

**ENGLISH PERFORMANCE AMONG SKILLED WORKERS**

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**UNIVERSITI UTARA MALAYSIA**

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## **ENGLISH PERFORMANCE AMONG SKILLED WORKERS**

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PROJECT PAPER PRESENTED TO UUM COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES,  
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**UNIVERSITI UTARA MALAYSIA**

**2011**

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I declare that all the works described in this proposal was undertaken by me (unless otherwise acknowledged in the texts) and that none of the work has been previously submitted for any academic degree. All sources of quoted information have been acknowledged through references.

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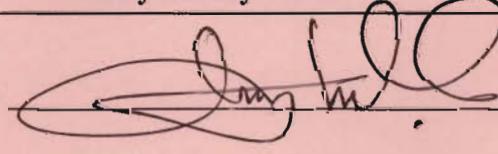
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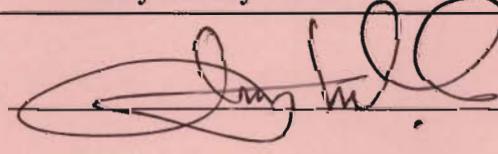
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## ENGLISH PERFORMANCE AMONG SKILLED WORKERS

### ABSTRACT

This study aims to examine the English language performance towards skilled workers of IKM, Alor Setar. It also determines the association between gender in English performance among the skill workers in IKM and also to determine the relationship between interest in English language and English performance among the skill workers in IKM. The participation for this study are all 2<sup>nd</sup> Semester students from four different courses in IKM Alor Setar, such as Certificate in Structural Drawing, Certificate in Architectural Drawing, Certificate in Building Construction and Certificate in Furniture Design. The total number of students is 91 students, which 59 are male students and 32 are the female students. Students' interest of English language learning was measured by using the questionnaire designed and modified from the journal taken from Zavodny (2000); Burt (2004); Gurvinder Kaur Gucharan Singh & Sharan Kaur Garib Singh (2008). Lambert (1963) Theory on intrinsic and extrinsic motivation on students' perception and interest in English language, which relates with their technical and vocational needs in technical learning. The questionnaire consists of 16 questions using the Likert Scale and being rank from 'Strongly Agree' to 'Strongly Disagree'. The collected data was analyzed with One Way ANOVA and Spearman correlation test by using the Statistical Package of Social Science (SPSS) version 16.0. The results showed that students' interest in English language differ according to their perception and needs but not to gender. In addition, the results of the study are using the descriptive analysis by looking at the Mean and percentage of students' achievement in 2010 in English language subject. Gender in English performance showed no major differences and both genders can perform well in learning the English language. Meanwhile, in interest of learning the English language, the skill workers were intrinsically and extrinsically motivated. This is due to their strong desire and realization of the importance of the English language towards their working and learning field. The implication for this research, encouragement and exposure especially in English communication should be focus. Since the skill workers involving with business world and dealing with people, therefore, the English language should be design in much interesting and effective ways in the workshop as well as the communication skills. Through these changes, the technical students will move ahead and feel proud of their achievement.

## PRESTASI BAHASA INGGERIS DIKALANGAN PEKERJA KEMAHIRAN

### ABSTRAK (TRANSLATION)

Kajian ini bertujuan untuk mengenal pasti prestasi Bahasa Inggeris terhadap pekerja kemahiran di IKM, Alor Setar. Ianya juga mengenal pasti akan hubungkait di antara jantina dengan prestasi Bahasa Inggeris di kalangan pekerja kemahiran di IKM dan juga melihat perhubungan di antara minat dalam Bahasa Inggeris dengan prestasi Bahasa Inggeris di kalangan mereka. Peserta kajian ini merupakan pelajar semester 2 dari empat kursus yang berbeza di IKM Alor Setar seperti Sijil Teknologi Lukisan Struktur, Sijil Teknologi SeniBina, Sijil Teknologi Bangunan dan juga Sijil Teknologi Pembuatan Perabot. Bilangan pelajar bagi semester ini adalah seramai 91 orang yang mana merangkumi 59 orang pelajar lelaki dan 32 orang pelajar perempuan. Minat pelajar dalam Bahasa Inggeris di ukur dengan menggunakan soal selidik yang direka dan di ubahsuai daripada jurnal seperti Zavodny (2000); Burt (2004); Gurvinder Kaur Gucharan Singh & Sharan Kaur Garib Singh (2008). Teori Lambert (1963) mengenai motivasi luaran dan motivasi dalaman terhadap persepsi dan minat pelajar dalam Bahasa Inggeris digunakan bagi mengukur tahap Bahasa Inggeris dengan penggunaannya dalam bidang teknikal dan vokasional. Soal selidik tersebut mempunyai 16 soalan dan di ukur menggunakan Skala Likert dengan kedudukan dari ‘Sangat Setuju’ sehingga ‘Sangat Tidak Setuju’. Data yang diperolehi di analisa menggunakan ujian ANOVA satu hala dan ujian kolerasi Spearman dengan menggunakan Statistical Package of Social Science (SPSS) Versi 16.0. Hasil kajian menunjukkan bahawa minat pelajar dalam Bahasa Inggeris berbeza mengikut persepsi dan keperluan tetapi tidak berbeza mengikut jantina. Di samping itu, kajian menggunakan analisa keterangan dan melihat Min dan peratusan pelajar dalam matapelajaran Bahasa Inggeris bagi tahun 2010. Jantina dalam prestasi Bahasa Inggeris tidak menunjukkan perbezaan yang ketara malah boleh menunjukkan prestasi yang lebih bagus dalam pembelajaran Bahasa Inggeris. Sementara itu, minat dalam mempelajari Bahasa Inggeris, pekerja kemahiran ini lebih bermotivasi samaada secara luaran maupun motivasi dalaman. Ini disebabkan oleh kemauan yang tinggi dan kesedaran akan kepentingan Bahasa Inggeris dalam bidang pekerjaan dan pelajaran. Implikasi dari kajian ini menekankan akan galakkan dan pendedahan terutama dalam komunikasi Bahasa Inggeris. Memandangkan pekerja kemahiran ini terlibat dengan dunia perniagaan dan banyak berkomunikasi dengan orang lain, maka, Bahasa Inggeris perlu direka dan didedahkan dengan pelbagai kemahiran dan corak pembelajaran yang lebih menarik, sama ada penggunaan di bengkel maupun dalam komunikasi. Melalui perubahan ini, pelajar – pelajar teknikal akan maju ke hadapan dan bangga dengan pencapaian mereka dalam penggunaan Bahasa Inggeris.

## **TABLE OF CONTENT**

<b>CERTIFICATE OF MASTERS PROJECT</b>	<b>ii</b>
<b>PERMISSION OF USAGE</b>	<b>iii</b>
<b>ACKNOWLEDGEMENT</b>	<b>iv</b>
<b>ABSTRACT</b>	<b>v</b>
<b>ABSTRAK (TRANSLATION)</b>	<b>vi</b>
<b>TABLE OF CONTENT</b>	<b>vii - ix</b>
<b>LIST OF TABLES</b>	<b>x</b>
<b>LIST OF ACRONYM</b>	<b>xi</b>
<b>CHAPTER I : INTRODUCTION</b>	<b>1</b>
1.1    Background of Study	1
1.2    Problem Statement	5
1.3    Objective of Study	5
1.4    Research Questions	6
1.5    Research Significance	6
1.6    Operational Definition	6
1.7    Conceptual Framework	8
1.8    Conclusion	8

<b>CHAPTER II :</b>	<b>LITERATURE REVIEW</b>	<b>10</b>
2.1	Introduction	10
2.2	Definition: English Performance, Skill Workers, Genders and Interest	10 - 16
2.3	Theory of Interest	17
2.4	Gender and English Performance Relationship	18
2.5	Interest and English Performance Relationship	23
2.6	Skill Workers and English Language Relationship	27
2.7	Conclusion	37
<b>CHAPTER III :</b>	<b>METHODOLOGY</b>	<b>38</b>
3.1	Introduction	38
3.2	Research Design	38
3.3	Subject of Study	39
3.4	Research Instruments	40
3.5	Pilot Study	41
3.6	Validity	42
3.7	Data Collection Procedure	42
3.8	Conclusion	43

<b>CHAPTER IV :</b>	<b>FINDINGS</b>	<b>44</b>
4.1	Introduction	44
4.2	Students Profile	44
4.3	Gender Differences according to English Performance	45
4.4	Analysis of Data	46
4.5	Conclusion	54
<b>CHAPTER V :</b>	<b>DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION</b>	<b>55</b>
5.1	Introduction	55
5.2	Summary of Study: Gender and English Performance Interest and English Performance	55
5.3	Discussion	56
5.4	Implication	58
5.5	Conclusion	61

## **REFERENCES**

## **APPENDIX A: QUESTIONNAIRE**

## **APPENDIX B: LETTER OF PERMISSION**

## LIST OF TABLES

<b>Table</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Page</b>
1.1	Gender and Interest in English Performance among the Skill Workers in IKM Alor Setar.	8
2.1	Grade Data for Technical Courses in IKM Alor Setar, Kedah.	25
4.1	Genders According to Courses in IKM Alor Setar.	45
4.2	English Grade Data for Year 2010 for Technical Courses in IKM Alor Setar, Kedah.	46
4.3	IKM Alor Setar Students' Responses towards Interest	47

## LIST OF ACRONYM

<b>ADB</b>	Asian Development Bank
<b>ASEAN</b>	Association of South East Asian Nations
<b>CTE</b>	Career and Technical Education
<b>ICT</b>	<i>Information Computer Technology</i>
<b>IKBN</b>	Institut Kemahiran Belia Negara
<b>IKM</b>	Institut Kemahiran MARA
<b>ILP</b>	Institut Latihan Perindustrian
<b>IQ</b>	<i>Intelligence Quotient</i>
<b>KKTM</b>	Kolej Kemahiran Tinggi MARA
<b>MARA</b>	Majlis Amanah Rakyat
<b>SDT</b>	<i>Self Determination Theory</i>
<b>SPM</b>	Sijil Pelajaran Malaysia
<b>SPSS</b>	<i>Statistical Package of Social Science</i>
<b>STBN</b>	Certificate in Building Construction
<b>STLS</b>	Certificate in Structural Drawing
<b>STRP</b>	Certificate in Furniture Design
<b>STSB</b>	Certificate in Architectural Drawing
<b>TVE</b>	Technical Vocational Education and Training
<b>UTM</b>	Universiti Teknologi Malaysia

## CHAPTER 1

### INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 Background of Study

In the globalized world, the usage of English language is a must and important especially when it involves with multicultural and multi linguistic country such as Malaysia would be a challenge. Still, many level of education in Malaysia seems to ignore the importance of learning the English language. Yunggar (2005) is proving this, for many years for Malaysian education systems did not take serious of English language with excuses of did not want to be colonized by the English colonial inheritance. Lau, (2002), is proving this neglect by saying that “already more than 44,000 public university graduates remained unemployed because they have unmarketable degrees and poor command of English.”

Even though to become masters in English language and having an interest and high motivation in learning the language would be a great challenge, and still, graduates and educators must concern that English language is a language that widely used. Many researchers agree the importance of English language especially in communication skills since they are going into globally news and information as well as business and diplomacy skills (Kitao, 2006; Wan Irham., Shafinah Md Salleh & Azhari Md Hashim, 2006, & Ab. Rahim & Ivan, 2007). This being supported by statement from the former Prime Minister of Malaysia, “Dr Mahathir realizes that English is the key to Malaysia’s future

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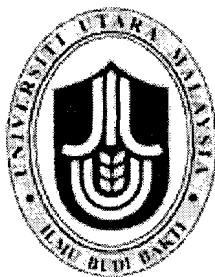
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## APPENDIX A

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## UNIVERSITI UTARA MALAYSIA

**ENGLISH PERFORMANCE AMONG SKILLED WORKERS**

This questionnaire contains questions purposely to get your perception on interest of learning the English language.

Please respond honestly and precisely on every questions in this questionnaire. All information gathers are CONFIDENTIAL and only being use for research only.

I would like to say thank you for your co-operation in completing this questionnaire.

Lina binti Shaari (803174)

M. Sc. (Educational Psychology)

Arts and Sciences College

Universiti Utara Malaysia

**'Ilmu Budi Bakti'**

**Thank you for your co-operation**

**APPENDIX A****ATTITUDE TEST****GENDER : MALE / FEMALE****COURSES : STSB / STBN / STRP / STLS**


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**PART ONE:** The following questions ask about your motivation in and attitude toward learning the English language. Remember there are no rights or wrong answers; just answer as accurately as possible. Use the scale below to answer the questions. Circle your answer.

1 = Strongly Disagree

2 = Moderately Disagree

3 = Slightly Disagree

4 = Slightly Agree

5 = Moderately Agree

6 = Strongly Agree

1	Having English language skills will improve the work skills at training place.	1	2	3	4	5	6
2	I know that I can compete and much better then universities graduates if I proficient in English skills.	1	2	3	4	5	6
3	Limited English language skills will earn less in earning than those who proficient in English.	1	2	3	4	5	6

4	Malaysian graduates are not unintelligent but because they lack of soft skills.	1	2	3	4	5	6
5	English language should be learning when working at abroad.	1	2	3	4	5	6
6	Any organizations should promote English usage at workplace.	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	Proficient in English have a better chance for promotion at workplace.	1	2	3	4	5	6
8	Malaysian workplace has little need for English because instruction is in Bahasa Melayu with translated materials.	1	2	3	4	5	6
9	I do not shy from using the English language when communicating.	1	2	3	4	5	6
10	At the workplace, the names of the workplace machines and procedures in English language.	1	2	3	4	5	6
11	Weak in English are the top reason for graduates being unemployed.	1	2	3	4	5	6
12	Some skill workers may feel empowered when they use English language.	1	2	3	4	5	6
13	English training should be provided at every workplace for workers with limited English skills.	1	2	3	4	5	6
14	I would rather spend more time in my English class and less in other technical classes.	1	2	3	4	5	6
15	English skills such as reading, writing, listening and speaking are important in working field.	1	2	3	4	5	6
16	Studying English is important because it will enable me to better understand English in the workshop.	1	2	3	4	5	6

**THANK YOU**

*Bil. Tuan:*

*Bil. IKM: AS : B/232 Jld. ( )*

*Tarikh: 5 Jun 2011*

Pn. Lina bt Shaari  
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Puan,

**KEBENARAN UNTUK MENJALANKAN KAJIAN DI INSTITUT KEMAHIRAN MARA ALOR SETAR**

Adalah saya dengan hormatnya memaklumkan bahawa permohonan puan untuk menjalankan kajian bertajuk :

**"ENGLISH PERFORMANCE AMONG THE SKILLED WORKERS IN INSTITUT KEMAHIRAN MARA ALOR SETAR"**

adalah **diluluskan**.

2. Puan adalah diminta untuk mengemukakan satu salinan laporan hasil kajian untuk rekod pihak kami.

Sekian, terima kasih.

**"BERKHIDMAT UNTUK NEGARA"**  
**"1MALAYSIA : RAKYAT DIDAHULUKAN, PENCAPAIAN DIUTAMAKAN"**



**AHMAD SHUKRI BIN MOHD SURI**  
**Pengarah**  
Institut Kemahiran MARA Alor Setar  
Kedah.