

UNIVERSITI TEKNOLOGI MARA

**READING HABITS AMONG STUDENTS
OF SK TANJONG APONG, SAMARAHAN**

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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 thesis has not been submitted to any other academic institution or non-academic institution for any degree or qualification.

I, hereby, acknowledge that I have been supplied with the Academic Rules and Regulations for Post Graduate, Universiti Teknologi MARA, regulating the conduct of my study and research.

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ABSTRACT

Reading habit should start from young itself. A good reading habit is an essential among school children in order to create a good reading culture. The purposes of this study are to identify the reading habits and attitudes among Primary 4, 5 and 6 or commonly called Level 2 students in SK Tanjong Apong, Samarahan towards reading English materials; study the relationship between their reading habits and the reading attitudes and; compare reading habits and reading attitudes with their Mid Semester I test scores. A pre-tested questionnaire was used for collecting data and 66 students participated in this study. The findings of this study suggest that majority of the participating students showed positive habits and attitudes towards reading English materials. They were also motivated to read for academically related reasons such as, to obtain better results in examinations; improving their language skills and for learning new things as well. Reading was the fourth most favourable activity out of 14 activities after watching television, drawing and doing outdoor activities. It was also found that a huge number of the students were Marginal, Forced and Reluctant Readers based on analysis done on their frequency of reading outside school hours, library visit duration of time spent on reading daily and their Mid Semester 1 test scores in English subject. This study offers few recommendations for promoting good reading habits among students in SK Tanjong Apong and all students as well.

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CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 INTRODUCTION

A good reading habit is very important for the development of a person's personalities and mental capacities. According to the Report of the Commission on Reading (Anderson et al., 1985), reading is acknowledged as a cornerstone for success, not just in any learning institution, but also throughout the life of an individual. Correspondingly, reading is considered as a process, a mode of thinking, a kind of real experience and involves many complex skills. It is also recognized as the ability to perceive printed words as well as to skim for information. According to Simisaye, 2010, it is a renowned fact that reading has a vital role to play in literacy promotion, creating independent learners and educational accomplishment of individuals in every society in the world.

Meanwhile, Ayodele (1984) observed that reading, especially the proficient type, is the foundation to a learner's success in all education level. However, thoroughly in Malaysia, the reading habits among the youths have been the main concern of educators and policy makers. Several studies in Malaysia reported that Malaysian students did not read much (Kaur & Thivagarajah, 1999). Also, a lot of university students are found to be "reluctant" readers in reading English language materials (Pandian, 2000). In order to continue learning throughout their lives, proficiency in reading is crucial for an individual as their habits since they are at very young age (Majid & Tan, 2007). Reading is as well described in another point of view as a crucial tool to enjoy leisure hours, achieve emotional stability, share the difficult experiences which are encountered in books and to keep alongside each other of what goings-on in the world generally (Ogunrombi & Adio, 1995), so, to sum up, a good reading habits is very important to achieve all the stated above. Reading activities need to be highly engaging so that students become effective learners and they are able perform well in school. In this research, the relationship between reading habits and attitude among students will be studied.