TABLE OF CONTENTS

Original Literary Work Declaration................................................................. ii
Abstract ................................................................................................................ iii
Abstrak ................................................................................................................... v
Acknowledgements ........................................................................................... vi
Table of Contents .............................................................................................. viii
List of Figures ..................................................................................................... xii
List of Tables ....................................................................................................... xiii
List of Terms & Abbreviations .......................................................................... xv
List of Appendices ............................................................................................ xvi

Chapter 1-Introduction ...................................................................................... 1

1.1. Introduction .................................................................................................. 1
1.2. Background ................................................................................................. 4
  1.2.1. World Englishes .................................................................................... 5
  1.2.2. International Students Learning English in Malaysia ......................... 7
1.3. Statement of the Problem .......................................................................... 01
1.4. Objectives of the Study ............................................................................ 11
  1.4.1. Research Questions .............................................................................. 12
1.5. Significance of the Study .......................................................................... 12
  1.5.1. The Education Industry in Malaysia .................................................... 13
  1.5.2. Research into Learner Beliefs & Perceptions ....................................... 15
1.6. Scope and Limitations of the Study ........................................................... 16
1.7. Conclusion ................................................................................................. 16

Chapter 2-Literature Review ............................................................................. 17

2.1. Introduction .................................................................................................. 17
2.2. Beliefs, Knowledge and Learning ............................................................... 18
2.3. The Importance of Language Learning Beliefs in Second Language Acquisition
    Research ............................................................................................................. 19
2.4. Definitions of Language Learning Beliefs in Second Language Acquisition
    Research ............................................................................................................. 21
  2.4.1. The Issue of Stability of Language Learning Beliefs ............................. 22
  2.4.2. Culture, Context and Language Learning Beliefs ................................. 23
2.5. Approaches to Measuring Beliefs about Language Learning ...................... 24
  2.5.1. Normative Approach ........................................................................... 25
  2.5.2. Metacognitive Approach ..................................................................... 26
  2.5.3. Contextual Approach .......................................................................... 27
  2.5.4. Metaphorical Approach ...................................................................... 27
  2.5.5. Conceptual Framework ....................................................................... 29
2.6. Beliefs about Language Learning Inventory (BALLI) .................................. 33
  2.6.1. BALLI Studies .................................................................................... 34
  2.6.2. BALLI Studies of English Learners in Other Countries ....................... 34
  2.6.3. BALLI Studies in Malaysia ................................................................ 37
  2.6.4. BALLI studies with Other Factors ....................................................... 38
  2.6.5. Weaknesses & Criticisms of the BALLI ............................................. 39
2.7. Learner Perceptions and Language Learning .............................................. 40
  2.7.1. Perception Studies involving International Students in a Host Country 41
  2.7.2. Perception Studies in ESL and FL Classrooms .................................... 42
  2.7.3. Perception Studies on Learning Environment in Higher Education .... 43
Chapter 3—Research and Methodology ................................................................. 51

3.1. Introduction ...................................................................................................... 51
3.2. Research Methods used in SLA Research on Beliefs and Perceptions .......... 51
   3.2.1. Questionnaires .......................................................................................... 52
   3.2.2. Interviews ................................................................................................ 55
   3.2.3. BALLI Studies Featuring a Second Variable .......................................... 56
3.3. Overview of Research Design Used in Present Study ................................. 57
3.4. Participants ....................................................................................................... 59
   3.4.1. Selection of Participants ......................................................................... 61
   3.4.2. The English Language Programme at a Malaysian College .................. 62
3.5. BALLI ............................................................................................................... 64
   3.5.1. Rationale for Using the BALLI ................................................................. 64
   3.5.2. Amendments made to the BALLI ............................................................ 65
3.6. PELLEM ........................................................................................................... 66
   3.6.1. Rationale for Using the PELLEM ............................................................ 67
   3.6.2. Development of the PELLEM ................................................................. 67
   3.6.3. Pilot Studies ............................................................................................. 69
3.7. Translation of the BALLI and PELLEM Questionnaires ............................ 73
3.8. Interview ........................................................................................................... 74
   3.8.1. Rationale for Using Interviews ................................................................. 74
   3.8.2. Selection of Interview Participants ......................................................... 75
   3.8.3. Interview Questions ................................................................................ 78
3.9. Data Collection Procedures ............................................................................. 79
   3.9.1. Questionnaire Administration ................................................................. 79
   3.9.2. Interview Administration ....................................................................... 79
3.10. Summary of Data Analysis ............................................................................. 80
   3.10.1. Quantitative Data Analysis .................................................................. 80
   3.10.2. Qualitative Data Analysis .................................................................... 81
3.11. Ethical Considerations .................................................................................... 81
3.12. Conclusion ..................................................................................................... 82

Chapter 4—Quantitative Results and Discussion .................................................. 83

4.1. Introduction ...................................................................................................... 83
4.2. Results of BALLI questionnaire .................................................................... 83
   4.2.1. Foreign Language Aptitude .................................................................... 84
   4.2.2. Difficulty of Language Learning ............................................................. 88
   4.2.3. The Nature of Language Learning ......................................................... 91
   4.2.4. Learning and Communication Strategies ............................................. 94
   4.2.5. Motivation and Expectations ................................................................ 97
   4.2.6. Reliability of the BALLI ....................................................................... 99
   4.2.7. Factor Analysis of BALLI Results ......................................................... 100
      BALLI Factor One—Motivational and Affective Aspects of Learning English .... 104
      BALLI Factor Two—Confidence and Assessment of Difficulty of Learning English 107
      BALLI Factor Three—Formal Learning Beliefs ......................................... 109
4.3. Results of the PELLEM Questionnaire ......................................................... 112
   4.3.1. General Opinion of Learning English in Malaysia ............................... 113
   4.3.2. Out-of-Class Experience ....................................................................... 115
Appendices

Appendix A - Beliefs about Language Learning Inventory (BALLI) .............................................. 209
Appendix B - Perceptions of English Language Learning Experience in Malaysia Questionnaire (PELLEM) .............................................................................. 214
Appendix C - List of Questions for Semi-structured Interview ................................................. 218
Appendix D - Consent Form ........................................................................................................ 223
Appendix E - BALLI: Initial Factor Solution & Scree Plot ....................................................... 227
Appendix F - BALLI: Final Factor Solution ................................................................................ 230
Appendix G - PELLEM: Initial Factor Solution & Scree Plot ..................................................... 232
Appendix H - PELLEM: Final Factor Solution .......................................................................... 235
### List of Figures

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Figure</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Figure 2.1.</td>
<td>Ellis (2008)' Framework for Investigating Individual Learner Differences</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Figure 3.1.</td>
<td>Research Design Flowchart</td>
<td>58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Figure 6.1.</td>
<td>Summary of Key Findings</td>
<td>180</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Figure 6.2.</td>
<td>Key Findings- Factors Inside the Classroom</td>
<td>184</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Figure 6.3.</td>
<td>Key Findings- Factors Outside the Classroom</td>
<td>186</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Figure 6.4.</td>
<td>Key Findings: Individual Learner Characteristics</td>
<td>188</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## List of Tables

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Table</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Table 3.1.</td>
<td>The PELLEM Questionnaire.................................................................</td>
<td>68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Table 3.2.</td>
<td>Changes Made to the PELLEM based on the Item Reliability Test................</td>
<td>71</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Table 3.3.</td>
<td>Results of Inter-Item Reliability of Pilot Study II........................</td>
<td>73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Table 3.4.</td>
<td>Demographics of Interview Participants...............................................</td>
<td>77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Table 4.1.</td>
<td>Frequency of Participant Responses to BALLI items on Foreign Language Aptitude</td>
<td>85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Table 4.2.</td>
<td>Frequency of Participant Responses to BALLI items on the Difficulty of Language Learning</td>
<td>89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Table 4.3.</td>
<td>Frequency of Participant Responses to BALLI items on the Nature of Language Learning</td>
<td>92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Table 4.4.</td>
<td>Frequency of Participant Responses to BALLI items on Learning and Communication Strategies</td>
<td>95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Table 4.5.</td>
<td>Frequency of Participant Responses to BALLI items on Motivation and Expectations</td>
<td>97</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Table 4.6.</td>
<td>Rotated Factor Structure of the BALLI variables...................................</td>
<td>103</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Table 4.7.</td>
<td>BALLI Factor One: Motivational and Affective Aspects of Learning English..................................</td>
<td>105</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Table 4.8.</td>
<td>BALLI Factor Two: Confidence and Assessment of Difficulty of Learning English..................................</td>
<td>108</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Table 4.9.</td>
<td>BALLI Factor Three: Formal Learning Beliefs........................................</td>
<td>109</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Table 4.10.</td>
<td>Frequency of Participant Responses to items on General Opinion of Learning English in Malaysia..................................</td>
<td>113</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Table 4.11.</td>
<td>Frequency of Participant Responses to items on Out-of-Class Experience ..................................</td>
<td>116</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Table 4.12.</td>
<td>Frequency of Participant Responses to items on Perceptions of English in Malaysian Universities ..................................</td>
<td>119</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Table 4.13.</td>
<td>Frequency of Participant Responses to items on Perceptions of Learning English in a Malaysian Educational Institute ..................................</td>
<td>123</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Table</td>
<td>Title</td>
<td>Page</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>----------</td>
<td>----------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Table 4.14.</td>
<td>Rotated Factor Structure of the PELLEM variables......................</td>
<td>128</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Table 4.15.</td>
<td>PELLEM Factor One-Perceptions of Learning English in Malaysia: the Classroom and Beyond</td>
<td>130</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Table 4.16.</td>
<td>PELLEM Factor Two-Perceptions of Malaysian English and its Speakers and Expectations about English Use at Malaysian Universities</td>
<td>131</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Table 4.17.</td>
<td>PELLEM Factor Three-Motivation for and Benefits of English Proficiency in Malaysia</td>
<td>132</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Table 4.18.</td>
<td>Summary of BALLI and PELLEM Factors......................................</td>
<td>134</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Table 4.19.</td>
<td>Correlations of BALLI and PELLEM Factor Scores..........................</td>
<td>135</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Table 4.20.</td>
<td>Itemized Correlation of BALLI Factor Two and PELLEM Factor One........</td>
<td>137</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Table 4.21.</td>
<td>Itemized Correlation of BALLI Factor One and PELLEM Factor Three......</td>
<td>142</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Table 6.1.</td>
<td>Statistical Analysis of PELLEM Structure ..................................</td>
<td>193</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## List of Terms and Abbreviations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BALLI</td>
<td>Beliefs about Language Learning Inventory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CALL</td>
<td>Computer Aided Language Learning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CEFR</td>
<td>Common European Framework</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EFL</td>
<td>English as a Foreign Language</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ESL</td>
<td>English as a Second Language</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EAP</td>
<td>English for Academic Purposes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IELTS</td>
<td>International English Language Testing System</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PELLEM</td>
<td>Perceptions of English Language Learning Experience in Malaysia Questionnaire</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLA</td>
<td>Second Language Acquisition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>THE</td>
<td>Times Higher Education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UCAS</td>
<td>Universities and Colleges Admissions Service</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
# List of Appendices

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Table</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Appendix A</td>
<td>BALLI Questionnaire</td>
<td>209</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appendix B</td>
<td>PELLEM Questionnaire</td>
<td>214</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appendix C</td>
<td>Semi-Structured Interview Questions</td>
<td>218</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appendix D</td>
<td>Consent Form</td>
<td>223</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appendix E</td>
<td>BALLI: Initial Factor Solution &amp; Scree Plot</td>
<td>227</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appendix F</td>
<td>BALLI Final Factor Solution</td>
<td>230</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appendix G</td>
<td>PELLEM: Initial Factor Solution &amp; Scree Plot</td>
<td>232</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appendix H</td>
<td>PELLEM: Final Factor Solution</td>
<td>235</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>