UNIVERSITI TEKNOLOGI MARA

FACTORS AFFECTING THE ASSESSMENT OF ESL STUDENTS' WRITING: A CASE STUDY OF UiTM ENGLISH LANGUAGE LECTURERS

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CANDIDATE'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.
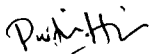
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ABSTRACT

This paper investigated the factors that could affect raters as they marked English as Second language students' essays. It is imperative for educators to identify these factors as it could give negative effects to students' performance in improving their English language. This is because the assessment of writing can help students to increase their English level of proficiency, therefore it is essential that the feedbacks given to students are valid and reliable. It is also the purpose for this research to identify the most influential factor and also to probe whether these factors related to raters' gender and years of teaching. The participants for this research are 100 English language lecturers from Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM). They were latèr divided into 50 male lecturers and 50 female lecturers. This quantitative research used questionnaire that was self-constructed based on the literature review. Findings showed that rhetorical organisation is the most significant factor. Data also revealed that there are positive relationship between language and rhetorical organisation, and gender and years of teaching. These findings implied that these factors identified have some effects on raters when marking students' essays and therefore will affect students' performances and the reliability and validity of the marks given by the raters.

ABSTRAK

Kertas ini mengkaji faktor-faktor yang boleh mempengaruhi pemeriksa sewaktu memeriksa esei bahasa inggeris para pelajar. Adalah amat penting bagi para pendidik untuk mengetahui faktor-faktor ini kerana faktor-faktor ini boleh memberi kesan negatif terhadap prestasi para pelajar di dalam meningkatkan lagi prestasi bahasa inggeris mereka. Ini juga adalah kerana melalui ujian penulisan bahasa inggeris, ia dapat membantu mereka meningkatkan lagi tahap kecekapan mereka di dalam bahasa inggeris, oleh itu adalah amat penting sekiranya komen yang diberikan adalah komen yang sahih dan boleh dipercayai. Antara objektif kajian ini adalah untuk mengetahui apakah faktor utama yang paling mempengaruhi penanda, dan juga untuk melihat sekiranya terdapat hubungan di antara faktor-faktor ini dengan jantina dan tahun atau pengalaman mengajar para penanda. Responden untuk kajian ini adalah terdiri daripada 100 orang pensyarah bahasa inggeris daripada Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM) yang dibahagikan kepada 50 orang pensyarah lelaki dan 50 orang pensyarah perempuan. Kajian kuantitatif ini menggunakan soal kaji selidik yang direka sendiri berdasarkan perbincangan di dalam bab dua. Hasil kajian menunjukkan bahawa organisasi esei adalah faktor utama yang paling mempengaruhi para penanda. Data juga menunjukkan bahawa terdapat hubungan di antara bahasa dan organisasi yang digunakan dengan jantina dan juga tahun atau pengalaman mengajar para penanda. Faktor-faktor yang telah dikenalpasti akan mempengaruhi penanda semasa menanda kertas esei para pelajar dan ini akan memberi kesan kepada prestasi pembelajaran mereka dan juga kesahihan markah yang diberikan oleh para penanda.

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