



UNIVERSITI TEKNOLOGI MARA

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KAMPUS SAMARAHAN
SARAWAK**

ENHANCING WRITING SKILL THROUGH PICTURES AMONG THE 2005 FORM ONE
STUDENTS SMK. PENRISSEN NO. 1 KUCHING

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
APPROVAL SHEET	ii
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT	iii
TABLE OF CONTENTS	iv
LIST OF TABLE	viii
LIST OF ABBREVIATION	ix
ABSTRACT	x
CHAPTER 1 INTRODUCTION	
1.0 An Overview	1
1.1 Statement of Problem	1
1.2 Purpose of Study	4
1.3 Research Hypothesis	5
1.4 Significance of the Study	5
1.5 Definition of Terms	6
1.5.1 Pictures	6
1.5.2 Writing Skill	6
1.5.3 ESL Learners	8
1.6 Limitation of the Study	8

ABSTRACT

While it may be true to say that the traditional role of writing in schools is to monitor and test what has been taught, there are good reasons why writing has an important part to play in the language classroom. Writing is a tool for communication. It is not only about passing information but also about keeping a permanent record of information. Effective writing requires the right choice of writing mechanics and appropriate vocabulary.

In Malaysian schools, writing is one of the components which are given the emphasis in the KBSM syllabus. The compositions are marked and graded by the English language teachers.

This study is trying to find out whether pictures can enhance learner's writing skills. The study involved 40 Form One students from a semi-urban school in Kuching. The respondents were divided into two groups; the controlled group and the experimental group.

The finding of the study revealed that the treatment had improved the quality of the students' writing. There was a remarkable improvement in the aspect of content, organization of ideas and length. There was a slight improvement in the mechanic of writing, sentence structure and choice of vocabulary. However, there was no obvious improvement in the grammatical aspect of the composition.

The data were presented in graphic presentation and analyzed using the Microsoft Excel software. The study was concluded by providing some recommendations based on the implication of the study.

CHAPTER 1

Introduction

1.0 An Overview

This section discusses the overall purposes of the research study, research hypotheses, significance of the study, defining the key terms and limitation of the study.

1.1 Statement of Problem

The change in the status of English in the Malaysian education system has brought with it numerous problems in acquiring the language for both learners and teachers. Today, Malaysians are facing the declining standard of both spoken and written English among her people. The poor writing skills among Malaysians worry every strata of the society. This is no more a perceived fear but a real one that haunts everybody; teachers, parents and the society at large. Therefore further investigation needs to be carried out on how to enhance writing skill using the English language among Malaysians.

With the implementation of the KBSR and KBSM in the late eighties, writing skill is taught in both primary and secondary schools in Malaysia. In the English syllabus for the KBSM, the teaching and learning of the four language skills is taught through integrating it with other language skills. “The four language skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing did not appear as discrete items in the syllabus but were integrated” (Huraian Sukatan Pelajaran Tingkatan 1, Ministry of Education, Malaysia).

CHAPTER 2

Literature Review

2.0 Introduction

This chapter reviews the literatures related to “Enhancing writing skill through pictures and to a theoretical framework based on Hymes and Bakhtin. It also looks into the status of English in Malaysia, what is writing, types and function of writing in the ESL classroom, the writing process and why ESL learners find writing difficult. It also discusses the importance of using pictures in writing composition in the ESL classroom.

2.1 Status of English in Malaysia

The upgrading of Bahasa Melayu as the national language in Malaysia is recommended in the Razak Report (1956). It is to be used as the medium of instruction in all educational institutions and the status of English is then as a second language. The status of English as the second language was reaffirmed by the New Education policy 1971. It is because English is indispensable for the acquisition of knowledge and for accessibility to the latest developments in science and technology (Dr. Asmah 1979:24). The teaching of English is compulsory in Malaysian schools and institutions of higher learning. However, a pass is not obligatory for the reward of a certificate for Penilaian Menengah Rendah (PMR), Sijil Pelajaran Malaysia (SPM) and Sijil Tinggi Pelajaran Malaysia (STPM).