THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN ATTITUDE AND MOTIVATION TOWARDS LEARNING ENGLISH AND ENGLISH ACHIEVEMENT OF THE FORM FOUR STUDENTS IN THE SARIKEI DIVISION

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Tarikh   : **30 April 2011**
(Date)

DECLARATION

I hereby declare that the work in this assignment is my own except for quotations and summaries which have been duly acknowledged.

30 APRIL 2011   **HII YEW CHUO**

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THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN ATTITUDE AND MOTIVATION TOWARDS LEARNING ENGLISH AND ENGLISH ACHIEVEMENT OF THE FORM FOUR STUDENTS IN THE SARIKEI DIVISION

ABSTRACT

The purpose of this study is to determine the relationship between attitude and motivation towards learning English and the achievement in English. 330 form four students are chosen as sample from the Sarikei Division secondary schools. All the form four students are chosen randomly from the population approximately 2119 students. Data was collected through a 46 – item questionnaires (2 sections : Attitude and Motivation). Both descriptive and inferential statistics were used to analyse the data. For earlier stage, a pilot study was carried out with the 30 students to test on the questionnaires chosen from Attitude and Motivation Test Battery (Gardner, 2004). An analysis using the Coefficient reliability test (Cronbach's alpha) was conducted to ensure the reliability of the constructs on the attitudes (25 questions) and motivation (21 questions). The reliability of all question items in the questionnaire was at a high level, depicting .90. The independent sample t-test was used to see the differences of the attitude, motivation and students' achievement based on the gender. Pearson correlation method was used to analyse the relationships between the variable of attitude, motivation and students' achievement in English. The findings revealed the non-significant results of the attitude and motivation with the gender. This indicated that there was no clear difference between the male and female students in the aspects of their attitude and motivation that would influence the learning of English. Interestingly, there was a significant result on gender in the comparison with the achievement of the students whereby the female students performed better result in English than the male students. The Pearson correlation reflected the significant relationships for the variables of attitude, motivation and the achievement. The obvious relationship was shown between the attitude and motivation that conveyed the positive strong association.

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LIST OF ABBREVIATION

AMTB	Attitudes and Motivation Test Battery
ELT	English Language Teaching
L2	Second Language
PMR	Penilaian Menengah Rendah
SLA	Second Language Acquisition
SPSS	Statistical Package for Social Science
STPM	Sijil Tinggi Pelajaran Malaysia
TL	Target Language

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CHAPTER I

BACKGROUND OF STUDY

1.1 Introduction

Malaysia, a multinational country in Asia, was once empowered by the British and the English language was then used as the official language of administration and communication between the governmental bodies in the nation. However, after independence in 1957, Bahasa Melayu soon replaced English as the next official and national language of the country though the carefully planned language policies by the authorized governmental bodies and institutes. English was then used only as the second most important language in the country next to Bahasa Melayu. It became a learning subject in schools while Bahasa Melayu was used as the main medium of instructions whereby as a result of this language policy which was strongly held together by political factors and the urgent need to create a national identity, many Malaysians speak a variety of English described generally as Malaysian English (Gill,1993).

In capturing the interest in learning English, motivation has generally been considered to be an important factor in students' learning and achievement (Dornyei, Csizer, & Nemeth, 2006; Gardner, Tremblay, & Masgoret, 1997; Schunk, Pintrich & Meese, 2007; Volet & Jarvela, 2001). In 2002, English was re-introduced in Malaysia school system as an important language for education, especially in the learning of Science and Mathematics, and despite resistance from certain quarters in the country,

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