

Universiti Teknologi MARA

Malay Dialect Translator for Android

Fatin Aqilah Bt Khahiri

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ABSTRACT

Malay is a language used in various Asian countries like Malaysia, Singapore, Brunei and Indonesia. Different country has its own Malay dialect. In fact, Malay in Malaysia has also different dialect for each state. Dialect is part of a language that may have different pronunciation, vocabulary and grammar among the different dialects. Misunderstanding or miscommunication may occur during a conversation among two people from different states due to different dialects. There exist translator applications for mobile phones that cater for different languages but not for the different dialects within a country. Thus, this research investigates the translation of eleven dialects that represent eleven states in Malaysia based on exact and partial keyword search using bi-gram technique for mobile phones. A database has been constructed consisting of one hundred words from each dialect in Malaysia with a total of one thousand and one hundred words. These words were gathered from the native resident of each state. This mobile application has been developed using Android Studio and SQLite for the database. The dialect translation can be performed from one dialect to the standard Malay, from the standard Malay to a dialect and from English to a dialect. Besides that, this mobile application also provide lists of places to visit and eat and the direction to those places when one is in a particular state. This application has been evaluated by three different groups. The validity and accuracy of the translation has been verified by a language expert while the usability of the interface design has been validated by an interface expert. The usefulness of this application has been tested by a few users. The results are very satisfying.

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CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

This chapter provides the background and rationale for the study. It also gives details of the significance, the issues, and problems that led to this research.

1.0 Introduction

The uniqueness of Malaysian culture is known through a variety of languages and dialects. Malay is a language from the Austronesian circle of relatives, a widely spoken language in the world (Khaw, Y. M. J., & Tan, T. P. (2014). Omar, A. et al., (2015) stated that a dialect is a diverse form of a single language. . There are thirteen dialect in Malaysia and each state has its own dialect. For example, a Kelantanese speaks in a different dialect compared to a Johorian. These two dialects are different from the standard Malay language. Thus, the Malays from these different states that use different dialects have difficulties in understanding one another during a conversation.

1.1 Project Background

The purpose of Malay Dialect is to transform a dialect from a casual format to its formal format without missing its meaning (Sarath K.S., Nair, M. V., Rajeev, R. R., & Raj, P.R., 2014). Resolving these dialects through mobile applications would benefit communication for tourist, either from inside of outside of Malaysia. There are many advantages when having a dialect translator in a certain state which is it can be easier for tourist from a foreign country who have difficulties in reading and understanding text written in the local language of that country. Some of the dialect translator systems can be embedded into speech to text, text to text, image to text and many more application systems, which easily defines the dialect in a specific language. For example, voice dialect translator allows the user to speak the word of a dialect from one state and it can translate into standard Malay Language or into English. It indicates that the dialect translator is important to