Abstract

This study was carried out to determine the English language needs of the investigation officers in a crime investigation department of a district police station in Petaling Jaya. A needs analysis was carried out to collect data using the questionnaire and interview as the instruments.

The study reveals that English is important in the line of duty of an investigation officer. All the four skills are crucial especially speaking, listening and reading. Writing is important but so far the documents and reports prepared in a case are still in Malay. An ESP course prepared for the police trainees during their police training stint would encourage the officers to pay more attention to the language. The officers need to be made aware of the need to be bilingual and a high proficiency in English will be advantageous to them since it will give opportunities for promotions and further training.

This study hopes to show that the police personnel need to be proficient in English to convey messages, to give instructions clearly and to communicate effectively. They need to improve their interactive skills such as asking questions, confirming details and negating certain issues. Though Bahasa Malaysia is the medium of instruction and the national language, the importance of English cannot be sidelined. In order to create a professional police force, the officers have to be fluent in both languages.

Abstrak

Kertas Projek ini dijalankan untuk memastikan keperluan Bahasa Inggeris di kalangan pegawai-pegawai penyiasat jenayah di Jabatan Siasatan Jenayah di Ibu Pejabat Polis Daerah Petaling Jaya. Kajian Methodoloji yang digunakan ialah soalselidik dan temuduga.

Kajian ini telah mendedahkan bahawa Bahasa Inggeris penting kepada bidang tugas seorang pegawai penyiasat. Kesemua kemahiran bahasa adalah penting terutamanya bertutur, mendengar dan membaca. Walaupun penulisan juga penting tetapi pada tahap ini segala dokumen rasmi pihak polis dihasilkan dalam Bahasa Malaysia kecuali notanota tidak rasmi dan percakapan yang direkod. Kursus ESP yang disediakan untuk pelatih-pelatih polis Maktab Polis Diraja akan menggalakkan pelatih-pelatih polis untuk menguasai Bahasa Inggeris. Keperluan untuk mahir berbahasa di dalam kedua-dua bahasa perlu diberi penekanan oleh pihak polis dan dianggap sebagai satu kelebihan atau kriteria naik pangkat dan latihan selanjutnya.

Kajian ini berharap untuk membuktikan bahawa pihak polis perlu fasih dalam Bahasa Inggeris untuk menyampaikan pesanan, arahan dengan jelas dan untuk berkomunikasi dengan efektif. Mereka perlu membaiki kemahiran interaktif seperti bertanya, memastikan maklumat dan menolak isu-isu tertentu. Walaupun Bahasa Malaysia merupakan bahasa kebangsaan, kepentingan menguasai Bahasa Inggeris tidak dapat diketepikan. Untuk mewujudkan satu pasukan polis yang profesional, pegawai-pegawai polis perlu mahir berkomunikasi di dalam kedua-dua bahasa.

Acknowledgements

First and foremost, the opening note will see my greatest gratitude to the Almighty God who guided me through an extremely stormy period in my life to complete this project paper. I have turned to Him frequently to find solace and drew strength from the powers of prayers.

Next, I owe much to both my supervisors, without whom, this project paper would have remained a shadowy dream. Dr. Rajeswary Sargunan, who initiated my project paper and brushed aside my uncertainties and lack of confidence in myself.

My present supervisor, Ms Rachel to whom I am greatly indebted for her guidance and unwavering support. If not for her constant reminders and rebukes, I would not have completed the project paper. For valuable inputs which took the sting out of the re-writes and for being the finest editor and supervisor I could hope for.

To Supra, my husband and companion in my life who always encouraged me to further my studies. His understanding and willingness to help me to obtain information from his department at all times and his deep belief in me has removed many stumbling blocks in my path.

My family; my parents, my sister, my brothers, my sisters- in - law and not to forget my nephew whose faith in my writing has boosted my confidence. They had an unshakeable faith in me that I find remarkable.

To the most important person in my life, my son, Nhimallan. His innocent belief that I can do anything I want, that I am superior in his eyes are endearing besides fueling a desire in me to prove to him that I can do it.

And finally for advice, camaderie and laughs, I have always had my friends and colleagues for their enthusiasm rendered without a second thought. They taught me perseverance and to smile even as dark clouds gathered at full force around me.

Sincere appreciation is also due to all parties who have contributed in one way or another in the completion of this project paper