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Title Page

**THE TEACHING OF HIGHER-ORDER THINKING SKILLS IN
ENGLISH LANGUAGE CLASSROOMS: WHERE ARE WE?**

By

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Theses Submitted to the Centre of Graduate Studies, Universiti Utara Malaysia,
in Fulfillment of the Requirement for Master Degree



Kolej Sastera dan Sains
College of Arts and Sciences
(Universiti Utara Malaysia)

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ABSTRAK

Kajian kes ini telah dijalankan untuk menyelidik pengetahuan, kepercayaan dan sikap guru-guru terhadap pelaksanaan pengajaran kemahiran berfikir di Sekolah Menengah Kebangsaan Pokok Pinang (bukan nama sebenar). Disamping itu, ia juga bertujuan untuk menyelidik amalan guru di dalam bilik darjah bagi mengenalpasti sebarang usaha yang dijalankan untuk menggalakkan penggunaan kemahiran berfikir di kalangan pelajar. Data yang dikumpulkan melalui pemerhatian, temubual dan analisis dokumen telah menunjukkan bahawa terdapat usaha-usaha yang dijalankan untuk melaksanakan pengajaran kemahiran berfikir di dalam kelas Bahasa Inggeris. Walaubagaimanapun, oleh kerana pengetahuan pedagogi yang terhad, seringkali strategi yang digunakan kurang berkesan. Tambahan lagi, pelaksanaan pengajaran kemahiran berfikir di dalam bilik darjah memerlukan para guru memiliki sikap dan kepercayaan yang betul terhadap kemahiran-kemahiran tersebut.

ABSTRACT

This case study was carried out to investigate teachers' knowledge, belief and attitude towards the implementation of the teaching of higher-order thinking skills in Sekolah Menengah Kebangsaan Pokok Pinang (not the school's real name). Besides that, it also seeks to examine teachers' classroom practices to see whether attempts were made to promote thinking skill among the students. Data was collected through observations, interviews and document analysis. Findings revealed that there were efforts made to infuse thinking skills in the English Language classrooms. However, due to limited pedagogical content knowledge, most of the time teaching strategies that promote thinking skills were underutilized. In addition, the implementation of thinking skills in the classroom requires that teachers possess the right attitude and beliefs towards those skills.

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CHAPTER ONE

1.1 Introduction

The ability to think effectively is very important in today's world which is becoming more complex and sophisticated. Higher-order thinking skills are important life skills for people today. With modernization and rapid socio-economic changes, people are called upon to solve various problems and make numerous decisions. Furthermore, information technology era has also provided the people with countless information at their finger tips which sometimes are confusing. In addition, the authenticity and validity of this information is also questionable. Thus, people need to exercise their thinking skills in making selection.

Apart from the above, it is widely accepted that most of the educators never deny the importance of teaching higher-order thinking skills to the students so that they would become more critical and analytical thinker. In Malaysia itself, the notion of teaching higher-order thinking skills is not a new idea in its education system. Over a decade, a great deal has been done to promote the teaching of higher-order thinking skills in Malaysian classrooms through various programs. In fact, the elements of critical and creative thinking skills have been clearly spelled out in our curriculum affecting all subjects including English Language.

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