

UNIVERSITI TEKNOLOGI MARA

**INVESTIGATING NOVICE ENGLISH
LANGUAGE TEACHERS' COMPETENCY:
A CASE STUDY**

NURSYUHADA ZAKARIA

Dissertation submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements
for the degree of
Master of Education
(TESL)


Faculty of Education

June 2012

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

I, hereby, acknowledge that I have been supplied with the Academic Rules and Regulations for Post Graduate, Universiti Teknologi MARA, regulating the conduct of my study and research.

Name of Candidate : Nursyuhada Zakaria
Candidate's ID No. : 2010147295
Programme : Master of Education TESL (ED770)
Faculty : Faculty of Education
Thesis Title : Investigating Novice English Language Teachers'
Competency: A Case Study
Signature of Candidate : 
Date : 8th June 2012

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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

First praise is to Allah, the Almighty, on whom ultimately we depend for sustenance and guidance. Without His blessings and strengths, I would not be able to complete this dissertation. I am very grateful for this wonderful blessing and patience I have gained through out completing this dissertation.

Special appreciation and thank you goes to my wonderful supervisor, Dr. Johan @ Eddy Luaran for his supervision and constant support. I really appreciate his time, effort, patience and advice in the whole process of completing this work. I want to thank him for being such a helpful and dedicated supervisor to me and those times we had shared together will be the most unforgettable memories in my life. His invaluable help of constructive comments and suggestions throughout this process have contributed to the success of this dissertation. I could never repay his kindness and only God can repay his kindness.

Last but not least, I would like to express my deepest gratitude to my beloved parents; En. Zakaria Awang and Pn. Zaiton Ismail, my siblings, and relatives for their endless love, prayers and encouragement. To dear housemates, classmates, and friends, especially Liyana Ahmad Afip and Hartini Ibrahim, for helping when I am in need, thank you for being great support through my ups and downs. To those who indirectly contributed in this study, your kindness means a lot to me.

Thank you very much.

ABSTRACT

This study aimed to investigate novice English language teachers' competency to teach in schools. There were three research objectives examined, which were to: i) identify novice teachers' level of teaching knowledge; ii) assess their competency in classroom teaching; and iii) assess their competency in relation to the teaching knowledge and classroom teaching. This research employed a descriptive research design, with a total of forty-one novice English language teachers in secondary schools were selected as the sample for the study. The instruments used were the Teaching Knowledge Test (TKT), teaching observation form, and semi-structured interviews. All forty-one respondents were required to complete the TKT, while only nine respondents were selected for the observations and interviews based on their scores in the TKT. The findings revealed that the novice teachers have adequate teaching knowledge, as reflected in their scores in TKT. However, the knowledge was not completely applied in their teaching as observed by the researcher, which also indicated that they were incompetent in some aspects of teaching, such as choosing appropriate teaching methods and time management. The findings hoped to provide input to the teacher training programmes offered in Malaysia.

ABSTRAK

Kajian ini bertujuan untuk mengkaji tahap kompetensi guru-guru bahasa Inggeris yang baru mula mengajar di sekolah. Objektif kajian ini adalah untuk: i) mengkaji tahap ilmu pengajaran guru-guru baru bahasa Inggeris; ii) mengkaji kompetensi pengajaran dalam bilik darjah; dan iii) mengkaji tahap kompetensi berdasarkan ilmu pengajaran dan pengajaran dalam bilik darjah. Kajian ini dijalankan secara deskriptif, dengan melibatkan empat puluh satu guru-guru baru bahasa Inggeris sebagai sampel kajian. Instrumen kajian adalah Teaching Knowledge Test (TKT), borang penilaian pengajaran, dan soalan temuduga. Kesemua sampel menjawab soalan TKT, manakala hanya sembilan orang guru sahaja yang dinilai dan ditemubual berdasarkan markah yang diperolehi dalam TKT. Dapatan kajian menunjukkan guru-guru baru bahasa Inggeris mempunyai ilmu pengajaran yang mencukupi berdasarkan pencapaian mereka dalam TKT. Walaubagaimanapun, ilmu tersebut tidak dipraktikkan sepenuhnya semasa pengajaran di dalam bilik darjah. Ini adalah berdasarkan tahap kompetensi yang rendah dalam sesetengah aspek pengajaran, seperti pemilihan teknik pengajaran dan pengurusan masa. Dapatan kajian diharap dapat memberi input kepada program pendidikan guru yang dipraktikkan di Malaysia.