

UNIVERSITI TEKNOLOGI MARA

**MEDICAL STUDENTS'
PERSPECTIVES ON THE
ENGLISH B HIGHER LEVEL
PROGRAM OFFERED BY THE
INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE
CURRICULUM
IN KOLEJ MARA BANTING**

NORAINI BINTI AHMAD SHUKRI @ NOORUDDIN

Dissertation submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements
for the degree of
**Master of Education
(TESL)**

Faculty of Education

November 2012

AUTHOR'S DECLARATION

I declare that the work in this dissertation was carried out in accordance with the regulations of Universiti Teknologi MARA. It is original and is the results of my own work, unless otherwise indicated or acknowledged as referenced work. This topic has not been submitted to any other academic institution or non-academic institution for any degree or qualification.

In the event that my dissertation 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.

Name of Candidate : Noraini Binti Ahmad Shukri @ Nooruddin


Candidate I.D. No. : 2007131297

Programme : Master of Education in Teaching English as a Second language
(ED720)

Faculty : Faculty of Education

Thesis Title : Medical Students' Perspectives on the English B Higher Level
Program Offered by the International Baccalaureate Curriculum in
Kolej Mara Banting

Signature of Candidate:



Date : December 2012

ABSTRACT

This study investigated which language component in the newly-introduced English B Higher Level subject by International Baccalaureate Diploma in Kolej MARA Banting are most preferred by its pre-medical students. The researcher also investigated and explored the students' perceptions as to which of these determined components¹ (Writing, Oral Competency or Literature) they believed have contributed the most to their English proficiency. This particular research is concerned with understanding the participants' opinions and viewpoints in order to identify and understand the significance of the phenomenon specifically from the participants' perspectives and this done by distributing a short questionnaire to 68 randomly-selected students and 10 instructors, as well as the study of existing documents, to ensure the data collected through the questionnaires were consistent. This particular study on KMB students' perception is deemed significant as many of these students felt they are particularly weak in the subject. Initial findings indicated that although, not at the same level of preference, it is safe to conclude that all the aforementioned components are viewed as important not only in contributing to their language proficiency, but also to the outcome of their forthcoming IB examinations. It is also discovered that the greatest students' preference is for the study of the Literature course. However, it is also observed that the Writing course is considered the most important as respondents see it as relating directly to their performance in the written examinations. The study also indicates that there is a sense of ambiguity and uncertainty in some of the respondents' responses, which imply towards their lack of aptitude in assessing their own language learning needs and weaknesses in relation to the English B HL program. However, a more significant concern was disclosed by the researcher, a new issue emerged in relation to the concerns regarding the significant disparity of instructors' individual interpretation and implementation of the prescribed syllabus. The implications of these findings points to the issue concerning the disparity of classroom instructions amongst the language instructors and questions instructors' own abilities in executing the appropriate language teaching methodology in carrying out the intended syllabus.

¹ The responses from the respondents with regards to their perception, of which language courses they considered as contributing most in their English language proficiency, revealed that Writing, Oral Competency and Literature are all regarded as important language components.

PERSEPSI PARA PELAJAR JURUSAN PERUBATAN TERHADAP PROGRAM ENGLISH B HIGHER LEVEL YANG DITAWARKAN OLEH INTERNATIONAL BACCAULAUREATE CURRICULUM DI KOLEJ MARA BANTING

ABSTRAK

Kajian ini bertujuan mengkaji persepsi para pelajar jurusan pra-perubatan mengenai komponen² manakah di dalam program *English B Higher Level* yang ditawarkan oleh *International Baccalaureate Curriculum* di Kolej MARA Banting yang dianggap paling digemari oleh mereka di dalam pembelajaran bahasa Inggeris. Ini juga termasuk persepsi mereka terhadap komponen manakah yang dianggap paling kondusif untuk memperbaiki tahap kemahiran bahasa Inggeris mereka. Metodologi kajian ini melibatkan ujian kajiselidik persepsi pelajar dan guru, analisis dokumen-dokumen tersedia seperti sukatan pelajaran *English B HL* Tahun 1 dan 2 dan keputusan peperiksaan para pelajar. Hasil dapatan menunjukkan bahawa para pelajar beranggapan bahawa kesemua komponen yang disebut adalah penting dalam proses pembelajaran Bahasa Inggeris dan juga untuk memastikan kejayaan mereka di dalam peperiksaan IB di semester akhir nanti. Hasil dapatan juga menunjukkan bahawa komponen Kesusasteraan Bahasa Inggeris adalah yang paling digemari dan komponen Penulisan pula dianggap yang paling penting di dalam subjek ini. Namun begitu, terdapat beberapa keraguan dan ketidakpastian yang agak ketara yang mengusulkan bahawa para pelajar tidak dapat mengenalpasti keperluan dan kelemahan mereka di dalam subjek English B HL ini dengan berkesan. Hasil dapatan juga menunjukkan bahawa terdapat beberapa perbezaan yang ketara di antara tenaga pengajar dari sudut penafsiran dan pelaksanaan sukatan pelajaran di dalam proses pengajaran mereka di dalam kelas. Implikasi kajian ini mencadangkan bahawa terdapat beberapa isu ketidakpastian di dalam pelaksanaan subjek English B HL dan juga keraguan mengenai kebolehan dan kemahiran metodologi segelintir tenaga pengajar dalam proses penyampaian sukatan pelajaran yang telah ditentukan.

² Tiga komponen yang dikenalpasti melalui kajiselidik persepsi para pelajar pra-perubatan sebagai komponen-komponen utama di dalam subjek *English B HL* adalah Penulisan, Perbualan dan Kesusasteraan Bahasa Inggeris.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I would like to take this valuable opportunity to express the deepest of my appreciation, gratitude and heartfelt thanks to Dr. Shireena Basree, my supervisor, for her much crucial professional advice, priceless guidance and continual support while I am carrying out this dissertation. Her tolerance and patience means so much, especially when I found myself at a 'point of no return'. I am also forever grateful to the students of KMB who were willing to spend their precious time in taking part in the research, not forgetting my helpful and understanding colleagues who demonstrated great care and support particularly during the difficult times as they occur.

Last but not least, I would also like to express my deepest gratitude to my late mother, father, husband and my three precious sons for their unyielding love and support in the process of completion of this whole study.

Thank you to all, I am forever indebted.