

**UNIVERSITI TEKNOLOGI MARA**

**INVESTIGATING CHANGE IN STUDENTS' BELIEFS  
ABOUT ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNING AFTER  
ATTENDING TUITION AID SCHEME PROGRAM**

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## ABSTRACT

The government of Malaysia spent about RM200 million so far in financing Tuition Aid Scheme program which was started in the year 2004. The program was designed to assist poor and weak primary students to improve their achievements in Bahasa Melayu, English, Mathematics and Science subjects. Since it is a new program introduced by Malaysia Ministry of Education its impact on students' beliefs about English language learning after joining this English tuition is not yet revealed by any study. Therefore, this issue led the researcher to conduct a small study in order to seek answer of whether this program could really give significant impact to students' beliefs. By combining quantitative (through questionnaire) and qualitative (through personal interview) research approach, the researcher used a sample of 112 primary students from 10 selected schools around Kuala Terengganu district as sample in this study. The students' responses from the questionnaire administered before and after joining the program were compared and justified by the personal interview conducted. The study showed that the significant change existed in students' beliefs about English language learning after joining the TAS program for about a year. The result also revealed that their English achievement and English daily usage increased steadily. The results from this study are important to Malaysia government in considering the decision to continue and extend this program in the future. For the English teachers who involved directly with this program, these positive results will make them feel proud and motivated to continue this program.

## ABSTRAK

Kerajaan Malaysia sehingga kini telah membelanjakan sebanyak RM 200 juta dalam menyediakan Program Bantuan Tuisyen yang telah dimulakan pada tahun 2004. Program ini telah dirangka untuk memberi bantuan kepada pelajar sekolah rendah yang miskin dan lemah dalam meningkatkan pencapaian mereka dalam mata pelajaran Bahasa Melayu, Bahasa Inggeris, Matematik dan Sains. Oleh kerana program ini adalah satu program baharu yang diperkenalkan oleh Kementerian Pelajaran Malaysia, kesannya terhadap kepercayaan pelajar terhadap pembelajaran Bahasa Inggeris selepas mengikuti tuisyen Bahasa Inggeris ini masih belum didedahkan oleh mana-mana kajian lagi. Oleh kerana itu, isu ini telah membawa penyelidik untuk membuat satu kajian kecil untuk mencari jawapan samada program ini betul-betul telah mampu memberi kesan yang signifikan terhadap kepercayaan pelajar. Dengan menggabungkan pendekatan kajian kuantitatif (menerusi soal selidik) dan kualitatif (menerusi temuramah), penyelidik telah menggunakan seramai 112 pelajar sekolah rendah daripada 10 buah sekolah yang telah dipilih dari sekitar daerah Kuala Terengganu sebagai sampel dalam kajian ini. Respon-respon pelajar daripada soal selidik yang telah dikemukakan sebelum dan selepas mengikuti program ini telah dibandingkan dan dijustifikasikan melalui temuramah yang telah dilakukan. Kajian ini telah menunjukkan bahawa telah wujud perubahan yang signifikan dalam kepercayaan pelajar berkenaan pembelajaran Bahasa Inggeris selepas mengikuti Program Bantuan Tuisyen ini selama satu tahun. Hasil kajian juga telah mendedahkan bahawa pencapaian Bahasa Inggeris dan penggunaan harian Bahasa Inggeris pelajar telah meningkat secara sederhana. Hasil kajian daripada kajian ini juga adalah penting kepada Kerajaan Malaysia dalam mengambil kira keputusan untuk meneruskan dan meluaskan program ini pada masa hadapan. Bagi guru-guru Bahasa Inggeris yang telah terlibat secara langsung dalam program ini, dapatan-dapatan positif ini akan membuatkan mereka berasa bangga dan bersemangat untuk meneruskan program ini.

# CHAPTER ONE

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.0 Introduction of the study

Malaysia education system has changed tremendously since Malaysia got its independent more than half century ago from the British government. The successful change from informal during the British occupation into more formal, better and systematic education system nowadays has illuminated many Malaysians including Malaysian leaders to continuously enhance the Malaysia education system. This is crucial not only to Malaysian government but all Malaysians as the Vision 2020 is now approaching. In the year 2020, Malaysia is supposed to join other countries in the world as another developed country. Therefore, every single field needs to be reinforced by Malaysia including education.

Malaysia, in its Education Development Plan for the year 2001 until 2010 has generated several comprehensive steps in order to make sure it is in the right path. The plan consists the development of preschool and primary education, secondary education and also tertiary education. One of the plan's major aims is to enhance human capital development via a systematically planned education system. Apart from that, Malaysia government has introduced 'Pelan Induk Pembangunan Pendidikan (PIPP)' or Main Plan for Education Development for the year 2006 until 2010 in order to detail further every angle of education to support the previous plan (**Utusan Malaysia, January 18, 2007**).