THE ATTRIBUTES OF THE DIGITAL NATIVES IN A MALAYSIAN PUBLIC UNIVERSITY

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ABSTRACT

The study was conducted to investigate the attributes of the Malaysian digital natives in a Malaysian public university. It intends to look at the relationship between the attributes of the digital natives with their language learning strategies and pedagogical implications of their language classrooms. A total of 150students from various courses in the Faculty of Education UiTM Shah Alam were chosen as participants. A survey research method was used. The survey includes the respondents' attributes as digital natives, their language learning strategies in language classrooms as well as the pedagogical implications of their proposed language classrooms. The findings of the study suggest that the respondents possess similar attributes of digital natives as reported in previous research such as fluency in the use of multiple technological platforms, active use of the Internet, having short attention span, inclination to multitask, preference for activities that promote personalisation and interactivity, inclination towards teamwork and peer work, inclination to perform cursory and light reading, and preference for shorter texts with high amount of information transfer. Their attributes also directly influence their language learning strategies such as their dislike of long lectures, tendency to browse sites that are highly interactive, dislike for repetitive activities, and tendency to perform quick reading. The findings also indicate that the classroom for digital natives should take into consideration student-centered learning, dependent learning, length of lectures, active-engagement approach, rate of breaks, feedbacks, and technology use.

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