



**INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF RESEARCH ON  
LANGUAGE EDUCATION  
(I-RoLE) 2021**

***Engaging in Change: Empowering Linguistics, Literature  
& Language***

**23 – 24 MARCH 2021**

**AKADEMI PENGAJIAN BAHASA  
UNIVERSITI TEKNOLOGI MARA CAWANGAN MELAKA**

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# FOREWORD



## Rector of UiTM Melaka

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

Assalamualaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh dan Salam Sejahtera.

On behalf of Universiti Teknologi MARA Melaka I want to extend our warmest welcome to all participants of the International Conference of Research on Language Education 2021 (iRoLE 2021).

To put a digital conference of this magnitude together is not a small accomplishment, thus it gives me great pleasure to congratulate the Akademi Pengajian Bahasa (APB), UiTM Melaka for successfully hosting the important conference.

The conference theme, “Engaging in Change: Empowering Linguistics, Literature and Language” is one such endeavour to bring together local and overseas researchers, practitioners, academics, teachers and students to deliberate on theoretical underpinnings and practical implications in the fields of languages, linguistic and literature to forge emerging ideas and move forward in the fields ever-changing landscape. I am confident that the array of presentations and workshops in the conference schedule will provide excellent opportunities to build more and better collaborations between fellow researchers and practitioners.

I would like to extend my gratitude and appreciation to the strategic partners Universitas Negeri Semarang (UNNES), Chiang Rai Rajabhat University (CRRU), Universiti Teknikal Malaysia Melaka (UTEM) and Universiti Tun Hussein Onn Malaysia (UTHM) as well as the Melaka, Johor and Negeri Sembilan State Education Departments for their great support in making this event possible. My appreciation also goes to iROLE 2021 guest speakers and presenters from all corners of the world for sharing your knowledge, insights and experiences, and for providing a context for reflection; and to the attendees, for participating in our shared effort to grow both professionally and personally. I hope that all of you will continue to collaborate with each other beyond this conference and further promote and tap into the potential of research data.

I wish you all a very enjoyable conference.

**Professor Dr. Abd Halim bin Mohd Noor**  
Rector  
Universiti Teknologi MARA Melaka

# FOREWORD



## Dean of Akademi Pengajian Bahasa

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

Assalamualaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh dan Salam Sejahtera.

It gives me an immense pleasure to welcome all speakers, presenters and participants to the International Conference of Research on Language Education 2021 (i-RoLE 2021) organised by the Academy of Language Studies (APB), UiTM Melaka. While circumstances prevent a face-to-face event, we are proud to be hosting our first online conference given the new challenges of the Covid-19 pandemic that has forced us to pivot to a completely virtual one.

The theme for the two-day conference - Engaging in Change: Empowering Linguistics, Literature and Language' has been remotely set up to provide not only professionals but also novice researchers from all over the world with the opportunity to share their scholarly experiences and exchange knowledge in the different fields of languages, linguistic and literature in this increasingly complex terrain. Looking at the conference schedule, and the many wonderful and accomplished guest speakers and presenters, I am confident this conference will be a remarkable avenue of learning, networking and inspiration.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to the iRoLE 2021 organising committee and those who are involved directly and indirectly in making this event a success. I hope this remarkable event will continue in the future.

I also would like to express my deepest thanks to the speakers and presenters who did their best to submit their presentation videos in due time to ease out the technicalities during the conference. I wish you all the best in your presentations and I hope that you will enjoy and benefit tremendously from the conference. We hope that your experience in this virtual conference will be a rewarding one that sparks new collaborations and areas of inquiry.

I wish all of you an exciting virtual experience and anticipate seeing all of you again at our future events.

**Professor Dr. Othman Ismail**  
Dean  
Akademi Pengajian Bahasa

# FOREWORD



## I-RoLE 2021 Chair

Hello, Salam Sejahtera, Nínhão, Marhaba!

Academy of Language Studies UiTM Melaka is proud to host the first all-virtual International Conference of Research on Language Education 2021 (I-RoLE 2021). The theme of this conference is “Engaging in Change: Empowering Linguistics, Literature and Language”. IROLE 2021 aims to bring together scholars, researchers and practitioners to discuss, explore and address challenges in theory building, methodology development and the applications of languages, linguistic and literature that may contribute to the shaping of the fields across all educational levels. I am delighted to see the IROLE 2021 delegates are not only from academia, but also practitioners from schools and higher learning institutions as well as students. It is through conferences like these that we expand our network and partners, and I have no doubt that I-RoLE 2021 will offer a remarkable opportunity for the sharing of research and best practice, and for the meeting of people and ideas.

The conference programme includes a range of presentation types, including keynote and plenary speakers, oral presentations and workshops that I am sure would be a tremendous benefit to all of us. Putting together I-RoLE 2021 is a team effort. I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere gratitude to the I-RoLE 2021 committee members and the technical staff for their enormous work behind the scenes to ensure the delivery and success of this very important conference. May this teamwork and commitment remain in many years to come. My appreciation also goes to our strategic partners Universitas Negeri Semarang (UNNES), Chiang Rai Rajabhat University (CRRU), Universiti Teknikal Malaysia Melaka (UTEM) and Universiti Tun Hussein Onn Malaysia (UTHM) as well as the Melaka, Johor and Negeri Sembilan State Education Departments for their great support in making this event possible. I would like to thank all conference participants for your contributions which are the foundation of this conference. I encourage your very active and enthusiastic participation as we have so much to learn from each other. Lastly, I hope all of you have fruitful discussions and deliberation during the two days conference.

**Dr. Kuldip Kaur Maktiar Singh**

Chairperson

I-RoLE 2021

# I-RoLE 2021 ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

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# ABOUT I-RoLE 2021



The International Conference of Research on Language Education 2021 (I-RoLE 2021) is organized by Akademi Pengajian Bahasa, Universiti Teknologi Mara Cawangan Melaka (UiTMCM) in collaboration with the strategic partners Universitas Negeri Semarang (UNNES), Chiangrai Rajabhat University (CRRU), Universiti Teknikal Malaysia Melaka (UTeM) and Universiti Tun Hussein Onn Malaysia (UTHM) is a platform for local and international scholars and professionals to interact and share expertise, knowledge, and experience in language education.

The sub-themes may include but not limited to:

- Language Teaching and Learning
- Applied Language Studies
- Language Assessment
- Language and Technology
- Language Policy and Governance
- Language Education and Sustainable Development Goals

## ORGANIZERS:



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# SESSION 3 | ROOM 1

Session 3  
IRole 025

## A preliminary study on third tone sandhi in Malaysian Mandarin

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Mandarin Chinese has increased in importance among the Chinese community in Malaysia. At present, not only is Mandarin the only medium of instruction in Chinese schools, it has also become a lingua franca of local Chinese Malaysians of various dialect groups. With the expansion of the Global Chinese concept, numerous studies have been carried out on the Mandarin used in Malaysia (henceforth, Malaysian Mandarin). However, these studies have mostly focused on lexical and syntactic aspects rather than on the phonetic system of Malaysian Mandarin. In an attempt to begin filling this gap, and to better understand the development of sound systems in varieties of Mandarin within the concept of Global Chinese, this paper examines the acoustic characteristics of the third tone sandhi in Malaysian Mandarin. A nursery rhyme which consists of nineteen third tone (T3) syllables were used to collect production data from 44 Chinese Malaysian undergraduate students. The findings indicate that generally, the T3 sandhi phenomena in Malaysian Mandarin matches the sandhi rule of Standard Chinese. However, the acoustic realization of T3 in terms of pitch contour and voice quality show some difference. In addition, the implementation of T3 sandhi is also affected by the syntactic and rhythm structure if a disyllabic or trisyllabic T3 sequence occurs across two feet. The findings suggest that the prosodic structure in Malaysian Mandarin may be developing differently from Standard Mandarin.

Keywords: Malaysian Mandarin; third tone sandhi; tonal realisation; Chinese prosody; Global Chinese



# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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