



UNIVERSITI TEKNOLOGI MARA

**INVESTIGATING THE WAYS OF KNOWING BASED
ON THE MULTIPLE INTELLIGENCE THEORY IN
THE ESL CLASSROOMS AMONG FORM ONE
LEARNERS IN SMK MUARA TUANG**

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ABSTRACT

This study investigates the ways of knowing based on the Multiple Intelligence theory (MI theory) in the ESL classrooms among the Form One learners in SMK Muara Tuang. The fundamental of the study is the Howard Gardner's Multiple Intelligences theory (1983) supported by Botelho (2003), Green and Tanner (2005), Lazear (2003) and other relevant studies. The study is meant to discover the most dominant way of knowing among the Form One learners. Furthermore, the study aimed to investigate the relationship between the learners' dominant way of knowing with their background aspects namely their gender and their proficiency level based on the grades obtained for the English language in the UPSR examination. This study applied the survey style in collecting the data among 407 Form One learners of SMK Muara Tuang of the Samarahan district. The data is also gathered from the semi-structured interview questions given to 10 selected Form One learners. The findings revealed that all the 8 ways of knowing based on the MI theory were identified among the learners and many of the learners had more than one way of knowing. The study also identified that there were three main ways of knowing based on the MI theory among the learners namely the Interpersonal, Musical and the Naturalist intelligences. Also, the study concluded that regardless the learners' gender and their proficiency level in the English language many of the learners had the same dominant ways of knowing namely the Interpersonal and the Musical intelligences.

Keywords: Ways of Knowing and Multiple Intelligences

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.0 Introduction

The theory of multiple intelligences (MI) has been an eye-opener to many since it was successfully generated and promoted by Howard Gardner (1983). The emergence of MI theory has pluralized the existing conventional concept of intelligence among different individuals. Gardner (1983) believes that different individuals have their own different ways in perceiving and accepting the information and knowledge that are delivered to them. Apart from the verbal-linguistic and logical-mathematical intelligences, each individual are likely to have six more intelligences to be applied in comprehending the information and knowledge gained, which are: musical, bodily-kinesthetic, interpersonal, intrapersonal, spatial-visual and naturalist intelligences.

The different ways of receiving the information and knowledge among the individuals are due to the different ways of knowing among them. The ways of knowing based on the MI theory indicate that each person has at least eight ways of knowing in which the combination and application of these intelligences enables the person to accept the information and knowledge comprehensively (Gardner, 1983). Different individual has different degree levels of each way of knowing and hence, each individual has his/her special ways of digesting the information and knowledge received before interpreting it according to his/her own understanding.