

UNIVERSITI TEKNOLOGI MARA

**TEACHERS' READINESS IN THE TEACHING OF
MATHEMATICS AND SCIENCE IN ENGLISH**

RICHARD ANAK BANTER

MASTER OF EDUCATION IN TESL

30 April 2009

UNIVERSITI TEKNOLOGI MARA

**TEACHERS' READINESS IN THE TEACHING OF
MATHEMATICS AND SCIENCE IN ENGLISH**

RICHARD ANAK BANTER

**Thesis submitted in partial fulfilment of the requirements
For the degree of
Master of Education in TESL**

Faculty of Education

30 April 2009

UNIVERSITI TEKNOLOGI MARA

Candidate'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 result 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 other degree or qualification.

In the event that the 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 : Richard Anak Banter
Candidate's ID No : 601104-13-5297
Programme : Master in Education (TESL)
Faculty : Faculty of Education Universiti Teknologi MARA
Dissertation Title : Teachers' Readiness in the teaching of Mathematics
and Science in English.

Signature of Candidate :



Date

: 30 April 2009

ABSTRACT

When the Malaysian Education Ministry announced a change in the medium of instruction from the national language, Bahasa Malaysia to English for Mathematics and science subjects for Primary one, form one, and lower sixth forms, beginning the year 2003, teachers and students nationwide have to grapple with the switch of language. As the implementation news was announced at a very short notice, many teachers were caught by surprise as some were not prepared to deliver the subjects using English. This is probably due to lack of proficiencies, confidence and inadequate command of English. These problems, if not taken seriously would undermine the process of teaching and learning and subsequently students would be the victim as they are the ones that sit for the assessment and examination. Therefore, this study using questionnaires is undertaken to investigate the Teachers' Readiness in the Teaching of Mathematics and Science in English. Sixty-nine respondents from four selected secondary schools in Kuching, Sarawak participated in this study. The major finding shows that a large number of the respondents felt that they were ready to teach Mathematics and Science in English. The finding also indicated that the respondents were proficient and confident in teaching both the subjects in English as indicated by 75% or 53 of the respondents. Although, courses and training were given 25% or 16 of the respondent encountered problems in understanding some of the terminologies and pronunciation in English. A positive finding from the study revealed that majority of the respondents was well prepared before each lesson as indicated by 80% or 57 of the respondents. Finally, respondents were of the opinion that they were ready to teach both the subjects in English as indicated. In addition, it can be implied that some Mathematics and science teachers should be given motivational training to upgrade their proficiency in English Language. Based on the findings which only involved sixty-nine Mathematics and Science teachers, thus it is recommended that a larger study could be carried out with lager sample from the whole state of Sarawak that could provide a more valid and reliable information. Secondly, this study only concentrates on teachers' readiness, thus, it is appropriate to conduct a study that involves students' readiness too for both the primary and secondary schools. Finally, as this study only covered some aspects of technical training ICT for courseware for the respondents, it is recommended that a special study be conducted on teacher's training on handling of computer course wares in future to further enhance the process of teaching and learning Mathematics and Science in English.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I wish to put on record my sincere and heartfelt gratitude and appreciation to all those who have directly or indirectly assisted me in the completion of the study. I am indeed very much indebted to all of them

My Supervisor
Associate Professor Dr. Abu Bakar Haji Ibrahim
Faculty of Education, Universiti Teknologi Mara, Shah Alam, Selangor
for his valuable feedback and many months of painstaking supervising my thesis
either through Email or personal contact.

My wife, Latifah and children; Reena, Reuben, Ralf and niece Susie, brothers, sisters, in-laws, relatives and friends for their undying support, prayers and encouragement.

I would also like to pay a very special tribute in memory of my late son Royston Gura, my late father Banter Rumba and mother Linggai Gura who all these years have been an instrument and real inspiration that have lifted my spirit to complete the course.

Pengarah Pelajaran
Jabatan Pendidikan Negeri Sarawak
Puan Lailawati Ahmad
Former Pengetua SMK Agama Matang
for their permission to pursue my studies

To the Coordinators Mdm Isma Izza and Ms Siti Huzaimah
and my friends, the 2nd Cohort (M.Ed/TESL) UITM 2006-2008,
Taka, Edwin, Samen, Albert, Peter, Alfred, Antel, Shanty, Caroline, Adeline, Sophia,
Phyllina, Josephine, Lucilla and Ann who had given me the inspiration and moral
support, while in UITM Kota Samarahan Campus for two years as that has made a
very enriching educational experience.

And not forgetting my friends
Lendik, Iris, Clare, for their very kind assistance and my cousin Rick Hanson
Gumbang for helping in doing the proof-reading, giving suggestions and time spent.

Last but not least, my special appreciation: To my colleagues and friends; the
Mathematics and Science teachers of SMK Agama Matang, SM Teknik Matang, SM
Sains and SMK Matang Jaya for being so kind in answering the questionnaires and
interviews.

Special thanks also goes to the current principal of SMK Agama Matang, Tuan Haji
Roslan and Senior Assistant Mr Mohamad Obey, Senior Assistant of SMK Matang
Jaya, Tuan Haji Ismawi Muhi, Senior teacher of SM Teknik Mr Denis and Dr Lau of
SMK Kuching High for being very helpful in giving some useful information and
materials on the teaching of Mathematics and Science in English.