

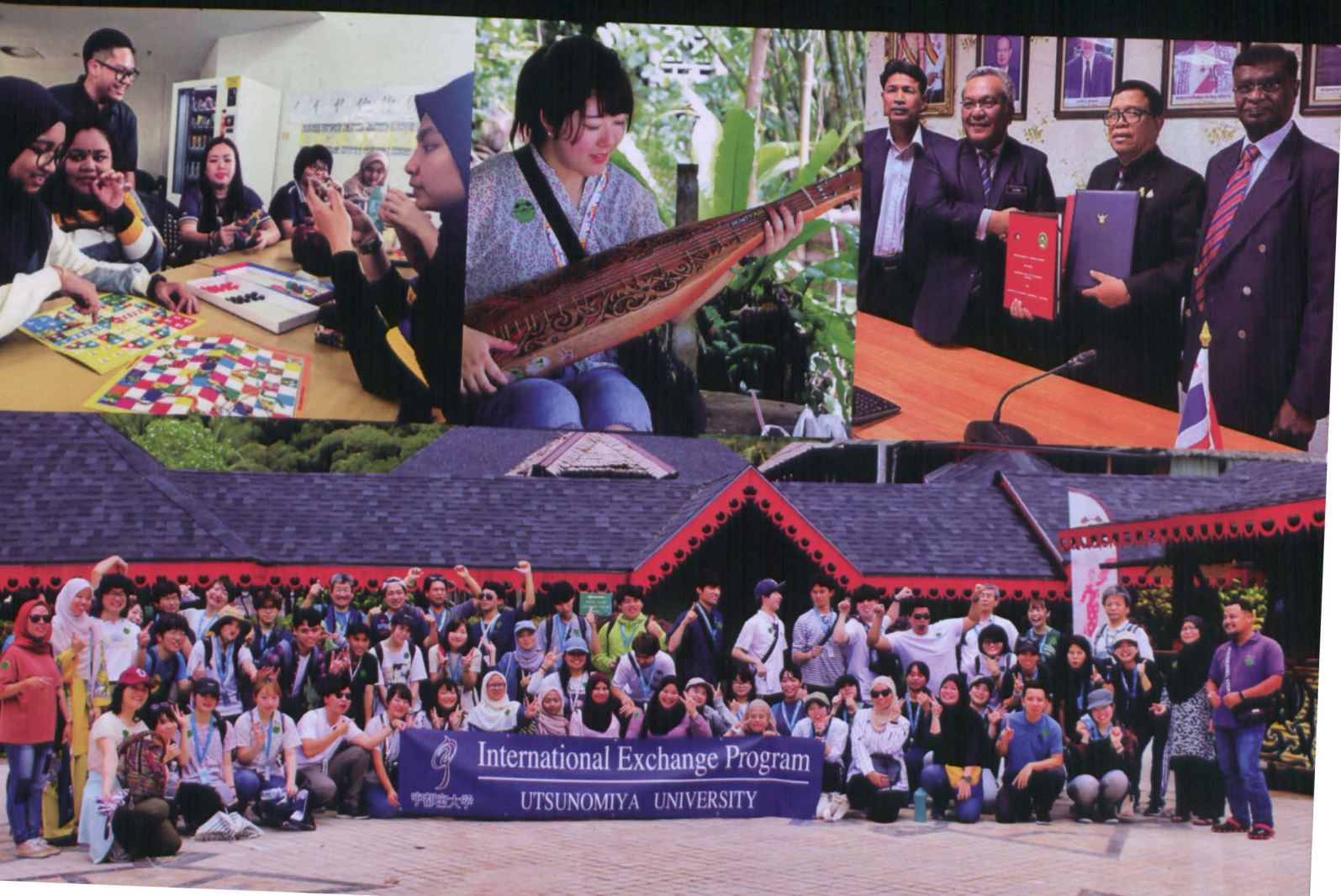


SPECIAL
EDITION

20 20

HAPPENINGS

@FACULTY OF LANGUAGE AND COMMUNICATION



291687



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DEAN'S MESSAGE

I warmly welcome you to our special edition of Happenings@FLC. This edition has a very significant meaning to us as it not only serves as a memoir, but it is also an opportunity for us to highlight our faculty's achievements despite 2020 being a challenging year.

It is often said that hard times create strong people. Even in the midst of COVID-19 pandemic, the year 2020 had been an inspiring year with publications, research activities and achievements among others from the faculty members of FLC. Despite the constraint of meeting face-to-face for organizing activities and meetings, our faculty members had managed to bring those activities to the digital platform to ensure teaching, learning and networking continue to take place.

As we move forward in 2021, I hope we will continue to double our efforts in pursuit of greater academic achievement. Working as a team is clearly one of the secrets that can produce results in more publications, research grants and global visibility. To recite Henry Ford's famous quote, "If everyone is moving forward together, then success takes care of itself."

Thank you and well done to FLC staff for their hard work and effort which placed the faculty in a good light.

I would also like to thank the editorial team for compiling and documenting the happenings at FLC throughout 2020 with three online newsletters and one special edition bulletin encapsulating the year.

The year 2020 was good for FLC. Let us make 2021 better.

Teguh Bersama.

Prof Ambigapathy Pandian



UNIMAS signs MoU with Songkhla Rajabhat University

Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (UNIMAS) signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) on strategic cooperation in academic, research and publication activities with Songkhla Rajabhat University (SKRU), Thailand on 29 January 2020.

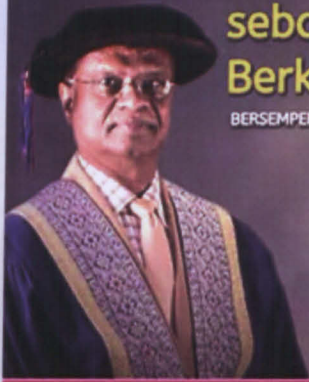
The MoU was signed between UNIMAS vice chancellor Prof Datuk Dr. Mohammad Kadim Suaidi and SKRU President Associate Prof Dr. Niwa Klingngam, witnessed by Dean of the Faculty of Language and Communication Prof Dr. Ambigapathy Pandian and SKRU Deputy President Associate Prof Dr. Kruan Kuakeeree.



Syarahan Perdana

Memartabatkan Bahasa Kebangsaan sebagai Wadah Kelestarian Pendidikan Berkualiti

BERSEMPENA DENGAN DEKAD BAHASA KEBANGSAAN 2020 PERINGKAT NEGERI SARAWAK

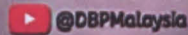


Tokoh

PROF. DR. AMBIGAPATHY PANDIAN
Dekan Fakulti Bahasa dan Komunikasi
Universiti Malaysia Sarawak

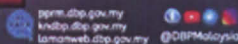
21 Oktober 2020 (Rabu), 9.00 pagi
Balai Budaya, Dewan Bahasa dan Pustaka
Cawangan Sarawak

boleh ikuti siaran langsung melalui



Moderator

DR. HAJI SANTROL ABDULLAH
Timbalan Pengerah
Dewan Bahasa dan Pustaka Cawangan Sarawak



DEAN'S INAUGURAL LECTURE

The Dean of the Faculty of Language and Communication, Prof Dr Ambigapathy Pandian was given the honour by Dewan Bahasa Pustaka Cawangan Sarawak (DBPCS) to deliver a public lecture entitled “*Memertabatkan Bahasa Kebangsaan sebagai Wadah Kelestarian Pendidikan Berkualiti*” on 21 October 2020.

The online public lecture was organized in conjunction with the state level Dekad Bahasa Kebangsaan 2020 and was broadcasted live on Facebook and YouTube.

Among the interesting points highlighted during the lecture was the development of Malay language which has played its role as national language since independence that has helped in promoting unity among Malaysians.

On top of that, Malay language has also been recognized as the foundation of nationalism that underpins Malaysia’s sovereignty and unity, national culture and eventually recognized as language of knowledge.

Memartabatkan Bahasa Kebangsaan sebagai Wadah Kelestarian



FLC IN THE YEAR 2020

35

SCOPUS/ERA
JOURNALS

27

RESEARCH
GRANTS

26

OTHER
PUBLICATIONS

83

NEWSPAPER
ARTICLES

7

ACHIEVEMENTS

1

MoU

FLC PUBLICATIONS IN SCOPUS/ERA JOURNALS

Ambigapathy Pandian, Damien Mikeng, Erlinda Mikal, & Kundrata, K. D. (2019) Reading with mom: Reading habits among rural readers in Sarawak. *International Journal of Asian Social Science*, 10 (1), 1-9.

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Asmah Haji Omar, & Norazuna Norahim. (2020). *Indigenous communities and languages of Sarawak, Malaysia*. Dewan Bahasa dan Pustaka.

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Siti Haslina Hussin, Nur Tahirah Razali, & Radina Mohamad Deli. (2020). *A quick guide to aligning assessment with learning domains*. UNIMAS Publisher.

Teo, D. C. L., Gaddafi Ismail, Rasidah Abd Wahab, & Roslan Ali. (2020). *Kokurikulum bercredit pelaksanaan kursus dan adaptasi pendidikan berasaskan hasil*. UNIMAS Publisher.

FLC PUBLICATION (BOOK CHAPTER)

Salbia Hassan, Mary Fatimah Subet, Dayang Sariah Abang Suhai, & Norlina Kiflie. (2020). Pelestarian kata arkaik dalam dialek Melayu Saratok. In Suraya Sintang, Mohd Nur Hidayat Hasbollah Hajimin, Habibah@Artini Ramlie, Syamsul Azizul Marinsah, & Abdul Hair Beddu Asis (Eds.), *Budaya etnik serumpun* (pp. 78-88). UMS Publisher.

SELECTED PUBLICATION ABSTRACTS

Collin Jerome (2020) A Place I Could Call My Own. *Indonesia and the Malay World*, 48:141, 247-260, DOI: 10.1080/13639811.2020.1751948

This article explores the meanings of 'home' for queer Malays in Malaysia through an analysis of the central gay Malay male character in Azwan Ismail's story, *Tiada sesalan* (No regrets). Drawing upon studies of home by feminist and queer geographers, the article examines the character's notions of 'home' and how these notions are constructed across time and space. The findings show that 'home' has been conceived of in many ways: as (1) a material-imaginative space; (2) a site of identity and power; and (3) a multi-scalar construct. The character has, for the most part of his life, been engaged in the process of queering home through which he developed a queer sense of 'home' and identity. This, however, has not been an easy task because the home is a powerful site that can both facilitate and complicate the process.

Malia Taibi and Teh Yin Na (2020) The Changes of Media Landscape in Malaysia: How Citizen Journalism Poses Threats to Traditional Media. *Jurnal Komunikasi ; Malaysian Journal of Communication*, 36(1). pp. 369-380. ISSN 0128-1496

The rise of Internet and social media have provided alternative ways for people to access information. Communication technologies have given a new platform for ordinary people outside of the journalism profession to become content creators instead of content users. This gives rise to citizen journalism as ordinary people can publish, share, discuss and debate about news and stories in a global sphere with others. While some might view this trend as a positive way in disseminating information, citizen journalism is facing numerous criticism as people are questioning their credibility regarding the news sources and the ethical code of practice that they use when collecting information. This study aims to highlight the changes taking place in Malaysian media landscape in response to citizen journalism as well as the threats towards mainstream journalism. Data was collected through a qualitative in-depth interview method with five journalists working in the mainstream news organizations in Malaysia. All respondents have vast experience in journalism, both in traditional newsroom and online news portal setting. The results indicated that changes occurring in the media landscape are due to several reasons namely instant gratification of news; changed mode of transmission; new styles of news writing; open and freer media environment and change of gate-keeping process. Threats posed by citizen journalism to traditional media are commercial impact, stealing of credits and stiff competition. It was concluded that newsrooms and journalists have to change in order to face the challenges posed by citizen journalism.

Dexter Sigan John, Chuah Kee Man, Keezrawati Mujan Yusuf (2020) Challenge-Based Assessments in a Gamified Learning Environment: A Case Study on Linguistics Students. *Journal of Critical Reviews*, 7 (16), 710-716. doi:10.31838/jcr.07.16.83

The increasing call for students to be equipped with 21st-century skills has prompted many academic programmes in tertiary learning institutions to revise their core focus particularly in their learning delivery and assessments. This study reports on the incorporation of challenge-based assessments in the Language and Computing course offered in a Linguistics undergraduate programme in a Malaysian university. In particular, the key tenets of challenge-based assessments are embedded within a gamified learning environment, in which the students are assessed progressively through a series of challenges. The course was run for 14 weeks with 68 students. By the end of the course, the students were required to evaluate their overall experience through a questionnaire. The findings showed that the novel use of challenge-based assessments has sustained students' interest in the course. Moreover, observable behavioural changes were also apparent such as the increase in attendance rate and active discussions in face-to-face classes. The students' perceptions regarding the whole course were notably positive with high ratings given to the constructs covered in the questionnaire. Ultimately, this case study provided valuable insights on how gamified challenge-based assessments can enhance students' engagement and deep learning.

Ting Su Hie, Yasuhiro Kotera, Siobhan Neary (2020) Mental Health of Malaysian University Students :UK Comparison, and Relationship between Negative Mental Health Attitudes, Self-compassion, and Resilience. *Higher Education*, 79. pp. 1-17. ISSN 1573-174X

Poor mental health of university students is becoming a serious issue in many countries. Malaysia - a leading country for Asia-Pacific education - is one of them. Despite the government's effort to raise awareness, Malaysian students' mental health remains challenging, exacerbated by the students' negative attitudes towards mental health (mental health attitudes). Relatedly, self-compassion and resilience have been reported to improve mental health and mental health attitudes. Malaysian students (n = 153) responded to paper-based measures about mental health problems, negative mental health attitudes, self-compassion, and resilience. Scores were compared with 105 UK students, who also suffered from poor mental health and negative mental health attitudes, to make a cross-cultural comparison, to contextualise Malaysian students' mental health status, using t tests (aim 1). Correlation, path, and moderation analyses were conducted, to evaluate the relationships among these mental health constructs (aim 2). Malaysian students scored higher on mental health problems and negative mental health attitudes, and lower on self-compassion and resilience than UK students. Mental health problems were positively associated with negative mental health attitudes, and negatively associated with self-compassion and resilience. While self-compassion mediated the relationship between negative mental health attitudes and mental health problems (high self-compassion weakened the impacts of negative mental health attitudes on mental health problems), resilience did not moderate the same relationship (the level of resilience did not influence the impact of negative mental health attitudes on mental health problems). Self-compassion training was suggested to counter the challenging mental health in Malaysian university students.

FLC RESEARCH GRANTS

MyRA Special Grant (SpMYRA) Grant

Menelusuri Gejala Awal dan Akhir Proses Kepupusan Bahasa: Kes Bahasa Penan

Dr Remmy ak Gedat

Penyelidikan Bahasa Sukuan Sarawak: Bahasa Halus dalam Masyarakat Melayu dan Iban

Dr Hamidah binti Abdul Wahab

Motivation and Demotivation in Foreign Language Learning

Dr Rokiah binti Paee

Effects of Different Approaches to Integrating Alternative Assessment Rubrics on English Language Learners' Speaking and Writing Ability

AP Dr Soubakeavathi A/P Rethinasamy

Pendokumentasian Kata Arkaik Dialek Melayu Saratok

Dr Salbia binti Hassan

The Effects of Language Proficiency, Gender, Academic Majors and Parents' Socioeconomic Status on Language Learning Strategies

Dr Ho Ai Ping

Analisis Semantik dan Aspek Kesusasteraan dalam Mentera dan Jampi Serapah Masyarakat Melayu di Kota Samarahan, Sarawak

Nur Ardini Jian Abdullah

Faktor Motivasi dan Sikap Pelajar Antarabangsa dalam Mempelajari Bahasa Melayu sebagai Bahasa Asing.

Dr Zuraini binti Seruji

Dinamik Bahasa dalam Media Atas Talian: Sumbangan Terhadap Perkamusan Melayu di Malaysia

Dr Wan Robiah binti Meor Osman

Short Grant Scheme (SGS)

A Comparison of Online Advice-Seeking Strategies between Western and Eastern Cultures

Dr Pung Wun Chiew

Dayak Chair Grant

Evaluating the Quality of Iban Radio Program and Language used by the Broadcasters at WaiFM Iban
Malia binti Taibi

Impact of Bidayuh Heritage Language Kindergartens on Academic Performance of Primary School Students in Kuching-Kota Samarahan Districts of Sarawak
AP Dr Ting Su Hie

The Entelah Project: Developing a Cognitive Ecological Model for Developing Iban Riddle Poem
AP Dr Norazuna binti Norahim

From Biar Bekikis Bulu Betis to Wawasan Bekikis Bulu Betis: Iban Pop Song and Visions of Unity: A Musical-Multimodal Discourse Analysis
Dr Collin ak Jerome

Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (SoTL) Grant

Assessment, Development, and Implementation of Strategic Communication Programme
Malia binti Taibi

Enhancing the English for Global Communication programme towards a Future-Ready Curriculum
Dr Monaliza binti Sarbini

Objective and Subjective Needs Analysis of Mandarin Learners in UNIMAS
Lam Kai Chee

Strategic Development, Implementation and Assessment of the Linguistic Programme
Dexter Sigan ak John

Cross Disciplinary Research Grant (CDRG)

Raising Community Awareness about TB: Knowledge, Attitudes, and Practices
Dr Joseph Ramanair

Special Top Down Grant (SpTDG)

Membaca Bersama Ibu (Reading with Mom) di Sekolah Pedalaman di Sarawak
Prof Dr Ambigapathy a/l Pandian

Constructing an Urban Communication Happiness Index as a Predictor of a Cohesive Community:
Revisiting Social Interaction Theory
AP Dr Mus Chairil bin Samani

Fundamental Research Grant Scheme (FRGS)

Constructing a Model on Receptivity Towards Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) in
Malaysia and Influence of Socialisation Agents in Communicating Norms
AP Dr Ting Su Hie

Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Research (MESTR) Grant

My Rebuilding: Resilience Building Through English and TVET Skilling
Jayapragas Gnaniah

#bendingtheband
Hj. Mohammad Fairuz Ali

Sarawak State Government Grant

Penyelidikan di sebalik pengorbanan Perjuangan Rosli Dhoby: Jati Diri Sekukuh Jiwanya
Dr Zuraini Seruji

Dewan Bahasa dan Pustaka (DBP) Grant

Kajian Tahap Penggunaan Bahasa Kebangsaan di Tempat Awam di Kuching, Sarawak
Dr Wan Robiah Meor Osman

Yayasan Sarawak Grant

Bahasa Lelucon Tok Nan: Implisit, Mencuit Hati dan Penuh Makna
Dr Fatimah Subet

FLC AWARDS

Teaching Excellence Awards Semester 1 (2019/2020)

Alternative Assessment

AP Dr Soubakeavathi Rethnasamy



Teaching Excellence Awards Semester 1 (2019/2020)

Immersive Learning Experience (Blended)

Kuan Wee Ling



Bachelor of Arts in English for Global Communication (Hons)

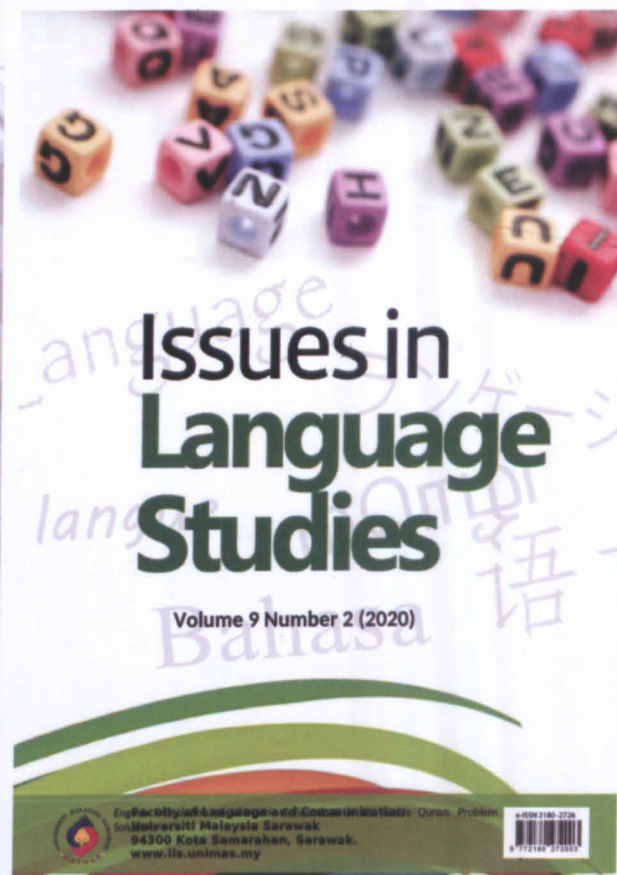
Partial Accreditation (MQA/PA 9690)

UNIMAS Journal: Issues in Language Studies (ILS)

Scopus Indexing

AP Dr Ting Su Hie & editorial team

Issues in Language Studies (ILS) is a flagship journal of the Faculty of Language and Communication, established on 5 March 2012. The journal publishes articles on teaching, learning and the study of languages. It offers a forum for the discussion of local issues that are of global concern. ILS was SCOPUS-indexed on 1 September 2020. The editorial committee with Associate Professor Dr Ting Su Hie as Chief Editor is committed to maintaining the standards of the journal and in sharing research findings with stakeholders in academia and the community. ILS welcomes your submissions at <http://www.ils.unimas.my/>

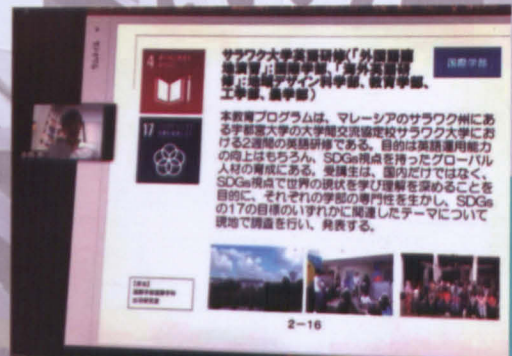


Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Education Award UNIMAS-Utsunomiya University EduTour programme

The EduTour programme is a collaborative effort between UNIMAS and Utsunomiya University (UU) since 2018. The programme is specially designed to provide a fun and meaningful experience for both UU and UNIMAS students. The contents of the EduTour programme are directly linked to SDGs.

It includes five major components which are English language classes, visit to historical and interesting places around Kuching, visits to school and faculties in UNIMAS, and recreational activities. A special component of the programme is the involvement of UNIMAS students as buddies. The buddy system creates a platform for UU and UNIMAS students to interact with each other and form lifelong friendship.

In conjunction with the award, an online symposium was held on 23 September 2020. During the symposium AP Dr Izuha who represented UU delivered his speech and AP Dr Souba Rethinasamy conveyed her appreciation message on behalf of UNIMAS EduTour team.



CILEx 2020

Gold Medal - Innovative Curriculum in Academic Programme
Bachelor of Arts in English for Global Communication (Hons)

Dr Joseph Ramanair, AP Dr Soubakeavathi Rethinasamy & Dr Yvonne Michelle Campbell

CILEx 2020

Gold Medal - Innovative Curriculum in Academic Programme
Bachelor of Arts (Linguistics) (Hons)

Dr Yvonne Michelle Campbell, Dr Remmy Gedat, Dr Hamidah Abdul Wahab, Dr Colline Jerome, Dr Roslan Ali, Dr Zuraini Seruji, AP Dr Shanti Nadarajan, Rosnah Mustafa, Dr Wan Robiah Meor Osman, Dr Monaliza Sarbini, Dexter Sigan anak John & Ahmed Shamsul Bahri Mohamad Tuah

It was a successful feat for the Faculty of Language and Communication when two programmes emerged winners at the UNIMAS Curriculum Innovation and Learner Engagement Exhibition (CILEx2020).

The English for Global Communication Programme won gold medal for their entry entitled "Innovative Curriculum in Academic Programme" while the Linguistics Programme obtained gold medal for CILEx2020 with the title "The Learning of Language and Culture through Experiential Learning". It was the second participation for the Linguistics Programme after winning Bronze Medal in CILEx19.

The Linguistics Programme, which started its first cohort in 2014/15, has undergone several improvements including experiential learning in most of its courses. Students are given the opportunity to experience for themselves learning in real life contexts while applying the knowledge they have learned in the classroom. Indirectly, this exposes them to issues related to linguistics, language, and culture in the real world.



FLC ACTIVITIES



Chinese New Year Celebration @ FLC

Tossing the Yee Sang for a prosperous year ahead with Prof. Datu Mohd Fadzil Abd Rahman and Assoc. Prof. Dr. Puah Chin Hong.

The celebration was held on 7 February 2020 and was organized by students who took the Mandarin language course.



Community Engagement: Reading with Mom

A total of 33 teachers and mothers of students from of SK St. Patrick, Krokong, Bau received certificates of participation and support from FLC UNIMAS in a special ceremony at the MultiMedia Theatre on 7 July 2020.

The event was organised to appreciate their participation and support for the "Reading with Mom" project which was funded by the UNIMAS Special Top Down Research Grant headed by Prof. Dr Ambigapathy Pandian.



Community Engagement: SK Endap

UNIMAS

Selamat Datang

FAKULTI BAHASA & KOMUNIKASI
FACULTY OF LANGUAGE & COMMUNICATION



Ustaz Mohd Azhar Ali collaborated with SK Endap, Kota Samarahan in a community engagement project to upgrade the school's canteen and toilets to make it more conducive for the students. The project will definitely benefit the students in the long run.



Online Motivation Program: Mudahnya Belajar Bahasa Melayu with Thaksin University



The current COVID-19 pandemic did not prevent teaching and learning from taking place.

This was evident when the Faculty of Language and Communication's lecturer Encik Dilah Tuah was invited to give a talk at a motivation program for students at Thaksin University, Songkhla, Thailand on 21 September 2020.

The online motivation program was attended by 21 students who are taking Malay language course at the Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities.

Among the objectives of the online motivation talk were to increase interest among students to learn and master Malay language; to expose students to creative ways to master the language and at the same time to strengthen networking ties between UNIMAS and Thaksin University especially between the two faculties.

Tenanglah

FLC academicians (Khadijah Mohamad Tuah, Erlinda Mikal and Melisa Malini Raja Gopal) and students (Nur Aimi Khalidah Hamzir, Azma Azrina Ahmad and Aida Yasmeen Sam Suri) collaborated with a UNIMAS alumni, Cynthia Lee who is currently a managing partner at Citrine One Sdn Bhd to produce a music video entitled "Tenanglah."



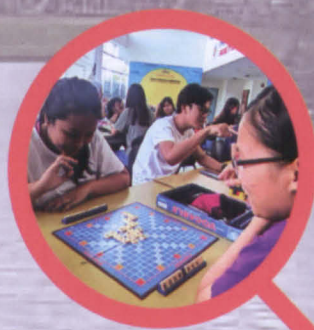
Tenanglah or stay calm is hoped to provide reassurance to all Malaysians who are fighting this pandemic together in isolation.

EduTour 2020: Students from Utsunomiya University, Japan

10 - 22 February 2020



Apart from classroom activities, the Utsunomiya students were also actively involved in outdoor activities such as kayaking at Tasik UNIMAS and hiking at Bako National Park.



Let's Play Board Games

A fun board games session was organized by the English for Global Communication programme students on 6 March 2020. This session was organised to provide students with the opportunity to have fun, de-stress, and enjoy each other's company.



PROGRAMMES OFFERED

UW-6-222-001 BACHELOR OF ARTS (LINGUISTICS) WITH HONOURS



Current students: 275
Core courses offered under the program: 41

BA Ling is a three-year degree programme offered by the Faculty of Language and Communication. It aims to produce graduates equipped with the flexibility to apply their knowledge and skills on language in the respective industry of their choice that may include humanities, technology, economics among others. Accredited by MQA, this programme also offers students opportunities to learn Borneo languages via experiential learning platforms.

UW-6-321-001 BACHELOR OF COMMUNICATION (STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION) WITH HONOURS



Current students: 182
Core courses offered under the program: 27

BC Strategic Communication is a four-year programme that aims to produce graduates with analytical, critical and practical skills in the field of strategic communication. Apart from being equipped with leadership skills that enable them to become responsible in communicating objectively and creatively, they will also be able to optimize the usage of thorough and strategic communication tools for them to adapt their knowledge with the dynamic global environment.

UW-6-224-001 BACHELOR OF ARTS (ENGLISH FOR GLOBAL COMMUNICATION) WITH HONOURS



Current students: 139
Core courses offered under the program: 37

BA in English for Global Communication is a four-year programme offered by the Faculty of Language and Communication. The main medium of instruction for this programme is English. Students will be provided with opportunities to apply the knowledge and their ability to use English effectively for various communication needs in local and global settings.

COURSES OFFERED

Apart from the three programmes, the faculty also offers elective courses, generic courses and MPU courses to the undergraduate students of UNIMAS.

13

ELECTIVE COURSES

9

GENERIC COURSES

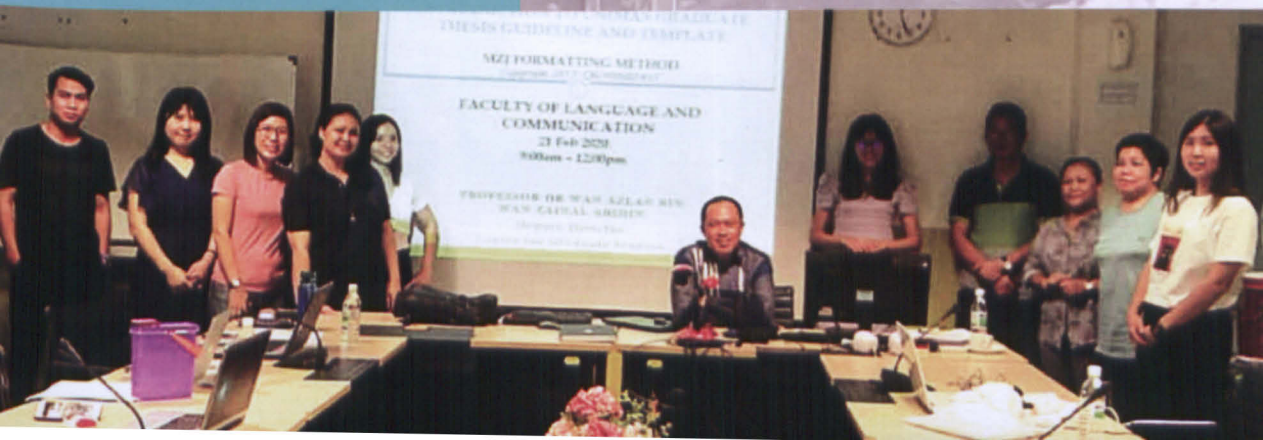
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MPU COURSES

POSTGRADUATE PROGRAMMES



FLC offers Master and PhD programmes by research in Linguistics, Applied Linguistics, Teaching and Learning as well as Communication. Currently, there are 68 postgraduate students; 25 of them are international students from China, Pakistan, India, Indonesia and Yemen. Various activities have been conducted throughout the years as part of the students' research training. Our postgraduate students have won many awards both at the national and international level.





Melisa Rajagopal
Academician Language Teacher
UNIMAS Faculty of Language and Communication

Dugaan ini sama kita tempuh



Erlinda Mikal
Academician Language Teacher
UNIMAS Faculty of Language and Communication

Hingga tiba nanti

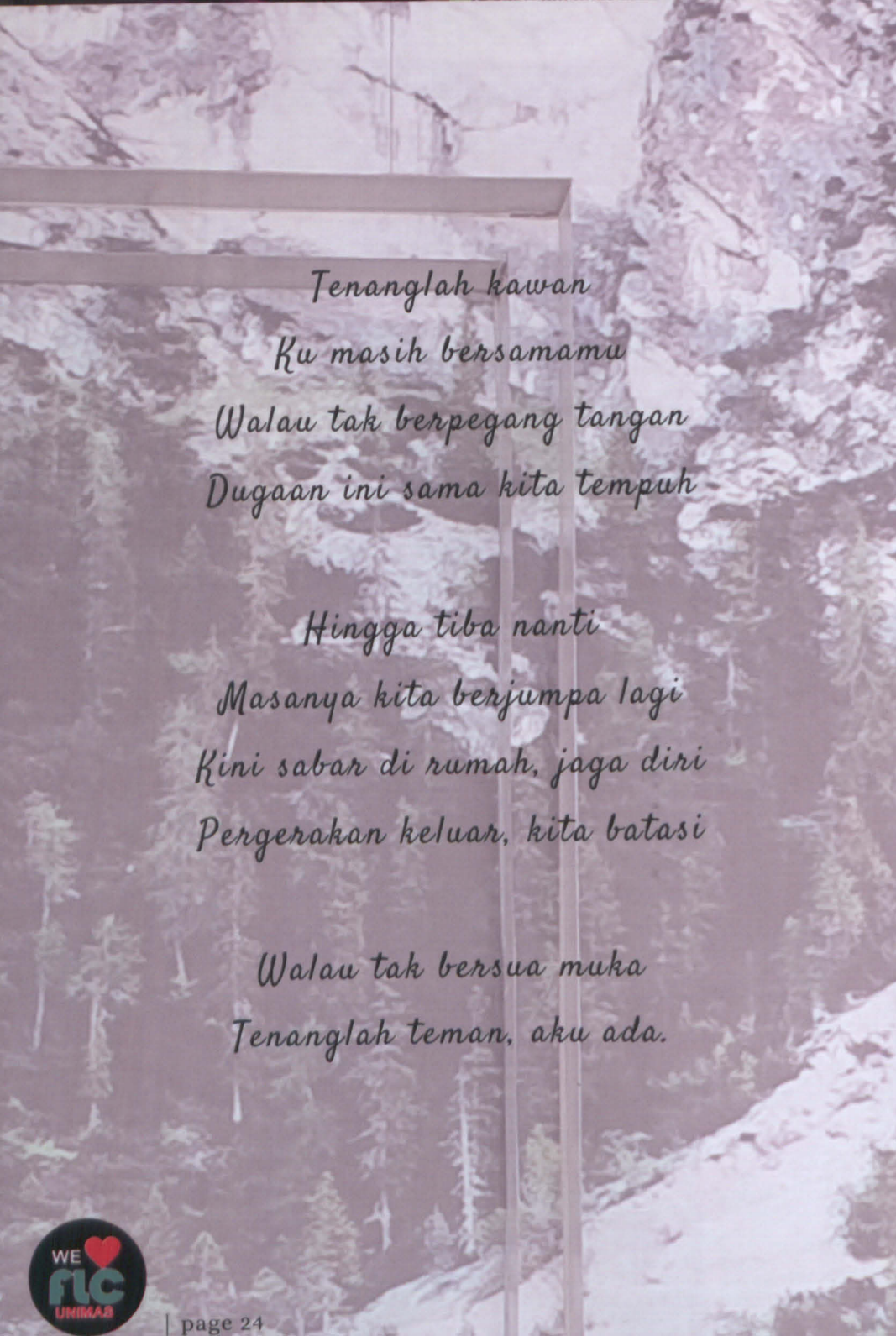


Aida
Student
UNIMAS Faculty of Language and Communication



Azma Azrina Ahmad
Student
UNIMAS Faculty of Language and Communication

Masanya kita berjumpa



*Tenanglah kawan
Ku masih bersamamu
Walau tak berpegang tangan
Dugaan ini sama kita tempuh*

*Hingga tiba nanti
Masanya kita berjumpa lagi
Kini sabar di rumah, jaga diri
Pergerakan keluar, kita batasi*

*Walau tak bersua muka
Tenanglah teman, aku ada.*



Tenanglah

PENGHARGAAN

Penerbit bersama:
Fakulti Bahasa dan Komunikasi UNIMAS
Citrine One Sdn Bhd
Penulis lirik: Nana
Komposer: Zoe Wong
Penghargaan khas:
Khadijah Mohamad Tuah
(Fakulti Bahasa dan Komunikasi UNIMAS)



Cynthia Lee
Managing Partner / Citrine One Sdn Bhd

Pergerakan keluar, kita batasi



Mia Dania
Student
UNIMAS Faculty of Language and Communication

Masanya kita berjumpa



Bob
Student
UNIMAS Faculty of Language and Communication

thab...mentan...

EDITORIAL TEAM



Malia Taibi



Dabif Jack Shaw



Ahmed Shamsul Bahri
Mohamad Tuah

Khadijah
Mohamad Tuah



Editor's Note

The year 2020 was indeed challenging. The spread of COVID-19 pandemic affected everyone across the globe. In the first phase of the pandemic, the virus momentarily stopped all activities in different sectors including education when the government imposed Movement Control Order (MCO). Schools were forced to close while higher institutions of learning had to integrate technology fully in the teaching and learning process. This came as no surprise as majority of Malaysians were forced to work from home and embrace the new normal affecting their lifestyle.

Looking back, despite the gloom that COVID-19 brought, members of the Faculty of Language and Communication were able to remain lively, animated and energetic in performing their duties. There were hurdles that hindered the execution of activities and duties, but the faculty members managed to overcome those through teamwork and determination.

The faculty was abuzz at the beginning of the year 2020; there were numerous activities lined up which educators and students alike looked forward to. One of the most anticipated activities for the year was a visit by students and educators from Utsunomiya University, Japan for the EduTour Program. Final year students were eager to come up with activities to create final memories of their time as university students...but then, the COVID-19 pandemic struck.

Resilient. Adaptable.

Though the initial responses were surrounded with the feeling of confusion, helplessness and dread, the faculty members were determined to rise above and not give up.

The faculty managed to produce 35 SCOPUS/ERA journals, worked with 27 research grants and managed to secure 5 academic awards. Despite these accomplishments, there were lingering concerns among the faculty members. How would the students fare? Will conducting online teaching and learning fully even work?

The journey of embracing online teaching and learning was facilitated by guidance as well as support from various departments in the university. There were needs to explore different methods for online video conferencing, teaching applications and the use of social media platforms to engage with the students so they would not be left behind.

Hope.

Tremendous resilience and perseverance were shown by everyone in the year 2020. The pandemic taught us how to adapt to changes when the need arises so that we can move on with our lives. It was a journey of give and take, a balancing act. So, looking into 2021, I know we can achieve even more.

Khadijah Mohamad Tuah

WE 
FLC
UNIMAS

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