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FACTORS THAT CONTRIBUTE CUSTOMERS' PREFERENCE IN SELECTING A RESTAURANT

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CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION

1.0 Background of the Study

There are a lot of restaurants in Malaysia. According to Department of Statistics Malaysia (2015), there were 167,490 establishments of food and beverage services in Malaysia. In Malaysia, for sure, you will never run out of ideas to find the right restaurant whether street foods, fancy restaurants, mamak stalls or fast food restaurants (Sin, 2017). Malaysia also called as a food heaven for a reason (Sin, 2017). There are different types of restaurant which have different factors that can contribute customers in selecting the restaurant.

Nowadays, dining at the restaurant is no longer a strange thing for Malaysian people. According to Khazanah Research Institute (2015), it has been found that the trend of dine out amongst Malaysians had almost doubled in the last three decades. "Statistics show that in the average household expenditure on food away from home out of total household expenditure monthly has seen doubled from 4.6% in 1973 to nearly 9 % in 2010," Khazanah said.

Malaysians people love to eat outside because cities like Kuala Lumpur have offer many things in terms of diversity of cuisines (The Star Online, 2014). This is because of the several of food in Malaysia regardless of its appearance or way of serving, have successfully makes people want to try the food. It is also might be some factor that can contribute in customers' preference of selecting the restaurant.

The meaning of preference is "refer to certain characteristics any consumer wants to have in a good or service to make it preferable to him. This could be a level of happiness, degree of satisfaction, utility of the product, etc. Preferences are the main factors that influence consumer demand." (The Economic Times).