# FACTORS WHICH INFLUENCE THE LEARNING STRATEGIES OF EFL LEARNERS

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## FACULTY OF LANGUAGES AND LINGUISTICS UNIVERSITY OF MALAYA KUALA LUMPUR

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#### ABSTRAK

Penyelidikan tentang strategi pembelajaran bahasa telah dijalankan oleh para penyelidik dalam usaha mencari faktor-faktor yang mempengaruhi kemahiran berbahasa di kalangan pelajar dalam bidang bahasa. Strategi pembelajaran bahasa merupakan salah satu faktor utama yang mempengaruhi kejayaan pembelajaran bahasa. Laporan ini membentangkan dapatan kajian tentang faktor-faktor yang mempengaruhi pelajar yang mahir menuntut bahasa asing dan pelajar yang kurang mahir menuntut bahasa asing dalam pemilihan strategi pembelajaran semasa mempelajari program intensif Bahasa Inggeris selama 4 minggu. Seramai 30 orang pelajar terlibat dalam penyelidikan ini dan cara metodologi kajian yang telah digunakan adalah borang soalselidik SILL dan temuduga. Dapatan kajian menunjukkan bahawa kedua-dua kategori pelajar menggunakan strategi sosial secara kerap. Walau bagaimanapun, strategi memori tidak kerap digunakan oleh pelajar yang mahir menuntut bahasa asing sementara strategi emosi pula tidak selalu digunakan oleh pelajar yang kurang mahir menuntut bahasa tersebut. Pemilihan strategi pembelajaran biasanya dipengaruhi oleh pengetahuan awal, kepercayaan, pengetahuan mengenai budaya bahasa kedua atau asing, personaliti, motivasi, emosi, suasana pembelajaran, pengaruh bahasa pertama, umur dan rakan sebaya. Implikasi laporan ini disertai oleh beberapa cadangan untuk kajian masa hadapan.

#### ABSTRACT

Research studies on language learning strategies have been carried out by researchers in their quest to locate factors that influence the proficiency of language learners. Language learning strategies are found to be one of the key factors that contribute to successful language learning. This paper presents the findings of factors that influence the choice of learning strategies of proficient and less proficient EFL learners in a four-week English Intensive Programme. A total of 30 participants took part in this study, and collection of data was carried out via the use of the SILL questionnaires and semi-structured interviews. The results indicate that both proficiency groups employ social strategies as their most frequently used ones. However, memory strategies are not frequently used by proficient learners, whereas affective strategies are seldom adopted by less proficient ones. The study also reveals that learners' choice of learning strategies are mainly influenced by prior learning experiences, beliefs, knowledge of the personalities, target cultures. motivations. emotional states. learning environments, influence of their first language, age and peer influences. The implications of this study are discussed along with the suggestions for further research.

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### **Table of Contents**

Deciaration	11
Abstract	iii
Abstrak	iv
Acknowledgments	V
<b>Table of Contents</b>	vi
List of Figures	X
List of Tables	xi
Chapter One: Introduction	
1.0: Overview	1 – 2
1.1: Background of the Study	2 – 6
1.2: Statement of the Research Problems	6 – 7
1.3: Objectives of the Study	7
1.4: Research Questions	8
1.5: Limitation of the Study	8 – 9
1.6: Significance of the Study	9 – 10
1.7: Conclusion	10

# **Chapter Two: Literature Review**

2.0: Overview		11
2.1: Individual Differences		11 – 12
2.1.1: Age		12 – 14
2.1.2: First Language		14 – 15
2.1.3: Nationality		16
2.1.4: Learners' Belief and K	nowledge of Target Culture	17
2.1.5: Prior Learning Experie	nce	18 – 19
2.1.6: Motivational Level and	l Learning Attitude	19 – 20
2.1.7: Learning Styles and Pe	rsonalities	20 – 23
2.2: Language Learning Strategies	s (LLSs)	23
2.2.1: Various Definitions of	LLSs	23 - 25
2.2.2: Classifications of LLSs	3	25 – 27
2.2.3: The Good Language Le	earners	27 – 30
2.3: Past Studies on Language Lea	arning Strategies	31 – 32
2.4: Factors that Influence the Che	oice of Language	33 – 34
Learning Strategies		
2.5: The Research Gap		34 – 35
2.6: Conclusion		35 – 36

# **Chapter Three: Research Methodology**

3.0:	Overview	37
3.1:	Participants	37 – 40
3.2:	Background of the Intensive English Programme (IEP)	40 – 43
3.3:	Research Design	44
	3.3.1: Quantitative Method	44 – 45
	3.3.2: Qualitative Method	45
3.4:	Research Instruments	46
	3.4.1: SILL Questionnaires	46 – 50
	3.4.2: Semi-structured Interview	50 – 51
3.5:	Ongoing Assessments	52 – 55
3.6:	Data Collection	55 – 59
3.7:	Triangulation	59 – 60
3.8:	Conclusion	60

# **Chapter Four: Findings and Discussions**

4.0: Overview	61
4.1: Overall Responses to SILL Questionnaire	61
4.1.1: Average Scores of SILL Student Profiles	61 – 65
4.1.2: Total Average Scores of Frequency of Use	65 – 66
4.2: Frequency of Use of Language Learning Strategy by	67
Proficient Learners	
4.2.1: The Most Frequently Used Language Learning	67 - 68
Strategy by Proficient Learners	
4.2.2: The Least Frequently Used Language Learning	69 – 70
Strategy by Proficient Learners	
4.3: Frequency of Use of Language Learning Strategy	70
by Less Proficient Learners	
4.3.1: The Most Frequently Used Language Learning	70 – 71
Strategy by Less Proficient Learners	
4.3.2: The Least Frequently Used Language Learning	72
Strategy by Less Proficient Learners	
4.4: Factors that Influence the Choice of Language	73
Learning Strategies	
4.4.1: Prior Learning Experience	73 – 77
4.4.2: Learners' Belief & Knowledge of Target Culture	77 – 83

	4.4.3: Personality and Attitude	83 - 90
	4.4.4: Self-motivation	90 – 93
	4.4.5: The Influence of Emotions	93 – 99
	4.4.6: Learning Environment	100 – 102
	4.4.7: Influence of First Language	102 – 106
	4.4.8: Age Factor	106 – 109
	4.4.9: Peer Influence	109 – 110
4.5:	Conclusion	110 – 111

# **Chapter Five: Summary, Implications and Recommendations**

5.0: Overview	112	
5.1: Summary of the Study	112 – 119	
5.2: Implications of the Study	120	
5.2.1: Theoretical Implications	120	
5.2.2: Methodological Implications	121	
5.2.3: Pedagogical Implications	122	
5.3: Recommendations for Future Research	123	
5.3.1: Implementing Different Types of Instruction	123	
5.3.2: Strategy Training for EFL students	123 – 124	
5.3.3: Peer Tutoring Sessions	124	
5.3.4: Videotaped Learning Testimonials	124	
5.3.5: Strategies-Based Instruction (SBI)	125	
5.4: Conclusion	125	
Dibliography 126 12		
Bibliography	126 – 136	
Appendices	137	