

UNIVERSITI TEKNOLOGI MARA

THE USE OF L1 IN TEACHING ENGLISH AT KUCHING
POLYTECHNIC SARAWAK: TEACHERS' PERSPECTIVES

ANN REPORT

Thesis submitted in partial fulfilment of the requirement for the degree of

Master of Education in TESL

Faculty of Education

OCTOBER 2009

ABSTRACT

The study was conducted in Kuching Polytechnic Sarawak. The theoretical framework used in the study was based on Conversation Analysis (CA) approach which was proposed by Auer (1984). The study aims to investigate the use of L1 in teaching English at Kuching Polytechnic Sarawak. The respondents consisted of 32 English lecturers from the General Studies Department. The instruments used in the data gathering process were; 1) questionnaires and 2) observations. The questionnaires were consisted of three parts; Part 1 (Demographic Profile), Part 2 (The Use of English in Daily activities) and Part 3 (Perceptions of Using L1 in the English Classroom). The observation sessions were recorded by using a camcorder. The data from the questionnaires and the video observations were analyzed by using SPSS (version 12). The results were presented using tables and interpreted through frequencies and percentage distributions. In overall, the outcomes of the research are encouraging and of relevant values within the scope of the research. The findings from the questionnaires indicate that in overall, the respondents are motivated and have positive attitude in using English in their daily lives as well as in the English classrooms. In addition, the findings from the observations revealed that L1 was used in the classroom for various reasons to achieve the intended communicative purposes. Moreover, the findings of the correlation coefficient test also suggested that in general the English lecturers' perceptions on the use of L1 in the English classrooms matched with the observed reality. These findings indicate that there is a place for bilingualism in a foreign language classroom. Hopefully, teachers/lecturers, educators, researchers and anyone who has interest in the education field will gain new insights from reading this thesis.

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 reference work. This topic has not been submitted to any academic institution or non-academic institution for any 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 Overview

This chapter discusses the important aspects and establishes the direction of the thesis. The discussion begins with a brief introduction of English in Malaysia to provide an idea of the development and status of the language in the country. The next section discusses the use of English in the Malaysian Polytechnic context. This section is important as it gives readers, especially to those who are not familiar with the management and policies of Polytechnic and Community college education, a brief description of the research setting. The discussion continues with the theoretical framework that underpins the research and followed by the statement of the problem and then the purpose of the study.

Next, the research questions are outlined under their respective headings. After that, the researcher discusses the significance of conducting the research, especially in the context of Malaysian Polytechnics. The important terminology within the scope of this research is listed under the heading; *Definition of Terms*, and finally the chapter ends with a summary.