



UNIVERSITI TEKNOLOGI MARA

**AN INVESTIGATION ON THE IMPORTANCE OF
MOTIVATION IN INFLUENCING STUDENTS'
PERFORMANCE IN THE SECOND LANGUAGE. A CASE
STUDY AMONG THE MALAY STUDENTS OF S.K. RANTAU
PANJANG, BATU KAWA, KUCHING.**

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ABSTRACT

This study intends to gain better understanding and insights into the importance of motivation in influencing students' performance in the learning of the second language. The investigation was carried out with special reference to the Malay students of S. K. Rantau Panjang who were represented by 20 respondents whose performance in English was quite low despite very good achievement (Grade A) in the other major subjects. For the collection of data, a set of questionnaire and pre-structured interviewed questions were used to assess respondents' perception on elements that contribute to the importance of motivation in the learning of the second language. The data collected was analyzed using the Statistical Package for Social Science (SPSS) program and the findings from the interviews were discussed in descriptive form. The findings showed that motivation is very essential in the learning of the second language. Various strategies such as giving rewards, the used of interesting approaches and aid, having lots of reading materials, cooperative learning and so forth as motivational drive are recommended. From the study it was found that motivation is vital in influencing the students' performance among the Malay students of S. K. Rantau Panjang was achieved.

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND INFORMATION

1.1 Introduction

Motivation is defined as the learner's orientation with regard to the goal of learning the second language. There are various factors that contribute to the success of the second language. One of the much-talked about factors is students' motivation. Although learners are exposed into a rich learning environment, unless they themselves are motivated to learn, it will not guarantee the success of the learners. Learners who are motivated to learn are those who are willing and eager to invest their effort during the learning process. This will contribute to an easy and more pleasant teaching and learning process.

The scenario of learning the second language among the students in S. K. Rantau Panjang might be observed as lack of motivation. The majority of the students get relatively low marks in their performance in the second language as compared to the other subjects. In the classroom, students do not pay much attention in their learning of the second language. They learn the second language

CHAPTER 2

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

2.0 Introduction

Zalina (1999) states that, in line with the National Education Policy in 1957, English is to be taught as an effective second language in Malaysian schools. The need to be competent in the English is still important though its status is only as a second language. This is because English is the language of knowledge and the language of international communication.

This clearly explains that the aim of the second language learning in Malaysian schools is to enable learners to communicate effectively and efficiently in the second language for socializing and professional situations. The problem faced is the level of competency in the language among the students is still not encouraging. Nirmalar, Saratha & Teh (1995, p.9) stated that “English is a subject in primary and secondary schools. However, a high percentage of students fail to achieve an acceptable level of competence in the second language. Reasons often cited for this state of affairs are: