

(i)

THE USE OF COOPERATIVE LEARNING FOR THE YEAR SIX PUPILS TO PROMOTE THEIR INTEREST IN WRITING A THESIS SUBMITTED IN PARTIAL FULFILMENT OF THE REQUIREMENT FOR THE HONOURS DEGREE IN TEACHING OF ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE (T.E.S.L)

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CHAPTER ONE

BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY

1.0 Introduction

The Ministry of Education, through the Department of Education, has under gone a number of changes in the education system over the last number of years. One of the major changes involved is the introduction of English for the teaching of Maths and Science (EteMS) stress on the overall development of individuals for the Primary 1 school pupils. As a result, the Government believes that for a change in educational achievement to occur, fundamental changes must occur in the structure, with an increased emphasis placed on the act of teaching. The ideals and principles underlying KBSR are in line with the aspiration of our National Educational Philosophy (NEP) which aims to produce Malaysia citizens who are :

> ...knowledgeable, competent, of high moral standards, responsible and capable of attaining a high level of self well-being, as well as able to contribute towards the harmony and prosperity of the society and nation. (in Ministry of Education, 1981:6)

The NEP stresses on the physical, mental, spiritual and emotional growth of individuals. As a results, changes in the delivery approaches will be required. The teacher will be required to provide a more hands on approach in order for pupils to achieve the required curriculum outcomes. If the traditional teaching approach continues, pupils may have difficulty in achieving these outcomes. Cooperative Learning (CL) may be part of the solution to this problem. CL characterizes

CHAPTER TWO

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

2.0 Introduction

Various definitions of Cooperative Learning (CL) have been offered.

Cooperation is working together to accomplish goals. Within cooperative activities, individuals seek outcomes that are beneficial to themselves as well as to all other group members. CL is the instructional use of small groups so that students work together to maximize their own and one another's learning (Johnson & Johnson, 1991).

Ministry of Education calls for reform in education have urged schools to recognize that different pupils may learn in different ways and emphasis need to be placed on how pupils learn best. There are several methods in which teachers can present material and several ways in which pupils prefer to learn the material ; the learning process is not the same for all pupils and teachers must acknowledge and act upon these variations. CL is one way teachers can recognize differences in pupils learning styles. As a teaching strategy, CL is very dependent upon pupil interactions that occur in the learning environment.

2.1 Cooperative Learning (CL)

CL, therefore, is not new to education. Although the methodology may not have been used, CL in some form has been happening for decades. CL is defined as