

MODELLING PEDESTRIANS' UTILISATION OF CROSSING FACILITIES,
GAP ACCEPTANCE AND CROSSING DECISION IN URBAN AREA

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A thesis submitted in
fulfillment of the requirement for the award of the
Doctor of Philosophy



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DEDICATION

For my beloved Father and Mother,
My brothers, sisters and friends
Thanks for always being there with me,
And always pray for me to success
“Alhamdulillah”



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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

In the name of Allah, the most merciful, the most compassionate all praise be to Allah, the Lord of the worlds; and prayers and peace be upon Mohamed his servant and messenger.

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ABSTRACT

A pedestrian intending to cross a roadway has to decide whether to use a crossing facility or to cross a street illegally. An incorrect decision made will expose the pedestrian to the risk of accident. Pedestrian crossing behaviour has been sighted in the focus in the last decades. In the past, several studies investigating the risk of crossing a road focusing on walk trip frequency or mode choice behaviours have been conducted. Numerous factors which affect the behaviour of pedestrians have been identified. Up to now, far too little attention has been paid to pedestrian road crossing behaviour in Malaysia. The specific aim of this study was to provide new insights and develop models for pedestrian gap acceptance, crossing decision and utilisation of zebra crossings among pedestrians using regression model techniques. The critical gaps for pedestrians were estimated using Raff's method from studies conducted at 12 locations in different regions across Malaysia. The results show that the average critical gap was 9.9 seconds. Studies on gap acceptance found that nine factors such as baggage effect, pedestrian gender, vehicle size, crossing distance and etc influenced the pedestrians' crossing behaviour in terms of accepted gap size. Meanwhile, studies on crossing decision showed that four parameters, i.e. traffic speed, driver yield, pedestrian number and pedestrian age significantly influenced pedestrians' crossing choice. In addition, the findings indicated that while there were three significant factors i.e. length of zebra crossing, guardrail and number of lanes that positively influenced the pedestrian utilisation rate of crossing facilities, four variables were found to have significant direct effect on the decision to use zebra crossings. The models developed for pedestrians' use of zebra crossings, gap acceptance and crossing decision were found to be significant and thus can be used to gauge the pedestrians' crossing behaviour in urban areas. Hence, this study would help improve pedestrian crossing behaviours and influence the local authorities to draw up street design policies and pedestrian facility specifications that will improve the safety of pedestrians and other road users in Malaysia.



ABSTRAK

Seorang pejalan kaki yang berhasrat untuk melintas jalanraya perlu memutuskan sama ada beliau ingin menggunakan kemudahan melintas jalan atau melintas jalan secara haram. Satu keputusan yang tidak tepat akan mendedahkan pejalan kaki kepada risiko kemalangan. Tingkahlaku melintas jalan pejalan kaki telah menjadi perhatian sejak dekad-dekad kebelakangan ini. Kajian-kajian terdahulu mengkaji risiko melintas jalan di mana fokusnya adalah kepada frekuensi perjalanan atau tingkahlaku pilihan mod. Pelbagai faktor yang memberi kesan kepada tingkahlaku pejalan kaki telah dikenalpasti. Sehingga ke hari ini, hanya sedikit sahaja perhatian diberikan kepada tingkahlaku melintas jalan para pejalan kaki di Malaysia. Tujuan khusus kajian ini adalah untuk memberikan satu kefahaman baru dan membangunkan model-model untuk penerimaan jurang pejalan kaki, keputusan melintas dan penggunaan lintasan jalan dalam kalangan pejalan kaki menggunakan teknik-teknik model regresi. Jurang-jurang kritikal untuk pejalan kaki dianggarkan menerusi kaedah Raff dari kajian-kajian yang dijalankan di 12 lokasi di pelbagai kawasan di Malaysia. Keputusan menunjukkan bahawa purata jurang kritikal ialah 9.9 saat. Kajian-kajian ke atas penerimaan jurang mendapati bahawa sembilan faktor seperti kesan bagasi, jantina pejalan kaki, saiz kenderaan dan jarak lintasan jalan dan sebagainya mempengaruhi tingkahlaku melintas pejalan-pejalan kaki dari aspek saiz jurang yang diterima, sementara kajian-kajian ke atas keputusan melintas menunjukkan bahawa empat parameter, iaitu kelajuan trafik, hasil pemandu, bilangan pejalan kaki dan usia pejalan kaki mempengaruhi secara ketara pilihan lintasan para pejalan kaki. Tambahan pula, dapatan menunjukkan bahawa terdapat tiga faktor yang signifikan seperti jarak lintasan pejalan kaki, selurus adang dan bilangan laluan yang mempengaruhi secara positif kadar penggunaan kemudahan melintas jalan, sementara empat pembolehubah didapati mempunyai kesan langsung yang signifikan ke atas keputusan untuk menggunakan lintasan pejalan kaki. Model-model ini dibangunkan untuk penggunaan lintasan jalan oleh pejalan kaki, penerimaan jurang dan keputusan untuk melintas jalan didapati signifikan, oleh itu ia



boleh digunakan untuk mengkaji tingkahlaku para pejalan kaki dalam melintas jalan di kawasan-kawasan bandar. Maka, kajian ini akan meningkatkan lagi kefahaman ke atas tingkahlaku melintas jalan para pejalan kaki, dan ia juga boleh mempengaruhi pihak berkuasa tempatan untuk mengeluarkan dasar rekabentuk jalan dan spesifikasi kemudahan untuk pejalan kaki yang mana ini akan memperbaiki tahap keselamatan pejalan kaki dan para pengguna jalan yang lain di Malaysia.



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LIST OF SYMBOLS AND ABBREVIATIONS

AASHTO	American association of state highway and transport officials American
FHWA	Federal highway administration
HCM	Highway Capacity Manual
NHTS	National Highway Transportation Safety Administration
ITE	Institute of Transportation Engineers
MUTCD	Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices
MIROS	Malaysian Institute of Road Safety Research
SWOV	Institute of road safety
PDRM	Polis Diraja Malaysia
ADA	Americans with disabilities act
JKR	Jabatan Kerja Raya
MLR	Multiple Linear Regression
BL	Binary logistic regression
SPSS	Social Science software
GAM	Gap acceptance Model
PUR	Pedestrian utilisation rate
Log (gap size)	logarithm of accepted gaps
PVI	Pedestrian Vehicle Interaction
TG	Traffic gap
TS	Traffic Speed
PWT	Pedestrian waiting time
FA	Frequency of attempt
PS	Pedestrian speed
AG	Age group
m	Meter
s	Second
m/s	Meter per second

m/s ²	Meter per second square
TV	Type of vehicle
CD	Crossing Distance
DY	Driver yielding
ADT	Average daily traffic
PGA	Pedestrian Gap Acceptance
VRU	Vulnerable road user



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LIST OF PUBLICATIONS

Peer –reviewed journals					
NO	Title	Journal	Submission date	Quality metrics	Status
1	Modeling pedestrian gap crossing index under mixed traffic condition	Journal of Safety Research / Elsevier	16/06/2016	SJR (Q1)	Published
2	Modelling Pedestrians' Gap Acceptance Behavior When They Jaywalk Outside Crossing Facilities In Malaysia	Jurnal Teknologi	01/11/2016	ISI (Q3)	Accepted
3	Modelling Pedestrians' Utilisation of Crossing Facilities along Urban Streets	Case Studies on Transport Policy / Elsevier	05/09/2017	SJR (Q2)	Under review

Conference proceeding					
NO	Title	Conference name	Submission date	Quality metrics	Status
1	Crossing Behaviour of Pedestrians Along Urban Streets in Malaysia	International Conference on Sustainable Infrastructure Engineering (ICSIE 2016)	31/08/2016	Scopus index	Published In MATEC Web of Conferences
2	Mid-block crossing behavior: a study of pedestrians and vehicles interaction along urban streets in malaysia	International Conference on Urban Design & Cities Planning (UDCP 2017)	28/04/2017	Scopus index	Published in NZAAR New Zealand Academy of Applied Research Limited

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Introduction

The introduction of this research consists of several components. The research background, problem statement, research objectives, significance of the study and scope of the study are discussed in detail in the following sections.

1.2 Research background

The term “pedestrian” has various definitions. The transport research board defines a ‘pedestrian’ as an individual traveling on foot (Transportation Research Board, 2010). A pedestrian is also known as “a person walking on foot in the street and not travelling in a vehicle” (National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 2014).

Pedestrians are always at risk while attempting to cross roads or when they’re using crossing facilities. However, transportation planners must consider factors of safety during the design of crossing facilities, traffic control devices and roadways to protect pedestrians (Goh et al, 2012). In underdeveloped countries, crossing facility users face challenges in crossing roads safely due to the driver's behaviour towards pedestrians. In some situations such as congestion, pedestrians need to wait on the street shoulder to find a proper gap to cross safely. Otherwise, pedestrians must wait until there is no more oncoming traffic. This might be due to the lack of awareness on traffic rules or the right of way of pedestrians (Ibrahim et al,



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2005). Pedestrians' behaviour at road crossings depends on their characteristics, vehicle behavioural characteristics and road design geometry (Kadali & Vedagiri, 2013b). Pedestrians crossing a road stream is a task that needs to be achieved successfully on a daily basis through the identification of safe gaps between passing cars (Petzoldt, 2014). Pedestrian crossing behaviour has been focused on by previous research in the past decades. Research shedding new light on accepted gap size by pedestrians who attempt to cross roads at mid-blocks has been conducted by several researchers at different times across the globe (Sun et al., 2002; Oxley et al., 2005; Wang & Tian., 2010; Rastogi et al., 2011). The space between the incoming vehicles and pedestrians seems to affect the most minimum gap accepted by pedestrians. Furthermore, an increase in traffic volume stream leads to smaller gaps. These gaps are normally defined by valuing the means of probability distributions or by regression modelling. Recent evidence suggests that the mean accepted gap has been estimated to be 8 seconds while the minimum accepted gap has been estimated to be 2 seconds (Yannis et al, 2013).

In the past, several studies have been documented on the behaviour of pedestrians, crossing the road, have been completed. Numerous factors which affect the behaviour of pedestrian have been identified. The factors are considered as pedestrians, traffic factors and road setting. Long-time waiting affect pedestrian behaviour significantly. Pedestrians have a higher trend to cross street carelessly after a long waiting time. Pedestrian lose patience while waiting to accept harmless gaps. Instead of waiting for harmless gaps, a pedestrian may decide to use rolling gaps across several paths (Brewer et al., 2006; Kadali & Vedagiri, 2013a). Pedestrian waiting time for suitable gaps depends on whether the pedestrian intending to cross alone or accompanied. However, if a person amongst the group initiates the road-crossing violations, pedestrians tend to cross illegally (cross on red). From Previous research comparing male pedestrians and females pedestrians has found that male were more likely to road-crossing violations compared to females (Lobjois & Cavallo, 2007). More also, pedestrians number waiting in a group has direct effects on pedestrian behaviour in that group. large groups found to be more likely to make legal crosses compared to smaller ones (Rosenbloom, 2009). In terms of accepting suitable gaps size to cross, each pedestrian has his own perception on decide on the safest gap. Physical characteristics of pedestrian affect their movement, i.e. walking speed. Taller pedestrians more likely to accept smaller gaps compared to shorter



pedestrians due to them commonly being able to walk quickly (Goh *et al.*, 2012). The space between pedestrians and vehicles has a direct influence on the safe gap size accepted to cross Oxley *et al.* (2005). Interestingly, female pedestrians made the most accurate choices where they accept a larger gap size compared to their male counterparts (Ishaque & Noland., 2008). When to cross or wait, and where to cross the street are very complex tasks during the pedestrians' decision making process. In fact, many factors which can affect pedestrian decision including the convenience to cross, safety and comfort level. traffic volume, roadway surface condition, street width, crosswalk width, walkway obstructions and pedestrian flow were found to significantly affect pedestrian safety and comfort (Daniel *et al.*, 2016). The behaviour of pedestrians is not always constant. It changes based on road environments or the surroundings. However, pedestrians innately accommodate to their surroundings (Ishaque & Noland., 2008).

A number of researchers have investigated the usage of crossing road facilities. Knoblauch *et al.*, (2001) show how, in the past, research into eleven un-signalized intersections was mainly concerned with appraising the influence of crosswalk towards the behaviour of pedestrian. Moyano (2002) discovered that a waiting time in range of 45~60 s was the longer waiting time pedestrian may take when crossing street. Lobjois *et al.*, (2013) concluded that a longer pedestrian waiting time while attempting to cross road stream is one of the reasons why pedestrians tends to violate traffic rules. Other reasons are age, gender, and crosswalk type, crossing distance, ease of access, vehicular, traffic (volume and speed), waiting time, and group dynamic. Surveys such as that conducted by (Rizati *et al.*, 2013) showed that the pedestrian utilisation rates of bridges crossing facility in Malaysia, are dependents on several factors such as the location of the crossing facility from the place of destination was found to be the most influential factor for pedestrian to decide on utilizing the crossing facility.

Several authors (Hamed., 2001; Sisiopiku & Akin., 2003; Rosenbloom., 2009; Zhang & Chang., 2014; Demiroz *et al.*, 2015; Pawar *et al.*, 2016; Pawar & Patil., 2016; Pešić *et al.*, 2016) has reached to advanced level of researches for traffic and pedestrian crossings behavior, but in Asian countries such as Malaysia many studies regarding this matter are still in preliminary stages . Therefore, this research will investigate and model the accepting safe gaps and making decisions cross and modelling utilisation of Zebra crossing in urban streets in Malaysia.

1.3 Problem statement

The behaviour of pedestrians while crossing and their decision to make the crossing are direct representations of how they value their lives, how they react to their surroundings, and how they interact with other pedestrians. Jaywalking, i.e. crossing the street illegally or recklessly is one of the major causes of road accidents involving pedestrians (Loh, 2016). Apart from that, incompetent crossing, mostly among children and the elderly, has also been singled out as one of the contributory factors. Children accounted for 16% of total pedestrian casualties in the US, while 16% of pedestrian deaths in 2009 were the elderly aged 65 and above (Harless & Hoffer, 2007; NHTSA, 2014, 2016). A study in the Netherlands revealed that 33% of pedestrian-related fatal crashes and 42% of pedestrian-related injury crashes actually took place on crossing facilities (SWOV, 2012).

It was reported by the Malaysian Institute of Road Safety Research (2017) that pedestrians form the second largest group of vulnerable road users killed on Malaysian roads. An average of 13% of all pedestrian casualties is caused by motor vehicles each year. Figure 1.1 shows the number of pedestrian casualties along urban streets.

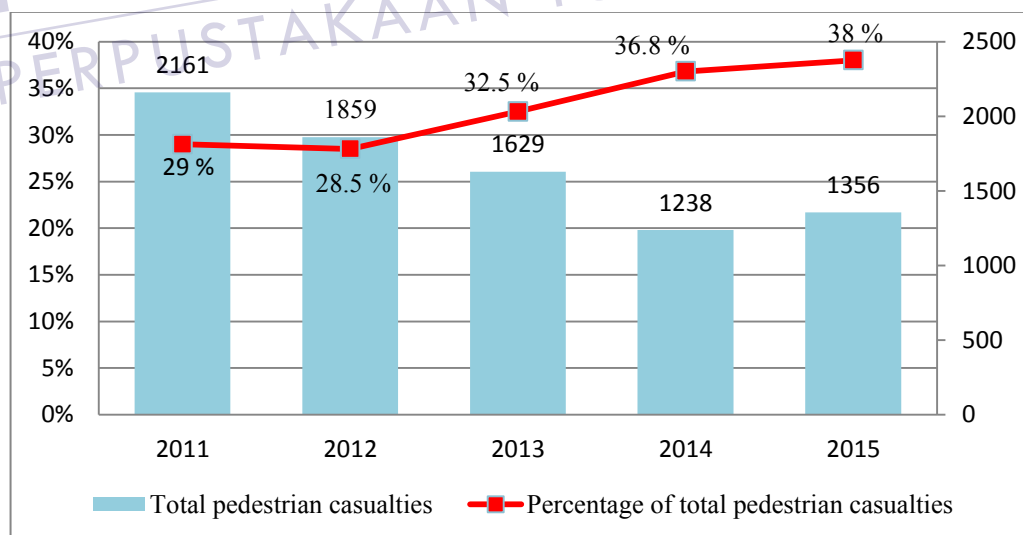


Figure 1.1: Number of pedestrian related crashes and percentage of pedestrian fatality (MIROS, 2017)

Pedestrian related collision can be attributed to various reasons as described by (Ariffin et al., 2017) . Causes of collision are influenced by factors such as area

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STANDARDS

AASHTO A Policy on Geometric Design of Highways and Streets (Green Book)

(https://bookstore.transportation.org/item_details.aspx?ID=110)

ADA Accessibility Guidelines (ADAAG)

(<http://www.access-board.gov/adaag/html/adaag.htm>)

Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD)

(<http://mutcd.fhwa.dot.gov/ser-pubs.htm>)

USEFUL WEBSITES AND REFERENCES

Department of Statistics Malaysia (<http://www.statistics.gov.my>)

MIROS -Malaysian Institute of Road Safety Research (www.miros.gov.my)

ASEAN New Car Assessment Program (www.aseancap.org)

Road Safety Department (www.jkjr.gov.my)



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