



اَوْبُو سَيِّدِي تَيْكُونُو لُو كِي مَارَا  
UNIVERSITI  
TEKNOLOGI  
MARA

**UNIVERSITI TEKNOLOGI MARA**

**STREET DESIGN TOWARDS SAFE  
CITY: SNATCH THEFT  
HOTSPOT AREA**

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**MSc**

**April 2019**

## **ABSTRACT**

Malaysia is one of the countries in the world that is having rapid urbanisation development. The urban areas tend to have the tendency of having high crime rates because both crime and urban are correlated with each other. There has been a growing concern in towards street pattern design that are safe friendly to all users due to the streets environment which are perceived as street crime prone such as snatch theft to the street users. Snatch theft is one of major street crime problems in Malaysia. The aim of this research is to identify the street pattern in urban area that influence snatch theft activities and the relationships of the street design and snatch theft hotspot areas. The research employed a qualitative methodology using a case study approach. This research is using the Geographic Information System (GIS) and Batchgeo software to produce the snatch theft maps from the statistical data obtained from Royal Malaysian Police (RMP). Taman Pandan Indah neighbourhood in Ampang Jaya was selected based on the statistical data and produced maps of snatch theft from 2010 to 2015. A field observations is conducted using checklists, photos and maps procedures. This research explores the notions of Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED) in urban area. The research has found that the factors that contribute to the snatch theft incidents are accessibility, and surveillance. The findings show the area with high number of snatch incidents is becoming a snatch theft hotspot area and the area with high number of reported snatch theft cases possessed a fragmented parallel street pattern. These findings contribute the gap in the knowledge concerning the most important type of street pattern designs that should be used in urban areas based on the situation in Malaysia which has a different climate, social activities and cultural context from other previous researches.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

First and foremost, alhamdulillah, I am grateful to Allah for His endless Blessing, giving me health, strength, and ability to complete this research. I would like to give my appreciation and thanks especially for both of my mother, \_\_\_\_\_, and father, \_\_\_\_\_, for giving me their full motivation and support either emotionally, physically, or financially. Their endless support has always been my main motivation to complete this dissertation. Not forgetting also my siblings who lend me a hand whenever needed mentally and spiritually and for helping me throughout this research.

I would like to acknowledge and appreciate the contribution of the supervisory committee members for their guidance in the preparation of the thesis. Dr. Siti Rasidah Md Sakip and Dr. Norhafizah Abdul Rahman have been cooperatively giving the support through the course of the research with valuable insights and constructive comments.

I wish to thank the respected officials from Polis Diraja Malaysia (PDRM), namely \_\_\_\_\_, Pegawai Turus Statistik Bahagian Rekod Jenayah D4, Jabatan Siasatan Jenayah for his willingness to give cooperation for the research. He has provided vital data and information regarding the crime data for every state in Malaysia.

My appreciation also goes to the Head of the Faculty of Architecture, Planning, and Surveying, Universiti Teknologi MARA Cawangan Perak and the rest of the faculty members for their support and interest in the research and those who have been assist me in gathering and research materials. Last but not least, I would like to thank all my friends who has either directly or indirectly helped me in completing this research.

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# CHAPTER ONE

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Introduction

Most countries around the world are vigorously pursuing sustainable development with the aim of producing a sustainable city. Safety is one of the factors that contribute to a sustainable urban area. In an urban environment, the possibility of criminal activities is very high since there is an association between an urban setting and crime. This notion was supported by Cozens (2008), who said that every potential threat to long-term health, endurance, personal safety as well as the security of both, the built environment and its citizens, must be considered when developing a sustainable city. Cozens (2008) also added that certain sustainability frameworks included crime, which arguably requires more explicit integration.

Malaysia is one of the countries that is facing rapid urbanisation after obtaining independence from its colonial masters in 1957. In addition, the crime rate has been increasing as well, which is one of the challenges faced by Malaysians. Urbanisation not only improves the standard of living but also contributes towards several globalisation issues that threaten the safety, comfort and well-being of the people. The increase in criminal activities and violence has become a buzzword, broadcasted in the local media and websites. Crime has become the urban community's dilemma that directly affects people's lives. Criminal activities, such as snatch thefts, burglaries, armed robberies, kidnappings, attacks on civilians and personal violations have become rampant. This has raised concerns and uneasiness among urbanites. The rise in criminal activities and violence lends a perception that the urban vicinity as a place that is dangerous and threatens the safety of the people.

The government is aware of this issue and is putting immense efforts in reducing crime through the National Key Result Areas (NKRAs) initiative that was established in the Government Transformation Program (GTP) (Prime Minister, 2010). NKRA was announced by the Prime Minister in July 2009, where one of the criteria included efforts in reducing crime. The purpose of the NKRA program is to inform citizens of the country's development plan as well as observe and evaluate the targeted