

AN INVESTIGATION OF CLASSROOM INTERVENTION:  
PLOT AS A PRE-WRITING STRATEGY ON THE  
NARRATIVE WRITING OF ESL STUDENTS

GAN SHIAU CHIN

FACULTY OF LANGUAGES AND LINGUISTICS  
UNIVERSITY OF MALAYA  
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2012

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**FACULTY OF LANGUAGES AND LINGUISTICS  
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KUALA LUMPUR**

**2012**



UNIVERSITI MALAYA

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Title of ~~Project Paper/Research Report/Dissertation/Thesis~~ (“this Work”):

**An Investigation of Classroom Intervention: Plot as a Pre-Writing Strategy on the Narrative Writing of ESL Students.**

Field of Study: **Second Language Acquisition**

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## ABSTRACT

Out of the four language skills, writing skills is said to be one of the harder skills for ESL students to master (Naginder Kaur, Nor Hayati Othman, & Abdullah, 2008; Sabariah Md. Rashid & Chan, 2008). Although writing is part of the major component being tested in the SPM English examination, yet many students with low level of English proficiency scores poorly for this component. One of the factors which lead to their poor performance in writing test is the lack of knowledge in pre-writing strategies. Pre-writing refers to the first stage of the writing processes, whereby one will spend some time to plan before attempting to produce a piece of writing. This study has incorporated the use of plot as a pre-writing strategy in instructing the students' timed writing, specifically in the production of narrative essays. The research aims to investigate how pre-writing strategies affect the low and intermediate level of English proficiency students' timed writing in terms of (i) essay scores, (ii) length, (iii) content and (iv) organisation. The mix-method approach was employed and the data was obtained via pre-test, post-test and interview sessions. The findings from the study revealed that the pre-writing strategy used has aided both groups of participants' timed-writing in the four focused areas of this study, especially in terms of essay length. In lieu of the findings, it is crucial for main stakeholders such as the curriculum designers, test designers and teachers to attempt to use the process approach when it comes to the teaching of writing. When the students are aware of the process of writing, their writing skills will be enhanced, which translate to better writing scores during examinations.

## ABSTRAK

Daripada keempat-empat kemahiran bahasa, kemahiran menulis boleh dikatakan sebagai salah satu kemahiran yang lebih sukar dikuasai oleh pelajar yang menggunakan Bahasa Inggeris sebagai bahasa kedua. Walaupun kemahiran menulis adalah sebahagian daripada komponen utama yang diuji dalam peperiksaan SPM Bahasa Inggeris, namun ramai pelajar yang lemah dalam Bahasa Inggeris mendapat skor yang rendah dalam komponen ini. Salah satu faktor yang menyebabkan prestasi yang lemah dalam ujian bertulis ialah kerana kekurangan pengetahuan dalam strategi sebelum menulis. Strategi sebelum menulis ialah peringkat pertama dalam proses menulis iaitu seseorang akan meluangkan sedikit masa untuk merancang sebelum cuba untuk menghasilkan sebuah karya penulisan. Kajian ini telah menggabungkan penggunaan plot sebagai satu strategi sebelum menulis untuk membimbing pelajar dalam ujian bertulis, khususnya dalam penghasilan karangan naratif. Penyelidikan ini bertujuan untuk menyiasat sejauh mana strategi sebelum menulis memberi kesan dalam ujian bertulis bagi pelajar yang mempunyai tahap rendah dan sederhana dalam Bahasa Inggeris dari segi (i) penskoran esei, (ii) kepanjangan, (iii) kandungan dan (iv) organisasi esei. Pendekatan kaedah campuran telah digunakan dan data yang diperolehi adalah menerusi pra-ujian, paska-ujian dan sesi temu duga. Dapatan daripada kajian menunjukkan bahawa strategi sebelum menulis telah membantu dalam kedua-dua kumpulan peserta dalam keempat-empat fokus kajian ini, terutama dari segi kepanjangan esei. Hasil kajian ini didapati penting bagi pihak yang memainkan peranan utama seperti penggubal kurikulum, penggubal ujian dan guru untuk mencuba menggunakan pendekatan proses dalam pengajaran penulisan. Apabila pelajar lebih peka terhadap proses menulis, kemahiran menulis mereka akan dipertingkatkan dan mendapat penskoran yang lebih baik dalam ujian bertulis.

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