

**UNIVERSITI TEKNOLOGI MARA**

**LANGUAGE LEARNING STYLES OF  
ESL LEARNERS IN ENGLISH  
CLASSROOMS IN TECHNOLOGY  
COLLEGE OF SARAWAK,  
KUCHING**

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## CANDIDATE'S DECLARATION

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

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## Abstract

Learners' proficiency levels and its relationship with the preferred learning styles are unique and can influence the way the individual deal with the second language and it can become a successful factor of the language acquisition. This study investigated on the learners' preferred learning styles according to their proficiency levels based on the grades obtained in SPM (Sijil Pelajaran Malaysia) for English language subject. Besides that, it also investigated the relationship between learners' proficiency levels in English subject with the choice of the preferred learning styles. The study was participated by 200 Semester 2 students of Technology College of Sarawak (TCS) who are currently taking subject of English for Academic Study ULAB 1022). Data was gathered using a modified questionnaire adapted from Ehrman & Leaver Self-Questionnaire (2002) on *Ectenic* and *Synoptic* Language Learning Theory. The results indicated a weak and negative relationship between learners' proficiency levels and the choice of the learning styles. The findings revealed that both factors were isolated factors which did not affect one another. On a further analysis, it was found that majority of learners were classified under *Synoptic* category, followed by *Ectenic* category and finally category of learners that possessed both characteristics of *Ectenic* and *Synoptic*. In terms of the pedagogical methods and learning materials, educators should redesign and implement new methods to suit with learners' learning styles.

**Keywords:** Learners' proficiency levels, language learning styles, *Ectenic* and *Synoptic*, pedagogical method

## Abstrak

Tahap kecekapan pelajar dan hubungannya dengan cara pembelajaran bahasa kedua merupakan sesuatu simbiosis yang unik dan mampu mempengaruhi cara seseorang pelajar belajar di dalam bahasa kedua. Justeru itu, ia juga merupakan faktor kejayaan utama seseorang itu berjaya mempelajari sesuatu bahasa. Kajian ini bertujuan untuk mengenalpasti cara pembelajaran utama yang dipilih berdasarkan tahap kecekapan yang diperolehi pelajar berdasarkan pencapaian Bahasa Inggeris di peringkat SPM (Sijil Pelajaran Malaysia). Selain itu, kajian ini juga bertujuan untuk menentukan hubungkait di antara tahap kecekapan pelajar di dalam Bahasa Inggeris serta pemilihan cara belajar. Maklumat diperolehi dengan menggunakan soalan soal-selidik yang telah digubal daripada "*Ehrman & Leaver Questionnaire (2002)*" berkenaan dengan teori *Ectenic* dan *Synoptic*. Kajian menunjukkan bahawa hubungan di antara tahap kecekapan Bahasa Inggeris dan pemilihan cara belajar adalah lemah dan negatif. Justeru itu, keputusan kajian juga menunjukkan majoriti pelajar adalah *Synoptic*, diikuti dengan *Ectenic* dan juga pelajar yang mempunyai kedua-dua sifat yang dimiliki oleh *Ectenic* dan *Synoptic*. Cara pengajaran dan pembelajaran seharusnya diperbaiki supaya bersesuaian dengan cara pembelajaran pelajar.

**Kata Kunci:** Tahap kecekapan, cara pembelajaran bahasa kedua, *Ectenic* dan *Synoptic*, cara pengajaran dan pembelajaran