



FAKULTI MUZIK
UNIVERSITI TEKNOLOGI MARA

MUF 655
RESEARCH PROJECT

A PRELIMINARY STUDY OF PERCEPTION ON DICTION
AMONG VOCAL STUDENTS AT FACULTY OF MUSIC UTM

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ABSTRACT

This study was carried out in 2012 in the Faculty of Music, Universiti Teknologi MARA, Shah Alam. The scope of study focuses on Diploma and Degree music students, whose majoring voice as their principal studies during the period of their programs. This study was initiated basing on feedback from the respondents with regarding the importance of diction. The main objectives of this study are; 1) to explore voice major's perception on the importance and benefits of learning diction; and 2) To investigate the causes that make students lack of diction knowledge in their learning process. Analysis was done using the manual calculation. This study concluded that most of the respondents realize that diction is important in their performance; however the lack of knowledge causes the problem. With encouragement by the lecturers and the faculty, the students are motivated to learn diction and aware about the importance of diction.

DECLARATION OF AUTHORSHIP

“I declare that this thesis is the result of my own work except the ideas and summaries which I have clarified their sources. This thesis has not accepted for any degree and is not concurrently in candidate of any degree.”

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CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.0 BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY

Singing is the act of producing musical sounds within the voice. It goes without saying that melody, rhythm, articulations, tempo and etc play important roles in order to produce music, however singers, have to observe another aspect which is “diction”.

Since singer usually sings with texts from various languages, diction which is the way of expressing the words correctly in tandem with the style of its particular language is important to ensure the message of songs being delivered successfully.

Diction problem is a common problem among Malaysian singers especially when singing foreign language such as German, Italian, French and English because the Malay diction is very different from other diction. For example the word “Noir” which means night in French would sound as *[nwa]* in a proper diction. However, in Malay, it will sound as *[noer]* which will disrupt the meaning of the word. Therefore understanding of diction is very important.

To facilitate diction study, International Phonetic Alphabet or IPA system is first introduced in 1888 by The International Phonetic Association. This system consists of symbols to represent correct dictions. Therefore, as a good steps in order to improve the diction, every singer can study the IPA system by attending diction classes in order to help them to understand and be able to pronounce the foreign word accurately.