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INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF RESEARCH ON LANGUAGE EDUCATION 2023

EMBRACING CHANGE:
EMANCIPATING THE LANDSCAPE OF RESEARCH IN LINGUISTIC, LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE

13 - 14 MARCH 2023

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SHORT STORY: DISEASE TAKES HAPPINESS AWAY

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ABSTRACT:
This century has witnessed technology as an element that contribute to the thriving of people's activity, social media, games, music. Despite that, one activity that people tend to dislike is reading. Even though there is an *e-book* option, it is still not exciting and robust enough to make people read. Reading can take a huge total, especially an English novel. This is probably because the word or sentence is hard to understand. English may be a second language in Malaysia but there are still plenty of people who are struggling with it. So, the creation of short story to help people develop their English skills Thus, this paper explains how a short story can help to spark the interest of people of all ages to read. To capture readers' attention, a story about a cat owner's experience with a cat with a disease was produced. The purpose of this paper is to encourage people to read English short stories. Technical vocabulary is the language theory used in this project. According to (Nation, 2001), technical vocabulary is one of the high-frequency terms that account for around 80% of the running words in academic publications and newspapers, as well as approximately 90% of conversation and novels. A survey was conducted among cat owners which consist of three sections; demographic, pet owners' background and cat diseases. Pet owners recommend providing daily check-ups to the clinic to avoid worse conditions towards cats.

Keywords: technical vocabulary, cat diseases, pet owners

1. INTRODUCTION

A short story is usually about one particular tale with a little number of characters. It is different from a novel in length where a short story is shorter than a novel intended to be read in a single setting. Short stories can help new readers understand a word or sentence in English easily because the content or storyline is less complex. This can help Malaysians who are weak or have less knowledge to improve their English through easy reading for further outcomes. English is an important language to succeed since it is a language globally used to communicate among people from different countries. According to Dylan Lyons (March 10, 2021), out of 7.8 billion inhabitants, 1.35 billion speak English and the majority aren't native speakers. This shows how people understand how important to be good in English for business, entertainment, communication and in academia.

Malaysia is one of the countries that prioritize English as a second language. English is taught to children in schools and universities. Despite that, the results of the student's understanding of English are low. According to Siva Selan (16 February 2021), students who attended the full years of primary and secondary school spend over a decade learning English, yet are often unable to communicate fluently outside the classroom setting. This is a concern towards fresh graduates' standard English proficiency. Besides that, it shows how learning English in schools is not enough for students to improve their English. People need to take the

initiative to enhance their English by searching for ways which can help them to understand easily.

1.1 Project Objective/ Purpose

The product's main purpose is to encourage people to read English books, specifically short stories. In addition, it simplifies new English learners' understanding of new words or sentences assorted in the short story. Besides that, these are the objectives of the short story:

1.1.1 Assist readers to gain comprehension meaning of cat disease acronyms
1.1.2 Acknowledge readers to realize the seriousness of cat disease
1.1.3 Appreciate the bond between a cat and its owner

1.2 Entrepreneurial Opportunities

In the early stages of this project, not many books on cats and disease can be found in a physical book store and online shopping web. What exactly makes this project is different from the others? This project intends to produce short story in the form of an e-book. Book lovers may prefer to buy books physically, but others prefer e-books. It is believed that e-book has a huge potential to be commercialized since it could save trouble for the readers. There is a saying that says "one device, many books". Likewise, if a person goes on vacation, they can save their luggage space from physical books since the e-book is usually accessible on any electronic device.

Aside from that, as this project focuses on cats, it can be considered that it possesses entrepreneurial opportunities. As cats can be categorized as human's best friend, it invokes curiosity and confusion among pets owners should their cats are unwell, leading them to find more information regarding cats diseases. This is proven when one of the respondents who also happen to own a cat went for a consultation with the veterinarian, got confused as the pet owner was not familiar with terms used.

Moreover, cat owners who truly love their cats would do everything they can to ensure their cats live a long life and find a source that is easy to understand like the story. The story is about a cat story with a scientific disease which is life-threatening. The e-book also includes prevention ways and signs of ailing cats. Hence, this short story could help cat owners in any way so their beloved cats can live a long healthy life.

Lastly, this project is not intended for sale. It only acts as a sample of an online publication, which is believed to be able to attract attention from publishers and doubtlessly succeeded in generating money in the future.

2. METHODOLOGY

Consecutively, to help people of all ages to increase their comprehension of English, it is decided that the creation a short story with a topic that sparked the interest among Malaysians is the best way to do. "*Disease takes happiness away*" is a short story for all ages, especially cat owners. This story is about a cat owner's experience with cats with a disease. According to Statista Research Department (October 5, 2022), a survey conducted by Rakuten Insight in January 2022, 60 per cent of the respondents in Malaysia indicated that they have cats as pets. This is a clear evidence of why cats as the topic was chosen. From this short story, readers can consider the danger and impact of cat diseases towards their cats and how they can damage owners emotionally.

The subsequent step was to gather necessary information from respondents. This is done through online survey, namely, using Google Form. 23 responded to the survey and data from this help the researchers in identifying types of diseases available among cats and ways to handle or cure cat diseases.

As the plan is to produce an e-book, the best platform to publish it is through blog, as one of the researchers own a blog. The intention is to gain readers' feedback on the story and attract publishers to invest in this story in the future. Despite no income coming out of this project for now, this project could increase cat owners' regarding cat diseases.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

To ensure the flow of the project, data from respondents are greatly needed. The survey contains three sections: section a (demographic), section b (pet owner's background) and section c (cat disease). Both pie chart shown below summarize the findings.

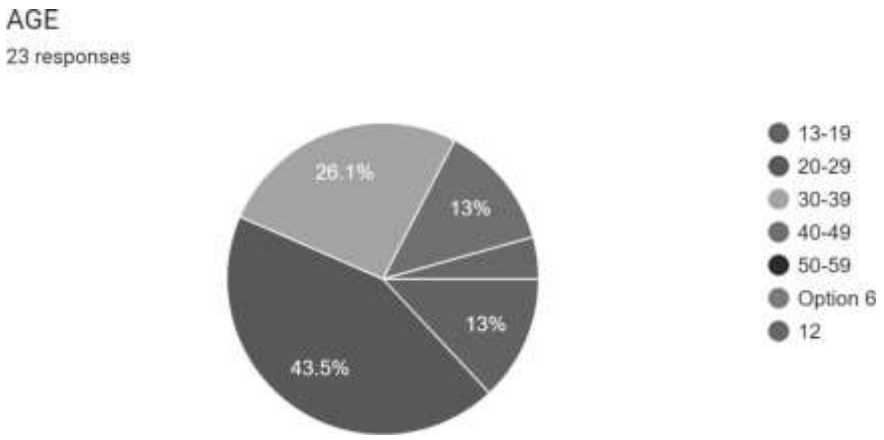

Figure 1. Age of the respondents

The pie chart above shows the age range of cat owners. Most cat owners are in the age range of 20-29 at 43.5% while there is only one person with the age of 12 with cats. People aged 20-29 is the majority of people with cats because they can depend on their income to manage their cat's needs, entertainment and medical check-up. People under the age of 12 are still under their parent's care so they probably had a limited budget for taking care of cats properly.

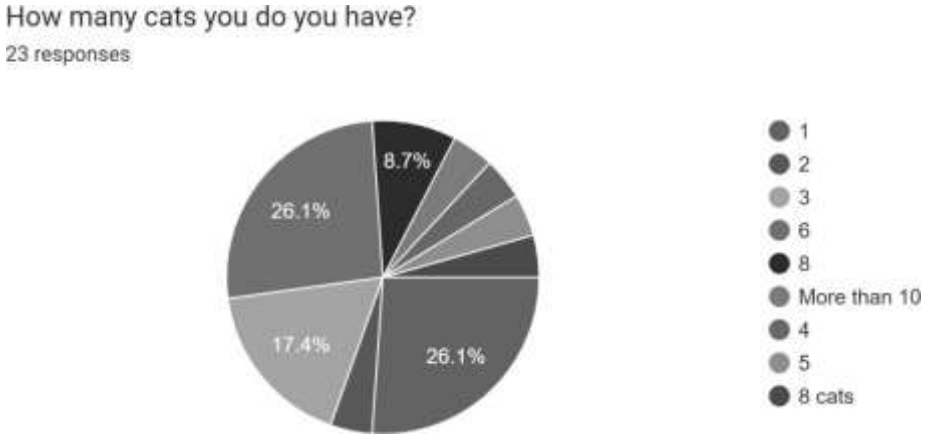

Figure 2. number of cats that respondents had.

In addition, respondents mostly had the same percentage which is 26.1% , 6 and 1 total cats. From here, it is discovered that this is the normal total of people who had cats. Thus, it is concluded that the story that must contain equal balance knowledge to make sure readers understand the content about cats.

Total years the respondents become cat owners / Total of respondents	1 to 2 years	3 to 5 years	6 years above
21	7	5	9

Table 1. Total years the respondents become cat owners.

This is the first result from section b regarding pet owners' backgrounds. Despite the actual total number of respondents unfortunately two of the respondents left this question blank. In this case, we can see that most of the respondents had years of experience with taking care of cats which can help us to receive answers later regarding cat diseases that they had faced throughout their years of encounter.

Age of the respondent's cats / Total respondents	1- 9 months	1-5 years	6 years above	Unsure
22	2	14	4	2

Table 2. Age of the respondent's cats.

The above table present the results for the age of the respondent's cats. However, only 22 respondents responded to this question. There may be an error happening in the google form. Most of the respondents had cats 1 to 5 years old which counts as a young age for cats so the probability of the owners encountering sickness is probably less. The owners likely to experience less threatening diseases towards their cats.

Types of cat disease	Total
Kidney	3
Sporo	2
Diarrhea	2
Fungus	2
Mites, Ear mites	1
Fleas	1

Parvo	1
Jaw pain	1
Fever, flu, cough	2
Eczema	1
FIP	1
Allergic skin	1
Inflammation	1
None	3

Table 3. Types of disease encountered by cat owners.

The table above shows the total of diseases faced by the owners. The total is not based on the total of respondents. Various types of diseases that a cat may come across. This reveals that cats can have diseases as it also living to be. Proper medical checks and precautions need to take to avoid critical diseases towards cats.

4. CONCLUSION

In conclusion, technical vocabulary is essential to learn since people may come upon words or phrases that they are not familiar with. This project focuses on veterinarian terminology of cat disease. Cat diseases have some acronyms that are loosely considered by cat owners. It may be hard for one to learn multiple things at once, but with a steady pace and patience in learning, people can understand multiple words far from their selected field. Knowledge is everywhere, so learn as many technical vocabulary as possible. As some cats owner may have more than one cat, and each cat may have different diseases, cat owners need to take care of their needs, entertainment and medical check. Recommendations from the cat's owners are to love cats as a family, bring them to the vet, take care of the environment.

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