

**UNIVERSITI TEKNOLOGI MARA**

**FACTORS AFFECTING STUDENTS' ABILITY TO  
RESPOND TO LITERACY TEXT AS A FORM OF HIGHER  
ORDER THINKING SKILLS**

**SITI SARAH BINTI ABDUR RANI**

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

Faculty of Education

June 2013

## 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 or acknowledged as a reference 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, University Teknologi MARA, regulating the conduct of my study and research.

Name of Candidate : Siti Sarah binti Abdur Rani

Candidate's ID No. : 2010989413

Programme : Master of Education

Thesis Title : Factors Affecting Students' Ability to Relate to Literacy Text as a Form of Higher Order Thinking Skills

Signature of Candidate : 

Date : 19/8/2013

## 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 strength and sustenance. I would not be able to complete this dissertation without His blessings and guidance. I am very grateful for the wonderful blessing, strength and patience I have gained throughout completing this dissertation.

Special appreciation and thank you goes to my supervisor, Dr. Jamiah Baba for her constant support and supervision. I really appreciate her time, effort, support, advice and guidance throughout the process of completing this work. Regardless of any circumstances, she continues to offer me support and help me to build my passion to continue on this journey. Her invaluable help and constructive comments have contributed a lot to the success of this dissertation. Only God can repay her for the kindness and support she has given me.

Last but not least, I would like express my deepest gratitude to my parents; En Abdur Rani and Pn Saidah, for their understanding and encouragement to further my studies and to my siblings, especially my elder brother, Mohd Faisal who has been giving me great moral support. To dear housemates, classmates, colleagues and especially my best friend, Amy Ng for offering help, advice and a ground to stand on when I needed it the most. To those who have helped me indirectly during this journey, I would like to thank you from the bottom of my heart.

## **ABSTRACT**

This study aims to investigate secondary school students' ability to perform higher order thinking skills through relating their personal experiences and ideas and what affects the students' ability to do so. There are four research objectives; i) to examine students' ability to relate their personal experiences or ideas to the literary text, ii) to examine how teaching method employed in the classroom is related to the students' ability to relate their personal experiences and ideas to the literary text, iii) to examine how the students' interest in literature is related to their ability to reflect their personal experiences and ideas to the text, and iv) to examine how the students' attitude towards learning literature is related to their ability to reflect their personal experiences and ideas to the text. This research employed a mixed method design with a total of 131 secondary school students selected as the sample of this study. The instruments used were surveys and Reader Response semi-structured questions. The findings revealed that the majority of students were unable to relate with the literary text in a deep and meaningful way and students' interest is the only factor that plays a role in it. Furthermore, English literature lessons focus heavily on the language and content aspect of the literature component. The study via the findings, hopes to improve the teaching of the English literature component in secondary school so as to produce students with high order thinking skills.

## ABSTRAK

Kajian ini bertujuan untuk mengkaji keupayaan pelajar sekolah menengah untuk melaksanakan kemahiran berfikir aras tinggi melalui mengaitkan pengalaman dan idea peribadi mereka dan mengkaji faktor - faktor yang mempengaruhi kemampuan pelajar untuk berbuat demikian. Objektif kajian ini adalah untuk; i) untuk mengenalpasti keupayaan pelajar untuk mengaitkan pengalaman peribadi mereka atau idea kepada teks sastera, ii) untuk mengkaji bagaimana kaedah pengajaran yang digunakan di dalam kelas mempengaruhi keupayaan pelajar untuk mengaitkan pengalaman peribadi dan idea-idea mereka kepada teks sastera, iii) untuk mengkaji bagaimana minat pelajar dalam kesusasteraan mempengaruhi keupayaan mereka untuk mencerminkan pengalaman peribadi dan idea-idea mereka kepada teks, dan iv) untuk mengkaji bagaimana sikap pelajar terhadap pembelajaran sastera mempengaruhi keupayaan mereka untuk mencerminkan pengalaman peribadi dan idea-idea mereka kepada teks. Penyelidikan ini menggunakan reka bentuk kaedah yang bercampur dengan sejumlah 131 pelajar sekolah menengah dipilih sebagai sampel dalam kajian ini. Instrumen yang digunakan ialah borang soal selidik dan soalan sepana berstruktur yang menggunakan pendekatan Response Reader. Hasil kajian menunjukkan bahawa majoriti daripada pelajar tidak dapat mengaitkan pengalaman dan idea dengan teks sastera secara efektif dan minat pelajar adalah satu-satunya faktor yang mempunyai peranan di dalam fenomena tersebut. Tambahan pula, pelajaran sastera Inggeris lebih menumpukan kepada aspek bahasa dan kandungan komponen sastera. Melalui dapatan kajian, berharap dapat meningkatkan komponen sastera Bahasa Inggeris di sekolah menengah dengan harapan untuk melahirkan kebersanan pelajar yang mempunyai kemahiran pemikiran aras tinggi.