



**THE USE OF ENGLISH SONGS TO ENHANCE THE
EFFECTIVENESS OF TEACHING READING SKILLS
TO YEAR FIVE STUDENTS OF SK JALAN ARANG
IN PADAWAN DISTRICT OF KUCHING**

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I.

ABSTRAK

Tujuan kajian ini diadakan adalah untuk mengukur keberkesanan penggunaan lagu-lage Inggeris dalam meningkat dan memperbaiki kemahiran membaca dikalangan pelajar tahun lima di SK Jalan Arang, Padawan, Sarawak. Lagu telah digunakan sejak beberapa tahun untuk pengajaran dan pembelajaran bahasa di negara-negara barat. Walau bagaimana pun, penggunaan lagu di dalam bilik darjah di Malaysia adalah terbatas. Ini disebabkan persepsi negatif yang menggambarkan lagu sebagai alat pengajaran yang tidak baik kerana pelajar dianggap hanya berseronok dan bermain-main sewaktu sesi nyanyian diadakan. Kajian ini bagaimanapun membuktikan dengan mengikut prosedur yang betul berkaitan pemilihan lagu yang sesuai, rancangan pengajaran yang bersistematik dan aktiviti yang menarik, penggunaan lagu pasti menjadi alat pengajaran yang berkesan meningkat dan memperbaiki kemahiran membaca di kalangan pelajar-pelajar lemah di Malaysia.

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CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION

1.0 Introduction

In accordance with the National Education Policy, English has to be taught as the second language in both primary and secondary schools in Malaysia. The main requirement of this policy is to enable all students to acquire the four basic language skills, namely, listening, speaking, reading and writing. The urging need of this requirement stresses that students have to be proficient in the language if the development of the country towards a developed nation by 2020 is taken into consideration. The vision of a developed country can only be achieved if our society has a good mastery of the language. Students are able to achieve a good mastery and proficiency in the language if ESL teachers are able to develop several techniques and activities to cater the need for students to acquire the above language skills.

1.1 Background of The Study

The teaching of English as a Second Language (ESL) is a challenging task especially for ESL teachers whose mother tongue is not this universal and international language. It becomes more complicated as they have to impart all the necessary skills of learning this renowned language to learners who have no background knowledge or first hand experience about the English language. This is the greatest challenge that ESL teachers in Malaysia face as they try to incorporate the necessary skills in the teaching of ESL into ESL learning of the multiracial primary school students. ESL teachers in their classroom practices to ensure that the learners are able to comprehend and master the language with a desirable result have adopted various teaching strategies. Some strategies have been

CHAPTER 2: LITERATURE REVIEW

2.0 Introduction

This section focuses on the review of related literature for this study whereby the focal point is on the theories or principles underlying the field of study. Moreover, previous thinking and research on related area are also studied. The reasons for using songs, its characteristics in enhancing language learning and its theoretical rationale are also explained briefly.

2.1 Reasons for Reading

“Reading Maketh A Man Full”
 “Knowledge Is Power”
 “Learn To Read; Read To Learn”

Dr. Ted Plaister(1991) cited that the three sayings above help to explain why reading is considered an important skill in ESL. He listed out five main reasons why ESL learners need to master and comprehend reading.

1. Reading helps us to build vocabulary. Words carry meaning. The more words we know, the better equipped we are to understand our world and hopefully to lead more productive and interesting lives.
2. Reading enables us to write better. The single most important factor in writing well is reading widely. Practice in writing along, while important, does not compare with the importance of reading.
3. Reading gives us the opportunity to learn new skills and to acquire these skills without outside help in many cases.
4. Reading well in one language can improve one's ability to read in another. For ESL students, learning to read well in English improves reading in the native language.
5. A famous psycholinguist, Frank Smith(1999) wrote, "In reading, what is behind the eyeballs is more important than what is in front of them." In other words, the knowledge the reader brings to the printed words is more important in