

UNIVERSITI TEKNOLOGI MARA

**DEVELOPING ETeMS TEACHERS' SPEAKING
SKILLS THROUGH COMMUNICATIVE
APPROACH**

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Abstract

This study aimed to develop ETeMS teachers' speaking skill through Communicative Approach activities. It investigated and identified the problems that the teachers face when they taught Mathematics and Science in English. This study was designed to implement the selected Communicative Approach activities that can develop the teachers' speaking skills, improve their confidence and motivate them to conduct their lessons in English. It was a descriptive study that incorporated quantitative and qualitative data through the use of questionnaire and structured interviews. This study involved twelve primary school teachers who taught Mathematics and Science in English. Pre and post oral test was conducted at the beginning and the end of the study to indicate if the teachers' speaking skills were improved. Descriptive statistics namely mean and standard deviation were used to analyze the responses in the questionnaire. Paired sample t-test is used to analyze the pre and post oral test. Findings from the study indicated that the teachers' speaking skills did improve throughout the study and they gained confidence and motivation to teach Mathematics and Science in English. This study could implicate on how our education system would benefit from communicative activities in the classroom in promoting more Malaysian to speak fluent and accurate English.

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Candidate's Declaration

I declare that the works in this thesis was carried out in accordance with the regulations of Universiti Teknologi MARA. It is original and is the result 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 other degree or qualification.

In the event that my thesis 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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CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.0 Introduction

This study attempts to develop the speaking skills among the ETeMs primary school teachers through Communicative Approach. In this first chapter, discussion will involve on the background of the study, statement of the problem, conceptual framework, purpose of the study, the research objectives, questions and hypotheses, its significance, its limitations and definition of terms.

1.1 Background of the study

The poor standard of Malaysian in English especially among Malays has hindered them to compete in the education system and also in the workforce. As English is an international language, it is impossible to ignore its importance and how a nation could benefit from it if the citizens of a country are competent in English. This situation has worried the Malaysian leaders particularly the former Prime Minister Tun Mahathir Mohamad. Pillay (1998) in his article signified that in 1991, Tun Mahathir did a press statement of his worries about the results of the national English language examination which was given usually at the end of the secondary school. Tun believed that Malaysia might lose its economic competitiveness and progress in the industrial and technical fields if the local workers were not proficient in English. Pillay also added in 1995, Minister of Education at that time Dato Najib Razak announced that a drastic move was needed in improving the English standards. The focal thrust of the programme was the introduction of “tougher English examination” in 1995. This programme focused on the improvement of the teaching techniques and promises of support for Malaysian English teachers.