



**INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF RESEARCH ON
LANGUAGE EDUCATION
(I-RoLE) 2021**

***Engaging in Change: Empowering Linguistics, Literature
& Language***

23 – 24 MARCH 2021

**AKADEMI PENGAJIAN BAHASA
UNIVERSITI TEKNOLOGI MARA CAWANGAN MELAKA**

CONTENTS

FOREWORD

Rector of UiTM Melaka

Dean of Akademi Pengajian Bahasa

I-RoLE 2021 Chair

I-RoLE 2021 ORGANISING COMMITTEE

ABOUT I-RoLE 2021

KEYNOTE SPEAKER I

KEYNOTE SPEAKER II

KEYNOTE SPEAKER III

KEYNOTE SPEAKER IV

KEYNOTE SPEAKER V

KEYNOTE SPEAKER VI

PLENARY SPEAKER I

PLENARY SPEAKER II

WORKSHOP SPEAKERS

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE & ABSTRACTS

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

FOREWORD



Rector of UiTM Melaka

In the name of Allah the Most Merciful and Most Gracious.

Assalamualaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh dan Salam Sejahtera.

On behalf of Universiti Teknologi MARA Melaka I want to extend our warmest welcome to all participants of the International Conference of Research on Language Education 2021 (iRoLE 2021).

To put a digital conference of this magnitude together is not a small accomplishment, thus it gives me great pleasure to congratulate the Akademi Pengajian Bahasa (APB), UiTM Melaka for successfully hosting the important conference.

The conference theme, “Engaging in Change: Empowering Linguistics, Literature and Language” is one such endeavour to bring together local and overseas researchers, practitioners, academics, teachers and students to deliberate on theoretical underpinnings and practical implications in the fields of languages, linguistic and literature to forge emerging ideas and move forward in the fields ever-changing landscape. I am confident that the array of presentations and workshops in the conference schedule will provide excellent opportunities to build more and better collaborations between fellow researchers and practitioners.

I would like to extend my gratitude and appreciation to the strategic partners Universitas Negeri Semarang (UNNES), Chiang Rai Rajabhat University (CRRU), Universiti Teknikal Malaysia Melaka (UTEM) and Universiti Tun Hussein Onn Malaysia (UTHM) as well as the Melaka, Johor and Negeri Sembilan State Education Departments for their great support in making this event possible. My appreciation also goes to iROLE 2021 guest speakers and presenters from all corners of the world for sharing your knowledge, insights and experiences, and for providing a context for reflection; and to the attendees, for participating in our shared effort to grow both professionally and personally. I hope that all of you will continue to collaborate with each other beyond this conference and further promote and tap into the potential of research data.

I wish you all a very enjoyable conference.

Professor Dr. Abd Halim bin Mohd Noor
Rector
Universiti Teknologi MARA Melaka

FOREWORD



Dean of Akademi Pengajian Bahasa

In the name of Allah the Most Merciful and Most Gracious.

Assalamualaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh dan Salam Sejahtera.

It gives me an immense pleasure to welcome all speakers, presenters and participants to the International Conference of Research on Language Education 2021 (i-RoLE 2021) organised by the Academy of Language Studies (APB), UiTM Melaka. While circumstances prevent a face-to-face event, we are proud to be hosting our first online conference given the new challenges of the Covid-19 pandemic that has forced us to pivot to a completely virtual one.

The theme for the two-day conference - Engaging in Change: Empowering Linguistics, Literature and Language' has been remotely set up to provide not only professionals but also novice researchers from all over the world with the opportunity to share their scholarly experiences and exchange knowledge in the different fields of languages, linguistic and literature in this increasingly complex terrain. Looking at the conference schedule, and the many wonderful and accomplished guest speakers and presenters, I am confident this conference will be a remarkable avenue of learning, networking and inspiration.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to the iRoLE 2021 organising committee and those who are involved directly and indirectly in making this event a success. I hope this remarkable event will continue in the future.

I also would like to express my deepest thanks to the speakers and presenters who did their best to submit their presentation videos in due time to ease out the technicalities during the conference. I wish you all the best in your presentations and I hope that you will enjoy and benefit tremendously from the conference. We hope that your experience in this virtual conference will be a rewarding one that sparks new collaborations and areas of inquiry.

I wish all of you an exciting virtual experience and anticipate seeing all of you again at our future events.

Professor Dr. Othman Ismail
Dean
Akademi Pengajian Bahasa

FOREWORD



I-RoLE 2021 Chair

Hello, Salam Sejahtera, Nínhão, Marhaba!

Academy of Language Studies UiTM Melaka is proud to host the first all-virtual International Conference of Research on Language Education 2021 (I-RoLE 2021). The theme of this conference is “Engaging in Change: Empowering Linguistics, Literature and Language”. IROLE 2021 aims to bring together scholars, researchers and practitioners to discuss, explore and address challenges in theory building, methodology development and the applications of languages, linguistic and literature that may contribute to the shaping of the fields across all educational levels. I am delighted to see the IROLE 2021 delegates are not only from academia, but also practitioners from schools and higher learning institutions as well as students. It is through conferences like these that we expand our network and partners, and I have no doubt that I-RoLE 2021 will offer a remarkable opportunity for the sharing of research and best practice, and for the meeting of people and ideas.

The conference programme includes a range of presentation types, including keynote and plenary speakers, oral presentations and workshops that I am sure would be a tremendous benefit to all of us. Putting together I-RoLE 2021 is a team effort. I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere gratitude to the I-RoLE 2021 committee members and the technical staff for their enormous work behind the scenes to ensure the delivery and success of this very important conference. May this teamwork and commitment remain in many years to come. My appreciation also goes to our strategic partners Universitas Negeri Semarang (UNNES), Chiang Rai Rajabhat University (CRRU), Universiti Teknikal Malaysia Melaka (UTEM) and Universiti Tun Hussein Onn Malaysia (UTHM) as well as the Melaka, Johor and Negeri Sembilan State Education Departments for their great support in making this event possible. I would like to thank all conference participants for your contributions which are the foundation of this conference. I encourage your very active and enthusiastic participation as we have so much to learn from each other. Lastly, I hope all of you have fruitful discussions and deliberation during the two days conference.

Dr. Kuldip Kaur Maktiar Singh

Chairperson

I-RoLE 2021

I-RoLE 2021 ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

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ABOUT I-RoLE 2021



The International Conference of Research on Language Education 2021 (I-RoLE 2021) is organized by Akademi Pengajian Bahasa, Universiti Teknologi Mara Cawangan Melaka (UiTMCM) in collaboration with the strategic partners Universitas Negeri Semarang (UNNES), Chiangrai Rajabhat University (CRRU), Universiti Teknikal Malaysia Melaka (UTEM) and Universiti Tun Hussein Onn Malaysia (UTHM) is a platform for local and international scholars and professionals to interact and share expertise, knowledge, and experience in language education.

The sub-themes may include but not limited to:

- Language Teaching and Learning
- Applied Language Studies
- Language Assessment
- Language and Technology
- Language Policy and Governance
- Language Education and Sustainable Development Goals

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SESSION 1 | ROOM 3

Session 1
IRole 062

Postgraduate Students' Perceived and Actual Performance in Critical Reading Skills

Arief Shamida, Gurnam Kaur Sidhu and Sofwah Md Nawi
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The democratisation and commodification of education has witnessed an increase in postgraduate (PG) education as it is one of the main sources contributing to the advancement of knowledge, technology and innovation. However, despite the significant rise in numbers the returns at both the global and national level has been low due to high attrition and low completion rates among the students. One among the numerous factors cited has been the postgraduate students' limited competencies in language and research skills. In terms of language, postgraduate students are expected to possess a good working knowledge of the English language and be able to read academic literature and write their thesis with an acceptable standard of English. Therefore, the main aim of this paper is was to assess postgraduate students' perceived and actual performance in critical reading skills. This study involved a total of 50 postgraduate students from a private university in Malaysia. Data for this study were collected using a questionnaire and a reading test based on the Malaysian University English Test (MUET) Reading Examination Paper. The findings revealed that there was a significant difference between the two performances. Students held higher perception of their ability when compared to their actual performance in critical reading skills. These results indicate that there is a need for innovative approaches to develop postgraduate students' critical reading skills so that they can successfully complete their study within the given duration and graduate on time. (238 words)

Keywords: critical reading skills, postgraduate students, postgraduate study

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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