# UNIVERSITI TEKNOLOGI MARA

# A DISCOURSE ANALYSIS OF THE GENERIC STRUCTURE OF DOCTORAL DISSERTATION ACKNOWLEDGMENTS IN A MULTICULTURAL SETTING

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Dissertation submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirement
for the degree of
**Master of Education**

**(TESL)**

**Faculty of Education**

August 2014

# AUTHOR'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 results of my own work, unless otherwise indicated or acknowledged as referenced work. This topic has not been submitted to any other academic institution or non-academic institution for any degree or qualification.

In the event that my dissertation be found to violate the conditions mentioned above, I voluntarily waive the right of conferment of my degree and agree be subjected to the disciplinary rules and regulations of Universiti Teknologi MARA.
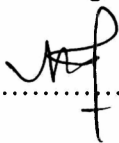
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Faculty : Education

Thesis Tittle : A Discourse Analysis of the Generic Structure Of Doctoral Dissertation Acknowledgments in a Multicultural Setting

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Date : June 2014

# ABSTRACT

The existence of acknowledgment in academic paper has become an academic practice. This research takes the role to examine the differences in acknowledgements writing of doctoral dissertation among three major races in Malaysia. This paper explores the generic structure of doctoral dissertation acknowledgments of three major races in Malaysia through discourse analysis. The data was collected from several reliable online collection and libraries. The data collected for this study was using convenient sampling. The 50 samples from each race were selected based on their availability from local universities and universities abroad. The analysis of the findings includes the differences in moves used by the three major races in Malaysia which are Malay, Chinese and Indian. Qualitative and quantitative approaches were used in analysing the corpus of doctoral dissertation acknowledgements. The findings of the study disclosed that the structural arrangement of doctoral dissertation acknowledgements has the same structure with the arrangement proposed by Al-Ali (2006). There is no vast different of acknowledgement writing between the three races. From the findings, this study came out with a modified model of generic structure of doctoral dissertation acknowledgements. The study also reveals that the acknowledgement is a genre as it is used in communicative purpose. It is a normal practice embedded in academic culture of the community. It is proven that the practice conveys gratitude in academic writing. It is recommended that the future research can include the analysis of linguistic patterns in acknowledgement writing.

# ABSTRAK

Terdapat minat yang semakin meningkat dalam kajian Bahasa Inggeris untuk Tujuan Akademik dan analisis penggunaan bahasa memperlihatkan perbezaan dalam tahun-tahun kebelakangan ini yang menyumbang kepada pembikinan banyak penerangan terhadap jenis teks akademik dalam persekitaran yang berbeza. Kajian ini memegang peranan dalam mengkaji perbezaan cara penulisan penghargaan dalam pengajian kedoktoran di kalangan tiga bangsa di Malaysia. Penulisan penghargaan dalam penerbitan akademik telah menjadi satu elemen penting. Kajian ini mengkaji tentang kepelbagaian struktur penulisan penghargaan dalam pengajian kedoktoran di kalangan tiga bangsa utama di Malaysia iaitu Melayu, Cina dan India. Terdapat dua pendekatan yang telah digunapakai semasa kajian ini dilakukan iaitu secara kualitatif dan kuantitatif. Penemuan kajian membuktikan bahawa susunan struktur penghargaan dalam pengajian kedoktoran bagi ketiga-tiga bangsa adalah mempunyai persaamaan dengan model struktur yg dicadangkan oleh kajian yg dilakukan Al-Ali (2006). Dari penemuan oleh kajian ini, satu model baru yang dimodifikasi dari model Al-Ali telah diperkenalkan. Kajian ini juga membuktikan bahawa penulisan penghargaan adalah satu genre dalam bidang penulisan akademik di mana penghargaan digunakan untuk tujuan komunikasi yang mempunyai fungsi tertentu berdasarkan latar belakang and normaliti yang dipraktis oleh penulis. Ini juga membuktikan penulisan penghargaan adalah penghubung antara penulis dan bidang akademik.

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

## *Bismillahhirrahmanirrahim*

## In the name of Allah Most Gracious and Most Merciful

Like any worthwhile endeavor, the journey of dissertation writing has not been easy. Conducting this study was very challenging and provided me with very valuable and meaningful experience. I would like to render my heartfelt appreciation to the people who have made this a success.

First and foremost, in the name of Allah, The Most Gracious and Most Merciful, who bestowed me the health, strength and wisdom to complete this dissertation.

My sincere expression of thanks and gratitude to my supervisor, Professor Dr. Hazadiah binti Mohamad Dahan for the supervision, guidance, assistance and the encouragement that were patiently and tactfully given through the journey of completing this dissertation. I must acknowledge that she has allowed me the freedom to explore the area of my research yet she still carefully guided me to the right path whenever my getting lost.

I would like to record my appreciation to Pusat Dokumentasi Kementerian Pendidikan Malaysia in Putrajaya and University of Malaya online library for giving full access in the process of collecting the data for the study.

I would also like to express my sincerest gratitude to all the lecturers at the Faculty of Education, UiTM as well as all the administrative staff at the faculty.