

UNIVERSITI TEKNOLOGI MARA

**A LONGITUDINAL CASE STUDY ON THE USE
OF THE ABSTRACT NOUN IN ENGLISH
COMPOSITIONS AMONG STUDENTS OF
SEKOLAH MENENGAH IMTIAZ KUALA
TERENGGANU, TERENGGANU**

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AUTHOR'S DECLARATION

I declare that the work in this dissertation was carried out in accordance with the regulations of Universiti Teknologi MARA. It is original and is the results of my own work, unless otherwise indicated or acknowledged as referenced work. This topic has not been submitted to any other academic institution or non-academic institution for any degree or qualification.

In the event that my dissertation be found to violate the conditions mentioned above, I voluntarily waive the right of conferment of my degree and agree be subjected to the disciplinary rules and regulations of Universiti Teknologi MARA.

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ABSTRACT

This longitudinal case study investigated the use of abstract nouns in English compositions written over four years by young learners of English. A total of 80 compositions were collected from four secondary school students of IMTIYAZ in Kuala Terengganu, Terengganu. Per year, each respondent contributed five compositions written for their English subject from Form One till Form Four. A mixture of quantitative and qualitative approaches was used to analyze the data. The findings showed that all four respondents had a major increase in the number of occurrences of the abstract noun between Form 1 to Form 2 but the occurrences stabilized in later years. All the respondents were able to use the abstract noun fairly well in their English compositions. Where the errors were concerned, the respondents displayed inflectional type of error more frequently than derivational type of error with these abstract nouns over the years. This study has shed light to the students' improvement in English grammar. This will be very useful to teachers in secondary schools in Malaysia to examine their students' writing performance. This study will contribute lot to those who write textbooks and syllabus especially on inflections and derivations.

ABSTRAK

Penggunaan kata nama abstrak dalam karangan Bahasa Inggeris oleh empat pelajar Sekolah Menengah Imtiaz Kuala Terengganu, Terengganu dikaji secara longitudinal selama empat tahun berturut-turut. Sebanyak 80 karangan dikumpulkan daripada empat orang pelajar sekolah menengah daripada Imtiaz di Kuala Terengganu, Terengganu. Setiap tahun, setiap responden menyumbang lima karangan bagi mata pelajaran Bahasa Inggeris mereka dari Tingkatan Satu hingga Tingkatan Empat. Campuran pendekatan kuantitatif dan kualitatif telah digunakan untuk menganalisa data. Dapatan kajian menunjukkan bahawa keempat-empat responden mempunyai peningkatan besar dalam jumlah penggunaan kata nama abstrak antara tingkatan 1 hingga tingkatan 2, tetapi jumlah penggunaan yang stabil pada tahun-tahun berikut. Semua responden dapat menggunakan kata nama abstrak agak baik dalam karangan Bahasa Inggeris mereka. Jika berlaku kesilapan, responden dipaparkan melakukan kesilapan jenis yang berinfleksi lebih kerap daripada kesilapan jenis derivational dengan kata nama abstrak. Kajian ini memberi kebaikan kepada peningkatan para pelajar dalam tatabahasa Bahasa Inggeris. Ini sangat berguna kepada guru-guru sekolah menengah di Malaysia untuk meningkatkan prestasi menulis dalam Bahasa Inggeris di kalangan para pelajar. Kajian ini akan banyak membantu pengarang buku teks dan kurikulum terutamanya dalam infleksi dan derivation.

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