

# UNIVERSITY MALAYA

## ORIGINAL LITERARY WORK DECLARATION

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Title of Project /Dissertation ("this Work"):

### **READING COMPREHENSION DIFFICULTIES FACED BY YEAR FOUR PUPILS IN AN URBAN SCHOOL**

Field of Study: Reading

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## ABSTRACT

This study aims to explore the reading comprehension difficulties faced by Year Four pupils from an urban school. Thirty-five pupils from an average class were given a reading comprehension test (Test 1). Nine pupils who scored below forty percent, which is the passing mark in schools, are selected as subjects of the study and given a set of five additional tests (Tests 2-6) to further explore their reading comprehension difficulties. The texts are taken from the *Year Four English Textbook* prescribed by the Ministry of Education. All the tests are set by the researcher in accordance to the Year Four Syllabus specifications.

The study describes problems faced by learners of ESL in the reading comprehension component in a local setting. The main objective of the study is to analyze pupils' results for the English Language school-based tests in order to determine their comprehension levels and the types of reading comprehension difficulties they faced. The pupils' background information of patterns at home and school were also gathered to explain the possible reasons for their poor reading comprehension.

This study is both qualitative and quantitative. The data gathering tools used were a questionnaire and tests. The findings indicated that the level of the reading comprehension abilities is poor and the subjects were unable to decode and answer structured and open ended questions.

Possible reasons to the subjects' poor reading comprehension skills are vocabulary problems, lack of grammar knowledge, poor reading comprehension strategies and poor language proficiency.

## **ABSTRAK**

Kajian ini adalah bertujuan untuk mengenalpasti kesukaran bacaan dan fahaman oleh sembilan orang murid Tahun 4 dari sebuah sekolah luar bandar. Seramai 35 orang murid dari kelas berkebolehan sederhana telah diberi satu ujian bacaan dan kefahaman (Ujian 1), untuk mengenalpasti tahap kefahaman mereka. Sembilan orang murid yang memperolehi markah di bawah empat puluh peratus markah, yang merupakan markah lulus sekolah telah dipilih sebagai subjek penyelidikan dan mereka ini diberi 5 ujian tambahan. (Ujian 2-6) untuk mengkaji dengan lebih lanjut tentang kesukaran menguasai bacaan dan kefahaman. Semua teks telah diambil dari buku teks Bahasa Inggeris Tahun 4 yang disediakan oleh Kementerian Pelajaran. Semua ujian telah disediakan oleh penyelidik berdasarkan spesifikasi silibus Tahun 4.

Kajian ini menerangkan tentang masalah yang dihadapi oleh pelajar ESL (Bahasa Inggeris Sebagai Bahasa Kedua ) dalam komponen bacaan dan fahaman untuk penetapan tempatan. Objektif utama kajian ini adalah untuk menganalisa keputusan murid-murid bagi ujian Bahasa Inggeris berasaskan sekolah untuk mengenal pasti peringkat kefahaman mereka. Maklumat latar belakang murid-murid menggunakan paten di rumah dan di sekolah untuk diperolehi untuk mendapatkan gambaran lanjut mengenai kesukaran kefahaman Bahasa Inggeris.

Kajian ini adalah meliputi kualitatif dan kuantitatif. Alatan yang digunakan untuk pengumpulan data adalah soal-selidik dan ujian. Penemuan yang telah diperolehi

menunjukkan bahawa peringkat kebolehan pembacaan dan fahaman berdasarkan silibus tahun 4 adalah lemah dan para subjek tidak dapat menjawab soalan berstruktur dan terbuka. Sebab yang mungkin adalah masalah bahasa, kekurangan pengetahuan tatabahasa, kelemahan strategi pembacaan dan kelemahan kemahiran bahasa.

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