DICTIONARY USE AMONG STUDENTS OF HIGHER LEARNING

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CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

This chapter particularly focuses on the dictionary use among students of UiTM Perak. Furthermore, this chapter explains on the several elements related to the study starting with the background of the study and followed by statement of the problem. The research objective as well as the research questions is also identified together with the scope, and the significance of the study.

1.1 BACKGROUND OF THE RESEARCH

Spelling errors, wrong choice of words, and lack of vocabulary are common drumfire of criticisms from English teachers on ESL learners' common mistakes. Most English teachers would suggest, as one of the ways, the use of dictionary to compensate students' deficiency in vocabulary knowledge. Dictionary, however, contains loads of information such as grammar, phonetics, idioms, collocations and other references which could pose as a challenge for students to acquire its reference skills. Indeed, dictionary consultation demands sophisticated skills and sound knowledge of dictionary for students to really benefit from its contents.

Another obstacle for English teachers who encourage dictionary use among students is the latter's perception that dictionary is only effective in finding meaning. In schools throughout Malaysia, teaching dictionary skills is not incorporated into