USING COURSEWARE TO ENHANCE THE TEACHING OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE IN YEAR ONE

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ABSTRACT

This study describes the effects of teaching and learning using English courseware in Year One in the Kuching Division. Fifty Year One English teachers and twenty students in Kuching Division participated in this study. The Year One English teachers were assigned to give responses based on their experiences in teaching using the computer-based courseware that has been implemented since the year 2002 in all primary schools throughout the nation. Twenty students from Year One were interviewed during the course of the study to obtain their feedback based on their learning experiences using the courseware in the classroom. Both the teachers' and students' responses collected were analyzed to investigate the effects of using courseware in the teaching and learning English in Year One.

The findings in this study indicated that the use of courseware in teaching and learning English Year one were very helpful. It helped teachers to present their lessons effectively during English lesson. Teachers found out that they could achieve their learning objectives. Many teachers felt that courseware played important role to motivate students in learning English language. On the other hand found out that learning using courseware are more meaningful and they could understand the skills taught better. It was recommended that teachers should make used of the teaching courseware in the teaching and learning of English language. Suggestions and recommendation for further research were also discussed.

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CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Introduction

The importance of English as a second language in Malaysia as a subject taught in schools has led to various changes made by the Ministry of Education in order to upgrade the teaching and learning of the language. Improving the teaching and learning of English has always been the concern of teachers, teacher educators as well as those in the Ministry of Education. Several ways and means have been resorted to, some of which, especially the retaining of English language teachers, are expensive and time consuming. Nevertheless, the search for avenues to improve the teaching and learning of English as a second language has not diminished. Advanced technology has expanded the scope of this search. The advent of the notebook computer has paved the way for a number of strategies.

The government has begun minor changes in the education system to improve the standard of English. The Ministry of Education's Curriculum Development Department was instructed to revise the curriculum in the English Syllabus in order to improve teaching and learning strategies since the year 2000. In implementing the new strategies used in English class, the Ministry is facing a shortage of English teachers to teach the subject. The Ministry has to find ways to solve the problem through short term planning to help teachers who are not proficient in English to use Courseware to enhance the teaching and learning of the subject.

CHAPTER 2

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

2.1 Introduction

Computers have developed rapidly over the past quarter century. They have become more powerful and are able to process and store much more data, and are faster, cheaper, smaller, easier to use and more convenient.

Today, personal computers are within the reach of even ordinary people. As the price of computer decreases, more people have their own computers at home. Some even carry laptop computers to work. Most teachers use word processing programmes to prepare and write examinations, handouts for classes and also staff meetings.

In recent years, equipment such as hard disks, CD-ROMs, laser disks and printers used in computers has developed rapidly. As such, a computer programme can handle sound, pictures and video along with characters. Using computer programmes that can handle audio, visual and animation such as 'multimedia' involves combining written text, sounds and still pictures. Thus, the world of computers is getting closer to the world of human beings. Some people own several computers and some carry laptop computers and work while commuting. Even some students have their own computers at home and write papers for classes. There are more computers in offices and schools. Many teachers use word processing programmes to write exam, hand out for class and meetings and their academic papers. Because computers education is now required in schools.