: THE ROLE OF MOBILE ASSISTED ENGLISH LEARNING (MAEL) IN THE AI ERA

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In Malaysia, an era of rapid technological innovation, especially the transformational Industry 5.0 (IR 5.0), highlights the necessity of self-directed learning in English language acquisition. As advancements like artificial intelligence and mobile technology reshape education, learners in Malaysia are increasingly empowered to take control of their learning journey, with IR 5.0 providing even more opportunities for self-directed exploration. Amidst these innovations, Mobile Assisted English Learning (MAEL) emerges as a promising avenue for fostering self-directed learning, offering tailored resources and personalised experiences to facilitate language acquisition.

Mobile learning facilitates independent learning, as a significant portion of such learning takes place outside class time and is organised by learners themselves (Gokcearslan, 2017). Wong (2012) notes that mobile-based independent learning activities can be formal or informal, with formal m-learning involving virtual learning environments controlled by institutions, while informal m-learning involves learners accessing open online resources independently. This flexible nature of mobile learning allows learners to engage in activities outside traditional curricula (Ma, 2016). For language learners, mobile devices offer increased access to learning resources, which is particularly beneficial for L2 learners who require repeated practice to become proficient in a language (Ahn, 2018; Mindog, 2016).

Additionally, with limited class hours, mobile learning provides L2 learners with the flexibility to develop their English skills at any time and place, including outside classroom hours (Chang et al., 2012). Immediate access to the Internet enables language learners to engage with various language learning activities on the go, such as listening to foreign-language radio stations, reading electronic newspapers, playing language games, or watching foreign-language films (Kukulaska-Hulme, 2013). These examples highlight the potential of Mobile Assisted Language Learning (MALL) in offering personalised, spontaneous, informal, and ubiquitous learning experiences, aligning with the findings of Ahn (2018).

The evolution of MAEL has been significant, transitioning from basic language learning applications to sophisticated platforms powered by artificial intelligence. Initially, platforms such as Duolingo and Rosetta Stone may have offered simpler exercises like vocabulary drills and grammar exercises. However, with advancements in technology, these platforms, along with others like Babbel, Busuu, and Lingodeer, now provide personalised learning pathways, adaptive assessments, and real-time feedback, enabling learners to customise their learning experience according to their individual needs and preferences (Rusmiyanto et al., 2023).



For instance, learners can choose specific topics they want to focus on, and the platform adjusts the content accordingly. Moreover, adaptive assessments ensure that learners receive specific feedback based on individual performance, facilitating continuous learning and improvement.

In conclusion, the significant roles of educators in utilising MAEL to promote self-directed learning among English language learners in Malaysia cannot be emphasised enough. By embracing innovative technologies and providing guidance on effective self-directed learning strategies, instructors can empower ESL learners to leverage the resourceful landscape of language acquisition in the AI era. Through collaborative efforts between educators, learners, and technology, MAEL has the potential to transform ESL education in Malaysia by giving students more agency and choice in their own learning, thus facilitating autonomous learning, and better preparing them for an increasingly interconnected world.

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Berlian Nur Morat is a senior lecturer at Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM), Kedah branch. She obtained her PhD in Educational Technology from Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM). Her main research areas are TESL and educational technology. She has shared her knowledge through numerous published papers, with a special emphasis on utilising platforms like TikTok and YouTube to facilitate English teaching and learning.

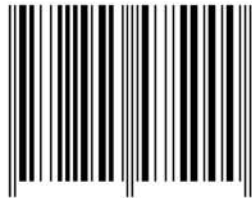
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