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**Cross-Language Transfer of Phonological and Morphological Awareness among
Young Malay Second Language Learners**

Field of Study: **Psycholinguistics**

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ABSTRACT

This study seeks to investigate cross-language transfer of phonological and morphological awareness among young Malay learners who are learning English as their second language and have Malay as their L1. The study examines the relationship between phonological and morphological awareness tasks and performance on English and Malay spelling tests. The data consists of responses to 4 spelling tests and 11 awareness tasks. The data for the study was drawn from a sample of Malay learners aged seven to nine from three Malaysian urban schools. Two types of studies were undertaken, a quantitative study and a qualitative study. The quantitative study investigated if phonological awareness and morphological awareness in both Malay and English can predict English Spelling Accuracy. The qualitative study analysed phoneme and morpheme errors to determine if there was an association between Malay and English phonological and morphological awareness and an English and Malay morpheme subtest as well as a phoneme subtest. Correlations, partial correlations and regression analyses were used to analyse the data in the study.

The findings suggest that there is cross-language transfer from the L1 to the L2. Regression analysis showed that Malay phonological awareness predicted English spelling accuracy in both Year 1 and Year 2 children. Malay morphological awareness predicted English spelling accuracy among Year 1 children. In the qualitative analysis it was found that there was a significant within language relationship between Malay phonological awareness and Malay phonological spelling. Malay phonological awareness was also associated with English phonological spelling. There was also a

significant cross-language relationship between Malay morphological awareness and lenient consistency of English roots. It was also found in the qualitative study that Malay spelling of morphemes was significantly associated with English spelling of morphemes.

ABSTRAK

Kajian ini merupakan penyelidikan tentang persilangan antara kesedaran fonologi dan morfologi dalam pemindahan bahasa pelajar Melayu yang belajar bahasa kedua. Kajian ini meneliti hubungan antara kesedaran fonologi dan morfologi yang dipamerkan dalam latihan dan pencapaian ujian ejaan bahasa Inggeris dan bahasa Melayu. Data ini mengandungi empat jawapan ujian ejaan dan 11 jawapan latihan untuk melihat kesedaran fonologi dan morfologi. Sampel kajian ini ialah pelajar Melayu berumur tujuh hingga sembilan tahun dari tiga buah sekolah bandar di Malaysia. Terdapat dua bentuk kajian yang diguna pakai dalam kajian ini iaitu kajian kuantitatif dan kajian kualitatif. Kajian kuantitatif digunakan untuk meneliti sama ada terdapat kesedaran fonologi dan morfologi dalam kedua-dua bahasa Melayu dan bahasa Inggeris yang digunakan oleh pelajar untuk meramal Ketepatan Ejaan Bahasa Inggeris. Kajian kualitatif pula digunakan untuk menganalisis kesilapan fonem dan morfem bagi menentukan sama ada terdapat perkaitan antara kesedaran fonologi bahasa Melayu dan bahasa Inggeris dengan kesedaran morfologi terhadap *subtest* morfem bahasa Inggeris dan bahasa Melayu termasuk juga *subtest* untuk fonem. Dalam kajian ini korelasi dan korelasi separa serta analisis regresi digunakan untuk menganalisis data.

Dapatan kajian ini menunjukkan terdapat persilangan dalam pemindahan bahasa daripada L1 ke L2. Analisis regresi menunjukkan bahawa kesedaran fonologi bahasa Melayu berupaya membantu ketepatan ejaan bahasa

Inggeris untuk kedua-dua kumpulan pelajar Tahun 1 dan Tahun 2. Manakala kesedaran morfologi bahasa Melayu pula boleh membantu ketepatan ejaan bahasa Inggeris dalam kalangan pelajar Tahun 1. Dalam analisis kualitatif menunjukkan terdapat satu hubungan yang penting antara kesedaran fonologi bahasa Melayu dengan ejaan fonologi bahasa Melayu. Kesedaran fonologi bahasa Melayu juga berhubung kait dengan ejaan fonologi bahasa Inggeris. Terdapat juga hubungan silang yang penting antara kesedaran morfologi bahasa Melayu yang berketekalan sederhana dengan kata dasar bahasa Inggeris. Dalam kajian kualitatif ditemui juga hubung kait yang nyata antara ujian morfem bahasa Melayu dengan ujian morfem bahasa Inggeris.

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

L1 : First Language

L2 : Second Language

PA : Phonological Awareness

MA: Morphological Awareness

BPVS: British Picture Vocabulary Scale

WISC – R : Wechsler Intelligence Scale for Children- Revised

Eng Spell: English Spelling

Eng Vocab: English Vocabulary

Eng PA : English Phonological Awareness

Eng MA: English Morphological Awareness

Malay Vocab: Malay Vocabulary

Malay PA: Malay Phonological Awareness

Malay MA: Malay Morphological Awareness