

A STUDY ON THE IMPORTANCE OF MASTERING IN ENGLISH OF AN ART & DESIGN'S PROGRAM STUDENT IN UITM SARAWAK

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ABSTRACT

This study was carried out to identify the importance on mastering in English. 30 respondents are comes from UiTM students in Kota Samarahan Campus. The research was conducted by giving out the questionnaire to respondents for different courses, age, SPM result and etcetera. A set of questionnaire were designed to gain primary data from the respondents about the factors of difficulties in mastering English in their subject course. The overall findings of the study indicates that vocabulary was the most factors that majority of students experience while achieving some certain level of performance. In conclusion, some suggestions have been made to enhance the achievement of students and recommendation for future research has also been included in the final part of the report.

CHAPTER 1

1.0 INTRODUCTION

This study was prepared to fulfill the requirement of Diploma in Public Administration of the UiTM. An exploratory research approach is used to study on the important of mastering in English on Art & Design's student. University Teknologi Mara (UiTM) is one of the tertiary institutions in Malaysia that offers various English courses to its students. There are a large number of higher learning institutions in Malaysia that are governed by and under supervision of Ministry of Higher Education (MOHE), Malaysia. As to date, Malaysia has 20 public universities (http://www.mohe.gov.my) and Universiti Teknologi Mara (UiTM) is the largest university in Malaysia, with a student population of over 100,000 and branch campuses in 14 states throughout the country (http://www.uitm.edu.my).

At the diploma level, semester 1 students of Arts & Design students are required to take a course called Preparatory English or better known as BEL 120, BEL 260 & BEL 311. It consists of six contact hours per week which is equivalent to three credit hours per semester. This course is aimed at improving student's proficiency level and designed to prepare them for Mainstream English Courses at UiTM that covers grammar, reading, writing and speaking. By the end of the course, students should be able to use the skills acquired in the respective components in communicating effectively.

The lack of interest among UiTM diploma students in learning English has become a major concern among English language lectures because the students are supposed to excel in this subject since the medium of the instruction in UiTM is English. However, to the researchers, the students orientations, attitudes and individual personal characteristics are more of their concern since they believe that these students may have been influenced by certain factors or developed certain kind of attitudes. Furthermore, studies done on daily rural school students revealed that there are significant relationship between the students attitudes and their English language achievement. If the UiTM students were tested on their attitudes and motivation toward learning English language, there have been some opinions that if a