

UNIVERSITI TEKNOLOGI MARA

**ESL TEACHERS' READINESS IN THE TEACHING
AND LEARNING OF LITERATURE**

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for the degree of
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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. 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.

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CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.0 Background of the Study

Malaysian English teachers are expected to teach not only the English language but also literature in the English as a Second Language (ESL) setting. They are greatly challenged as they are in a setting that needs a lot of enthusiasm and interest. "The use of literary texts in a language class is an important asset to both teacher and learner. For the teacher it can provide an additional source for language work. For the learner it can provide interesting language in context" (Compendium, 1989).

Literature is concerned with humanity and its values, beliefs, and customs hence an ideal subject for students to study in line with the emphasis given by National Education Philosophy to the overall developments of the individual. Andrews (2006) stated that the privileging of the reader in the act of reading is a humanist, teacher position to take as it enables the exploration of a number of approaches to the reading of a text and due recognition of the role that readers play in the creation of meaning. Most significantly, emphasis upon the reader allows for pedagogical invention in that it opens up the possibility of multiple meanings mediated by readers. Literature in the Integrated Secondary School (KBSM) English language program means the use of literacy texts to help students appreciate both the language and its literature. The works include different genres- short stories, novels and poetry by a range of writers from Africa, Australia, Malaysia, Ireland and Britain.