



UNIVERSITI TEKNOLOGI MARA

# **A Study Investigating Factors That Affect Students Speaking Ability In English In SK Pasir Pandak**

**by**

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## **Abstract**

This book was prepared after the researcher had determined the problem face by the Students of SK Pasir Pandak. The researcher used an exploratory research to do this study.

Results showed that most of the students had either fear or unpleasant feelings about their English learning especially in speaking skills. The study had proven that attitude, motivation, exposure to the language, teachers' and parents' encouragement were the key factors that contribute to success and failure of the students. Several suggestions are provided for future application in teaching English to enhance students' interest and students' competence in the language.

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# CHAPTER 1

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Introduction

Speaking skills is a crucial tool for communication, thinking and learning process of individuals. Therefore in speaking, one must possess abilities that enable him or her to convey and interpret messages and to negotiate meanings interpersonally within the specific context. Savignon (1983) notes, “communicative competence is relative, not absolute, and depends on the cooperation of all the participants involved.” As such, it is very important for students to equip themselves in the communication skill particularly in second language learning because it is not as easy as acquiring the mother tongue language; it involves a lot of “immensely complex phenomenon” and “practical understanding of the activities, which helped better understanding” (Mitchell & Myles, 1998) of the language. It is due to this fact that learners of this language need to struggle to gain knowledge of the language competent speakers of the language. In Malaysia, it is compulsory for students to master the language, as it carries second language status in the Malaysian Curriculum Syllabus. For the primary school level, the students are taught 240 minutes for the Year 1 to Year 3 per week, and 210 minutes for the Year 4 to Year 6 per week. Within this time frame, students are taught the four language skills; listening, speaking, reading and writing. This is for the purpose of preparing students to face real-life situations involving the use of English in practical world.