



UNIVERSITI PUTRA MALAYSIA

***DEVELOPMENT OF ORGANIC REACTION TEACHING MODEL FOR
PRE-UNIVERSITY PROGRAMS IN MALAYSIA***

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**DEVELOPMENT OF ORGANIC REACTION TEACHING MODEL FOR PRE-
UNIVERSITY PROGRAMS IN MALAYSIA**

By

SABITU ABDULMALIK

**Thesis Submitted to the School of Graduate Studies, Universiti Putra Malaysia in
Fulfilment of the Requirements for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy**

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DEDICATION

This work is dedicated to my mother, Malama Mariya Nuhu, May Allah continues to have mercy on her soul, my father, Alhaji Sabitu Sabiu, who inspired me to always do the right thing at the right time, my lovely wife, Fadila Bello Tunau for her kindness and good manners and finally, my children, Muhammad Jawwad and Muhammad Bello for their scarifies, love and prayers, I am much grateful.



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DEVELOPMENT OF ORGANIC REACTION TEACHING MODEL FOR PRE-UNIVERSITY PROGRAMS IN MALAYSIA

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Previous theories and research have shown that collaboration between scholars and practitioners has far-reaching consequences for students' learning. Therefore, bridging the lacuna between research and practice is necessary in the development and validation of an instructional model. The objective of this study is to develop and validate an organic reaction teaching model (ORTM) for pre-university programs in Malaysia based on the experts' collective opinion. Given that matriculation colleges serve as entry points into universities, developing instructional models is beneficial. The focus on the organic reaction concept is due to its significance and centrality in many science-related subjects as a set of steps that explain the chemical changes that occur in organic compounds. Moreover, many students perceive organic reaction mechanisms as difficult concepts that serve as barriers to their understanding of advanced organic chemistry. This perceived difficulty makes organic reactions less appealing to students, leading to misconceptions and errors of serious concern. Thus, the in-depth information about students' common errors and other challenges in organic chemistry instruction formed the basis of this study to develop a model for minimizing students' common errors and improving their academic performance in chemistry. Specifically, the research questions include: 1) To what extent is it necessary to develop ORTM to minimize common errors in organic reactions, based on the experts' collective opinion? 2) What are the opinions of experts on the instructional activities and constructs to be included in the development of the ORTM? and 3) How does the ORTM help lecturers to improve students' understanding of organic reaction mechanisms?

The design and development research approach was adopted using an embedded mixed-method as the overall design of the study, so that one set of data plays a supporting or secondary role to the other data type coherently in the three phases of the study. The need for developing the model was justified in phase 1 through three sub-studies, i.e., scoping review, experts' interviews, and analyses of students' manuscripts. During this phase, an exploratory design was used, and data was collected qualitatively and analyzed using ATLAS.ti (version 8) software. Data source triangulation, peer debriefing, member

checks, and audit trail were used to validate the findings. The second phase covered the design and development processes using exploratory mixed-method design. The main components of the model were identified qualitatively from literature and content analysis, pre-listed and presented to experts for scrutiny using the Delphi method. Quantitative data was obtained from 21 and 17 experts in two iterative Delphi rounds, respectively. Their views were analysed using the Inter Quartile Range (IQR), the Coefficient of Variance (CV), and the Kendall coefficient of concordance (W) at a consensus level of $\geq 75\%$. The ORT model was validated in phase three using an explanatory mixed design. The internal validity of the model was conducted to determine the suitability and usability of the model components using the fuzzy Delphi method (FDM). Qualitative data was collected using a fuzzy Delphi questionnaire from 14 experts purposively drawn from various related disciplines, and the external validity was conducted to determine the ORT model's practicability and potential in the actual classroom using the field-testing method (FTM) with five chemistry lecturers and 40 students from five matriculation colleges in Malaysia. Qualitative data was collected using an open-ended questionnaire, which was analysed using thematic analysis.

Findings in phase one showed the variables studied, reasons for the difficulty of ORM, and students' common errors from the past literature. Analysis of the expert interviews revealed five themes indicating the significance of ORM, challenges in ORM instruction, teaching strategies adopted by the teachers, students' errors, and ways for improving ORM instruction. Also, failure to conserve charges, backward arrow positioning, the formation of hypervalent atoms, and missing arrows were the common errors identified from the analysis of students' manuscripts. These findings stressed the need for developing an alternative model specifically for teaching organic reactions. The findings of phase two showed the developed model was comprised of 30 instructional activities, 5 instructional constructs including symbolisms, crosscutting, mechanisms, visualization, and refelection with mean ratings of ($\chi = 25.00, 22.35, 21.76, 18.47, \& 14.41$) respectively, and 3 instructional domains for avoidance, interference, and correction with a mean rating of ($\chi = 35.00, 33.53, \& 31.47$) at consensus level ($W = 0.511, p < 0.001$) and a correlation in stability of rounds ($\rho = 0.41, p < 0.01$). The mean ratings prioritized the domains and constructs for easy implementation of the model in the actual classrooms. Findings from phase three show that the model is valid as the fuzzy Delphi results indicated a consensual agreement on the suitability of the model components at a threshold value of 98.1% and defuzzification values of 13.20, 12.80, and 12.30 for the usability of instructional activities, instructional constructs, and domains, respectively. This indicates that the model components were consistently reliable for teaching to minimize students' errors in ORM. In addition, findings from the field-testing method revealed that the model could be used in other settings, as expressed by the views of chemistry lecturers after implementing the model across the 5 matriculation colleges. Model compatibility, model clarity, model efficiency, and model flexibility themes indicate the practicability of the model in the classroom. The result also shows the potentiality of the model in minimizing students' common errors in ORM and improving their academic performance at an overall average score of 84.4%.

The findings from the need analysis phase provided a myriad view of the experts and the lacunae in organic chemistry instruction, which necessitates the development of an organic reaction teaching model. The model was developed in phase two, and the components were conceptually agreed upon by the experts. Also, both internal and

external validity of the model were ensured in phase 3 of the study. Thus, the product of the study therefore removed the lacuna between research and practice, since practitioners, as the end users of the model, were fully involved in all the stages of the study. Furthermore, this study provides an instructional model as a guideline that helps teachers plan step-by-step lessons to minimize errors in ORM, and the domains of the model can be adopted in avoiding, interfering with, and correcting students' errors. Also, the model components could simplify the planning and implementation of lessons in the classrooms and extend the comprehension of Johnstone's model in terms of explicit representation of organic reaction mechanisms from 3 to 5 levels. More importantly, ORTM integrated the principles of threshold concepts and repair learning theories into teaching to overcome students' common errors in organic reactions. Moreover, the use of experts' opinions in the design and development research approach adopted using Fuzzy Delphi and field-testing methods was crucial in curriculum and instruction. Finally, it is recommended for further studies to be conducted by stakeholders in the curriculum and instruction as well as the international science education community to plan, develop, validate, and implement alternative modules, e-learning tools, and measuring instruments based on ORTM components.

Keywords: Organic Reaction (OR), Students' Common Errors, Design and Development Research (DDR), Validation, Fuzzy Delphi, Field Testing.

Abstrak tesis yang dikemukakan kepada Senat Universiti Putra Malaysia sebagai memenuhi keperluan untuk ijazah Doktor Falsafah

PEMBANGUNAN MODEL PENGAJARAN REAKSI ORGANIK UNTUK PROGRAM PRE-UNIVERSITI DI MALAYSIA

Oleh

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Teori dan penyelidikan terdahulu telah menunjukkan bahawa kerjasama antara penyelidik dan pengamal mempunyai kesan yang besar untuk pembelajaran pelajar. Oleh itu, jurang antara penyelidikan dan amalan perlu dirapatkan dalam pembangunan dan pengesahan model pengajaran. Objektif kajian ini adalah untuk membangunkan dan mengesahkan model pengajaran tindak balas organik (ORTM) untuk program pra universiti di Malaysia berdasarkan pendapat kolektif pakar. Memandangkan kolej matrikulasi berfungsi sebagai jalan utama ke universiti, membangunkan model pengajaran adalah sangat berfaedah.

Fokus kajian ini terhadap konsep tindak balas organik adalah disebabkan oleh kepentingannya dalam banyak mata pelajaran berkaitan sains yang menerangkan perubahan kimia yang berlaku dalam sebatian organik. Selain itu, ramai pelajar menganggap mekanisme tindak balas organik sebagai konsep sukar yang menjadi penghalang kepada pemahaman mereka tentang kimia organik lanjutan. Kesukaran yang dirasakan ini menjadikan tindakbalas organik kurang menarik kepada pelajar, yang membawa kepada salah tanggapan dan kesilapan yang membimbangkan yang serius. Oleh itu, maklumat lanjut tentang kesilapan biasa pelajar dan cabaran lain dalam pengajaran kimia organik membentuk asas kajian ini untuk membangunkan model untuk meminimumkan kesilapan biasa pelajar dan meningkatkan prestasi akademik mereka dalam kimia. Secara khususnya, soalan kajian adalah. 1) Sejauh manakah keperluan membangunkan ORTM untuk meminimumkan kesilapan biasa dalam tindak balas organik, berdasarkan pendapat kolektif pakar? 2) Apakah pendapat pakar tentang aktiviti dan konstruk pengajaran yang perlu dimasukkan dalam pembangunan ORTM? dan 3) Bagaimanakah ORTM membantu pensyarah meningkatkan pemahaman pelajar tentang mekanisme tindak balas organik?

Pendekatan penyelidikan reka bentuk dan pembangunan telah diguna pakai menggunakan kaedah gabungan pelbagai cara sebagai reka bentuk keseluruhan kajian, supaya satu set data memainkan peranan sokongan atau sekunder kepada jenis data lain secara koheren dalam tiga fasa kajian. Keperluan untuk membangunkan model tersebut adalah diwajibkan dalam fasa 1 melalui tiga sub-kajian, iaitu, ulasan berskop, temu bual pakar, dan analisis manuskrip pelajar. Semasa fasa ini, reka bentuk penerokaan telah digunakan, dan data dikumpul secara kualitatif dan dianalisis menggunakan perisian ATLAS.ti (versi 8). Triangulasi sumber data, temubual rakan sebaya, semakan oleh peserta dan jejak audit digunakan untuk mengesahkan hasil penemuan. Fasa kedua meliputi proses pembangunan reka bentuk menggunakan reka bentuk penerokaan gabungan pelbagai cara. Komponen utama model telah dikenal pasti secara kualitatif daripada analisis literatur dan kandungan, disenaraikan dan dibentangkan kepada pakar untuk diteliti menggunakan kaedah Delphi. Data kuantitatif diperoleh daripada 21 orang pakar dan 17 orang pakar masing-masing, dalam dua pusingan Delphi berulang. Pandangan mereka dianalisis menggunakan Julat Antara Kuartil (IQR), Pekali Varians (CV), dan pekali kesesuaian Kendall (W) pada tahap konsensus $\geq 75\%$. Model ORT telah disahkan dalam fasa tiga menggunakan reka bentuk penjelasan pelbagai cara. Kesahan dalaman model dijalankan untuk menentukan kesesuaian dan kebolegunaan komponen model menggunakan kaedah Fuzzy Delphi (FDM). Data kualitatif dikumpul menggunakan soal selidik fuzi Delphi daripada 14 pakar yang diambil secara bersebab daripada pelbagai disiplin berkaitan, dan kesahan luaran telah dijalankan untuk menentukan kebolegunaan model ORT dalam bilik darjah sebenar menggunakan kaedah ujian lapangan (FTM) dengan lima orang pensyarah kimia dan 40 pelajar dari lima kolej matrikulasi di Malaysia. Data kualitatif dikumpul menggunakan soal selidik terbuka, yang dianalisis menggunakan analisis bertema.

Dapatan dalam fasa satu menunjukkan pembolehubah yang dikaji, sebab kesukaran ORM, dan kesilapan biasa pelajar dari literatur lepas. Analisis temu bual pakar mendedahkan lima tema yang menunjukkan kepentingan ORM, cabaran dalam pengajaran ORM, strategi pengajaran yang diguna pakai oleh guru, kesilapan pelajar, dan cara untuk menambah baik pengajaran ORM. Selain itu, kegagalan untuk mengekalkan cas, kedudukan anak panah ke belakang, pembentukan atom hipervalen dan anak panah yang hilang adalah ralat biasa yang dikenal pasti daripada analisis manuskrip pelajar. Penemuan ini menekankan keperluan untuk membangunkan model alternatif khusus untuk mengajar tindak balas organik. Dapatan fasa dua menunjukkan model yang dibangunkan terdiri daripada 30 aktiviti pengajaran, 5 konstruk pengajaran termasuk penggunaan simbol, potong silang, mekanisma, visualisasi, dan refleksi dengan penyesuaian min masing-masing ($\chi = 25.00, 22.35, 21.76, 18.47, \& 14.41$). dan 3 domain pengajaran untuk pengelakan, gangguan dan pembedaan dengan penyesuaian min ($\chi = 35.00, 33.53, \& 31.47$) pada tahap konsensus ($W = 0.511, p < 0.001$) dan korelasi dalam kestabilan pusingan ($\rho = 0.41, p < 0.01$). Penyesuaian min mengutamakan domain dan binaan untuk memudahkan pelaksanaan model dalam bilik darjah sebenar. Keputusan daripada fasa tiga menunjukkan model tersebut sah kerana keputusan fuzi Delphi menunjukkan persetujuan konsensual terhadap kesesuaian komponen model pada nilai ambang 98.1% dan nilai kekaburan 13.20, 12.80, dan 12.30 masing-masing untuk kebolegunaan aktiviti pengajaran, konstruk pengajaran, dan domain. Ini menunjukkan bahawa komponen model secara konsisten boleh dipercayai untuk pengajaran untuk meminimumkan kesilapan pelajar dalam ORM. Selain itu, dapatan daripada kaedah ujian lapangan mendedahkan bahawa model tersebut boleh digunakan dalam tetapan berbeza, seperti yang dinyatakan oleh pandangan pensyarah kimia selepas melaksanakan model

tersebut di 5 kolej matrikulasi. Kesesuaian model, kejelasan model, kecekapan model dan tema fleksibiliti model menunjukkan kebolegunaan model ini dalam bilik darjah. Hasilnya juga menunjukkan potensi model dalam meminimumkan kesilapan biasa pelajar dalam ORM dan meningkatkan prestasi akademik mereka pada skor purata keseluruhan 84.4%.

Penemuan daripada fasa analisis keperluan memberikan pelbagai pandangan oleh pakar-pakar dan kekurangan dalam pengajaran kimia organik, yang memerlukan pembangunan model pengajaran tindak balas organik. Model ini dibangunkan dalam fasa dua, dan komponen secara konsep telah dipersetujui oleh pakar. Juga, kedua-dua kesahan dalaman dan luaran model telah dipastikan dalam fasa 3 kajian. Oleh itu, hasil kajian itu merapatkan jurang antara penyelidikan dan amalan, kerana pengamal, sebagai pengguna akhir model, terlibat sepenuhnya dalam semua peringkat kajian. Tambahan lagi, kajian ini menyediakan garis panduan bagi model pengajaran untuk membantu guru merancang pengajaran langkah demi langkah untuk meminimumkan kesilapan dalam ORM, dan domain model boleh diguna pakai untuk mengelakkan, mengganggu dan membetulkan kesilapan pelajar. Selain itu, komponen model membantu memudahkan perancangan dan pelaksanaan pelajaran di dalam bilik darjah dan mengembangkan pemahaman model Johnstone dari segi perwakilan eksplisit mekanisme tindak balas organik daripada 3 hingga 5 peringkat. Lebih penting lagi, ORTM menyepadukan prinsip konsep ambang dan membaiki teori pembelajaran ke dalam pengajaran untuk mengatasi kesilapan biasa pelajar dalam tindak balas organik. Tambahan pula, penggunaan pendapat pakar dalam pendekatan penyelidikan reka bentuk dan pembangunan yang diguna pakai menggunakan Fuzzy Delphi dan kaedah ujian lapangan adalah penting dalam kurikulum dan pengajaran. Akhir sekali, adalah disyorkan agar kajian lanjut dijalankan oleh pihak berkepentingan dalam kurikulum dan pengajaran serta komuniti pendidikan sains antarabangsa untuk merancang, membangun, mengesahkan dan melaksanakan modul alternatif, alat e-pembelajaran, dan instrumen pengukur berdasarkan komponen ORTM.

Kata kunci: Mekanisme Tindak Balas Organik (ORM), kesalahan lazim pelajar, Penyelidikan Reka Bentuk dan Pembangunan (DDR).

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This thesis was submitted to the Senate of Universiti Putra Malaysia and has been accepted as fulfilment of the requirement for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy. The members of the Supervisory Committee were as follows:

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

BAP	Budget Allocation Process
CC	Crosscutting Construct
CV	Coefficient of Variance
DDR	Design and Development Research
EAD	Error Avoidance Domain
ECD	Error Correction Domain
EID	Error Interference Domain
FDM	Fuzzy Delphi Method
IQR	Inter Quartile Range
MC	Mechanisms Construct
MOE	Ministry of Education
OR	Organic Reaction
ORM	Organic Reaction Mechanisms
ORTM	Organic Reaction Teaching Model
RC	Reflection Construct
RLT	Repair Learning Theory
SC	Symbolic Construct
TCs	Threshold Concepts
TCT	Threshold Concept Theory
VC	Visualisation Construct

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Global awareness has shown how science and technology played an important role in supporting nation-building through training future scientists towards attractiveness and brand recognition (Beumer, 2019; Fantke et al., 2019; Jasanoff, 2003; Lay & Kamisah Osman, 2018; Massaquoi, 2019; Möllers, 2020; Raub, Shukor, Arshad, & Rosli, 2015). Improving scientific knowledge and its applications in technological innovation is a continuing process that strengthens the pressing need for training of more scientists for national growth and economic development (Pedrdetti, 2018). Besides, Achimugu (2018) described science as a significant field of study that is very crucial for the development of the global economy. As a result, science education has been embraced as an instrument per excellence for national growth and development by many countries in the world. These are some of the reasons why researchers in science education need to concentrate on designing and developing alternative education models and strategies to improve the teaching of science subjects for national growth at the micro-level (Afolabi et al., 2017; James & Singer, 2016; Marginson, 2018; Nnakwe et al., 2018).

To achieve the exponentially rising need of specialists in scientific and technological areas for opportunities in the STEM-based jobs, such as software development for nation-building, it is therefore important to train more worker force in sciences. Many developed nations have been witnessing dramatic changes in their education system through curriculum innovation and policy formulation to boost college students' enrolment and success in science subjects (Howard, 2015; Olatoye, Fatokun, Olasehinde, & Sabitu, 2019; Parahakaran, 2015; Ponniah & Nawastheen, 2020; Shultz; Gottfried, & Winschel, 2015). Malaysia is not left behind, as seen by the number of progressive and ambitious changes to the education system targeted at the improvement in students' enrolment and success in science. A clear evidence is in the establishment of Curriculum Development Centre in Malaysian Education Ministry that was saddled the responsibility to carry out studies on advancement, identify the institutional needs, empirical results, and associated publications that have highlighted these findings (Bahrum et al., 2017; Haji Ahmad, 1998; Rauf et al., 2013; Sikas, 2017). These efforts further supported by the on-going curriculum reforms on the presentation of science subjects to suit the need of the local Malaysian, so that the Malaysian Vision 2020 to have one million individuals with science-related training can be achieved to compete in the globalized age (Mohtar et al., 2019; Ramlee, 2017; Ramli & Talib, 2017; Raub et al., 2015; Tutaiaini et al., 2018).

Matriculation programme is one of the most important programme among the post-secondary schools' programmes in Malaysia for securing addmission into the Universities. Two other programs at the post-secondary education level in Malaysia were; the Higher Schools Certificate, and the Certificate programme (Alfan & Othman, 2005; Azraai, 2016). The Higher School Certificate is awarded to those that offered

academic, technical, and religious subjects. The Certification program is a one or two-year curriculum primarily tailored to educate students in specialized fields (Ramlee, 2017). The pre-university programme also known as the Matriculation programme in Malaysia is a two-semester one-year programme offered at Matriculation College and some Universities especially the Bumiputera to prepare students for the Universities programs. The curriculum content of the matriculation combined both academic and co-curricular activities (Azraai & Talib, 2015; Malaysia Education Blueprint Malaysia, 2013; Veloo et al., 2015). The matriculation programme has been the transition stage for many students from secondary schools to universities as contained in the its jurisdiction gazzeted by Ministry of Education in 1998. The curriculum is developed following the programme philosophy and the Malaysian National Policy of Education. The objective of the matriculation curriculum is to serve as a foundation programme for students to gain admission into Malaysian and foreign (Blueprint, 2016).

The chemistry subject is among the core subjects for student in the science-related programmes to equip them with basic knowledge for understanding advanced science courses in the Universities (Academy of Sciences Malaysia, 2015; Fantke et al., 2020; Flee, 2019; Marginson, 2018; Mensah & Jackson, 2018; Veloo et al., 2015). Chemistry subject was considered central for studying science programmes including agricultural science, biochemistry, engineering, forestry, and food processing (Flynn & Amellal, 2015; Gilmanshina, Sagitova, & Gilmanshin, 2018; Grove, Hershberger, & Bretz, 2008; Saïdo et al., 2018; Webber & Flynn, 2018). Moreover, organic chemistry content comprised 50% of the chemistry curriculum in matriculation college, compulsory for student majoring in science-based programs.

The section of chemistry that concerned with the study of carbon compounds is termed as organic chemistry (Anzovino & Bretz, 2016). It covers all functional groups like hydrocarbons, benzene, haloalkane, carbonyl and amines (Azraai et al., 2015). Knowledge learned from organic chemistry comprises were crucial in various fields of national developments (Bodé, Deng, & Flynn, 2019; Cooper, Stowe, Crandell, & Klymkowsky, 2019). The rationale for inclusion of organic chemistry components in the matriculation programme is to creat a connection between the principles of general chemistry at all levels of education (Azraai & Talib, 2015). Correspondingly, it broadens, strengthen and enhanced the students' interest to prepare adequately for careers in STEM subjects. However, there has been serious concern by both local and foreign researchers about the challenges encountered by student in learning the reactions mechanisms. Learning ORM has been challenging and very difficult for students to understand leading to errors of serious concern. Scholars are concerned about common errors in ORM among students, as the most affected concept of organic chemistry due to its central role and spiral nature in the curriculum relative to other chemistry concepts (Berg & Ghosh, 2013; Caspari, Weinrich, et al., 2018; Osman et al., 2013b). For example, Talib, Othman, and Putri (2014) observed that a meaningful learning in reaction mechanisms is needed for understanding synthesis and fundamental in learning more advanced organic chemistry.

Nevertheless, there is no adequate teaching models for explicit presentation of the basic concepts (Bongers et al., 2019; Gilbert, 2005). For example, chemical triangle proposed by Johnstone (1993), is the model dominantly used for teaching chemistry. This model

suggests interpretation and communication of chemistry knowledge based on macro, micro, and symbolic levels to describe objects as observable and recognizable in our environment. Other models used were particulate matter model, and chemical and mathematical signs (Gabel, 1999a; Gilbert & Treagust, 2009; Johnstone, 1991; Talanquer, 2011). Yet, chemical representation model has been adapted/reinterpreted by many researchers. For instance, reporting on the study of Johnstone's writings Talanquer (2011) reveals that Johnstone described the components of chemistry in different forms such as thought levels (Johnstone, 1991), modes or components (Johnstone, 1993), and subjects matter type (Johnstone, 2000). Talanquer (2011) added that researchers like Gabel and colleagues who took a parallel opinion of chemistry representation with Johnstone were they used of additional labels including teaching levels (Gabel, 1993), and levels of representation (Gabel, 1999a; Gilbert & Treagust, 2009). In addition, Jensen (1998) used electrical levels; finally, Ladhams (2004) used molar, and intermolecular levels. Though, the interpretation of Gilbert and Treagust (2009) was dominantly used in teaching chemistry in the last couple of years. Yet, in the planning of chemistry lessons, it required teachers to focus more comprehensively on novel models, specifically for teaching organic chemistry that involves abstract and invisible processes as part of the adaption of the classical model to minimize confusion and misunderstanding of the students in learning (Talanquer, 2011). Likewise, basic concepts were taught to the students as independent topics because they appeared first in the syllabus without connection, integration and transformation in teaching and learning of related concepts (Talanquer, 2015).

Many textbooks have been published on the teaching of organic reaction. For instance, in his book Grossman (2003) explained the clear presentation of reaction mechanisms and warned teachers about common error alerts in reaction mechanisms. The use of curved arrow to illustrate transfer of electron is the strategy typically used in teaching reaction mechanisms (Tsaparlis & Sevian, 2013). Arrow-pushing technique and electron-pushing formalism have been used interchangeably by scholars to describe this strategy (Wilson and Varma-Nelson, 2018). The term arrow pushing technique is defined as the use of arrows to indicate movement of electron from an electron rich species to an electron deficient species (Levy, 2008). Similarly, Bhattacharyya (2013) electron-pushing formalisms is the use of symbolisms and mechanistic reasoning in writing organic reactions mechanisms. Therefore, both electron-pushing formalism and electron-pushing technique were illustrative and projecting methods for the mechanisms of organic reactions. However, the dominant use of arrows in demonstrating electrons transfer rises the student's cognitive load (Talib et al., 2012) and contributes to learning by memorization of reaction mechanisms as an indivisible entity, despite teacher's efforts to motivate student interest in learning the paradigmatic sequence of steps in ORM (Bhattacharyya, 2019).

Another important issue in chemistry and science education has been the disconnection between researches conducted and real classroom practices. Most chemistry education researches focus more on determining the causal-and-effect relationships between variables through a controlled study with limited sample size and less or no involvement of teachers (e.g Aidoo, Boateng, Kissi, & Ofori, 2016; Mack, Hensen, & Barbera, 2019; Sabitu & Francis, 2016; Schultz, Duffield, Rasmussen, & Wageman, 2014; Webber & Flynn, 2018; Yoruk, Morgil, & Secken, 2009). Findings obtained from experimental and laboratory educational studies were limited scientifically in their ability to predict,

explain, and generalize to a large population because of the weakness of their results to withstand the threats to both internal and external validity associated with their methodologies. Thus, these studies cannot address the problem of difficulties in learning chemistry such as students' common errors in ORM (Plomp & Nieveen, 2013). On this basis, scholars including Amiel and Reeves (2008); Gurvitch and Metzler (2010); Herrington (2012); Kelly, Wills, Jester, and Speller (2017), and Klein (2013) emphasized the need to implement a methodological approach which relates disciplines, researches, and practices in partnership to establish alternative ways of seeking solutions to the phenomenon of education.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

One of the worrying issue in science education has been the inadequacy of instructional models that integrate concepts in teaching of abstract science subjects (Bongers et al., 2019). Hence, rising the need for researches to minimize this problem by improving science instruction to bridge the gap through the development of novel teaching models (Sevian et al., 2015). Thus, it is helpful in teaching of science concepts to develop models that will integrate visual and verbal representations to simplify the teaching of abstract science concepts to the students. As such, this study, aimed at developing a model for minimising students' common errors in reaction mechanisms that hinders students from understanding advance organic chemistry. Organic reaction mechanisms (ORM) has been perceived as one of the abstract and complex concepts that often make the learning of chemistry more challenging and confusing to students. Thus, the lack of an alternative model of instruction makes it harder for students to link their previous experiences (Bhattacharyya, 2013, 2019; Bongers et al., 2019). This resulted in learning by memorization, and many of the students cannot retain and recall the knowledge memorized during examinations (Ferguson & Bodner, 2008).

Though several textbooks discussed about the organic chemistry teaching and learning methods, the ability to understand and remember mystifying structure of organic compounds and peculiar properties of carbon, such as catenation added to its learning difficulties (Grossman, 2003; Levy, 2008; Scudder, 2013). Catenation is the ability of carbon to form the vast number of organic compounds as straight, branched, cyclic, alicyclic, and many other forms that make memorization very difficult if not impossible (Anzovino & Lowery Bretz, 2015; Popova & Bretz, 2018b). To many scholars and particularly curriculum implementers, therefore, reforming the current chemistry instructional models, approaches, and strategies adopted in schools to reflect the uniqueness of the carbon compounds seems crucial (Bongers et al., 2019; Cooper & Klymkowsky, 2013; Saïdo et al., 2018; Teichert, Tien, Dysleski, & Rickey, 2017). Thus, critical aspects have been recognized in science instruction that deters effective teaching and learning and has resulted in the low performance of students in science subjects (Talib et al., 2012). It is essential, particularly for concepts of organic reaction to being transformative, integrative, and bounded to provide an explicit presentation of the concept. This is necessary because organic reactions have been most influenced by many abstract and troublesome concepts such as lone pair, nucleophilic and electrophilic concepts.

Equally, the number of student's error in reactions mechanisms is increasing (Flynn & Featherstone, 2017) and several of this errors have been reported in the recent literature including; wrong arrow positioning, arrow shortage, the formation of hypervalent carbon, errors due to mixing reaction media and poor conservation of charges (Andrés et al., 2016; Bodé et al., 2019; Caspari, Kranz, et al., 2018; Flynn & Featherstone, 2017; Galloway et al., 2019). Major factors identified as the causes of these errors were the overuse of teacher-centred instruction (Grove & Lowery Bretz, 2012; Hrin, Milenković, & Segedinac, 2016; Lo & Tang, 2018) as many lessons were based on presentation of logical fact through indirect instruction. Likewise, the half-hazard coverage of large course contents (Andrés et al., 2017); and the student's perception of organic reaction mechanisms as the most complicated and abstract concepts to grasp as well as the spiral nature of the concepts in the chemistry curriculum (Hrin, Milenković, Segedinac, et al., 2016; O'Dwyer & Childs, 2011) and these factors resulted to the low enrolment of students particularly into chemistry and the science stream in general (Alias et al., 2015; Osman et al., 2013a). For instance, students' enrolment into science in Malaysian secondary schools decreases to as low as 44% and 21% in 2011 and 2014 respectively (Meng, Idris, & Eu, 2014; Mohtar et al., 2019; Tutuaini et al., 2018) and these figures are far from the targeted 60% in the science stream and 40% in the non-science disciplines in Malaysian schools (Kamisah Osman, Zanaton Haji Iksan, & Lilia Halim, 2007 & Ramli & Talib, 2017). This was a key issue, as many nations had seen science education as the driving force behind their economic and social development (Logan & Skamp, 2008; Marginson, 2018; Massaquoi, 2019; Nnakwe et al., 2018).

Thus, there is a need for science education researches to empower teacher to adapt novel models of instruction in their lessons, regardless the settings and the types of curriculum he is implementing (Cheng & Gilbert, 2017). Instructional model is a philosophical representation of realities constructed by researchers to create meanings of ideas for meaningful learning (Akaygun, 2016). Teachers have adopted various teaching models to create and prepare alternative instructions for the teaching of chemistry (Talanquer, 2011; Talanquer & Pollard, 2010). For example, Johnstone's chemical representation model is a popular conceptual model implemented by science teachers to simplify abstract concepts. It is a model of representation that has undergone modifications due to the complexity of some science concepts leading to ambiguity and misunderstanding (Hannah Sevia & Talanquer, 2014). This is because students are becoming more confused and found it challenging to move across different representational levels of Johnstone's representation model and this resulted in learning through memorization (Popova & Bretz, 2018a). Student lacks the intellectual capacity to conceptualize the chemical triangle, and see no sense and value in the three levels of representation adopted by the teachers during the lesson (Aidoo et al., 2016; Akaygun, 2016; Bongers et al., 2019).

Also, there was no relationship between theoretical understanding and actual practices in science education (Fleer, 2019; Rejab et al., 2018). While scholars focused on comparing the effectiveness of existing teaching methods, science teachers continue to adhere to conventional methods that have demonstrated to be boring and uninteresting in their experience in the classroom (Achiemugu, 2018). Therefore, the main objective of the study was the development and validation of organic reaction teaching model based on the practices of the students that leads to errors in reaction mechanisms and

experts' collective opinions who are professionals in chemistry and, curriculum and instructions.

1.3 Objectives of the Study

The main objective of this study was to develop an organic reaction teaching model (ORTM) to minimise common errors among matriculation students. Thus, the investigator chose to develop and validate a model for teaching organic reaction mechanism, a concept offered by Malaysian Matriculation Colleges. The study, therefore, has the following specific objectives:

1. To determine the needs for developing the ORTM to minimize matriculation students' common error based on the students' practices and experts' collective opinion.
2. To develop the ORTM for minimizing students' common errors based on experts' collective opinion.
3. To validate the suitability and usability of the ORTM components based on experts' collective opinion.
4. To validate the practicability and potentiality of the ORTM in minimising students' errors in ORM.

1.4 Research Questions

The research questions were developed agreeing to the phases of the study, based on the specific objectives of this study:

Phase 1:

Phase one aimed to offer answers to the research questions about the needs for the development of the ORTM from the practices of the students and the collective opinion of the experts:

1. What are the outcomes of the previous studies conducted on teaching and learning of organic reaction?
2. To what extent is it necessary to develop ORTM to minimise common errors in organic reactions, based on the experts' collective opinion?
3. What are the matriculation students' common errors in ORM?

Phase 2:

This is the design and development phase that proposed answers to the following research questions:

1. What are the opinions of experts on the instructional activities and constructs to be included in the development of the ORTM?
2. Based on the experts' opinions, how would the model components (instructional activities, constructs and domains) be arranged according to their relevance and weight?

Phase 3:

To validate the organic reaction teaching model (ORTM). The validation phase was sought to address the following questions:

1. What are the collective opinion of the experts about the suitability of the instructional activities included in the ORTM?
2. What are the collective opinion of the experts on the classification of the instructional activities into the five respective constructs proposed in the model?
3. What are the collective opinion of the experts on the instructional activities grouped under the three error correction domains (error avoidance, error interference, and error correction) proposed in the model?
4. What are the experts' collective opinion on the overall usability of the ORTM components?
5. How does the ORTM help lecturers to improve students' understanding of organic reaction mechanisms?
6. What is the potential of ORTM in helping students to minimize common errors and improve their academic performance in organic reaction mechanisms?

1.5 The Rationale of the Study

This study's objective aimed develop and validate organic reaction teaching model (ORTM). The rationale for conducting this study was the desire to help matriculation students, in particular, to have a conceptual knowledge of organic reaction mechanisms (ORM), which was an important concept in learning organic chemistry. This was reported by Talib, Othman, and Putri (2014) that a meaningful learning of ORM is critical in synthesizing advanced organic compounds. Therefore, the highest cognitive learning outcomes of organic chemistry depend on students' ability to solve problems with the organic reaction mechanisms. So it is clear, that the organic reaction mechanism is necessary to understand the more advanced concepts of organic chemistry. In any case,

those who have a meaningful understanding of mechanisms for the organic reaction will be able to access and recall the basic information for learning advanced concepts. This may be the most important clear understanding of organic reaction mechanism. Thus, information learned from the organic reaction mechanism is easier to be transformed, so that the knowledge would be applied to solve problems in advanced organic chemistry.

In this study, a teaching model was developed by integrating instructional activities that will encourage students to use mechanistic reasoning and language symbolisms that would increase their understanding of reaction mechanisms. Mechanistic reasoning is depiction of electron movement in showing the step-by-step transformation of reactants into products (Bhattacharyya, 2013). Whilst language symbolisms are unique systems of representation using alphanumeric characters, Greek symbol, line, dot, arrows, and/or geometric shape to explicitly explain reaction of organic compound. Meanwhile, instructional activities are referred to as the classroom actions and behaviours that link mechanistic reasoning and the language symbolisms for conceptual understanding of organic reaction. These constructs were recommended in the previous studies for the implementation of the organic chemistry curriculum (Dood et al., 2020; Hsiao et al., 2019; Liu & Taber, 2016; Otter, 2020). As instructional constructs, they are also, essential for conceptual understanding of reaction mechanisms by decreasing cognitive load to assist students in recalling and applying the knowledge learned in understanding advanced organic chemistry courses (Caspari, Kranz, et al., 2018).

Secondly, to increase conceptual knowledge of organic reactions, the aim of organic chemistry should not be only on the teaching of basic concepts, laws, and theories in conventional teaching methods. Bhattacharyya, (2019) stated that teaching and assessment approaches have historically been aimed at memorizing materials leading to errors in the organic reactions. This is because conventional chemistry teaching approaches are typically aimed at teachers who attempt in a limited time to cover a significant amount of curriculum materials. The conceptual understanding of organic reaction mechanisms requires approaches that provide the student with the opportunity to construct a mental model for practical understanding that can be retrieved and used in the future. This study, therefore, aimed to create an ORTM focusing on instructional activities that will allow the students to minimise common error in organic reactions.

Thirdly, its stated earlier, in 2013 that, the Malaysian education system has been revised addressing challenges in 21st century, which was primarily based on teaching for conceptual understanding of science subjects including organic chemistry. However, the method of teaching adopted for teaching organic chemistry in Matriculation Colleges is commonly a direct instruction approaches such as lecturing. Thus, the researcher became interested in selecting the study sample from the Malaysian Matriculation Colleges. Lastly, organic reaction mechanisms are concepts that are highly valued throughout the world for being a key topic for learning advanced organic reactions in chemistry and other science-related disciplines such as microbiology, food technology, and medical sciences.

1.6 Significance of the Study

Educators have long considered errors as a catalyst for successful learning (Steuer et al., 2013). The development of a teaching model based on the practices of students would therefore assist curriculum designers and teachers in chemistry education to prevent future consequences of errors. This research could help chemistry teachers in determining common errors in organic reaction mechanisms among the students that would offer strong indications of what the students think and what distracts them from the right answers. Thus, understanding the mistakes of the students will help teachers concentrate on the aspects of topics requiring further explanations. The study also provides an alternative way to manage common errors among students, with anticipation that curriculum specialist would recognize student's common error as one of the aspects of error avoidance strategies in designing curriculum content, especially for abstract science concepts.

The study will therefore contribute to the field of research methodology, in particular the three phases adopted, namely need analysis, design and development, and validation using the Delphi fuzzy method. This will help the researcher to remain concentrated and allow reflection at any point in the study. Besides, the findings of this study will also enrich the theoretical information concerning the representation of chemical concepts as a basis for the conceptualization of science teaching by integrating two models and three theories including the Novak Model of Education, Johnstone's Model of Chemical Representation, Threshold Concepts Theory, and Repair Learning Theory. Of this purpose, the study will help chemical educators to improve their judgment on the extension of the Johnstone chemical triangle to satisfy the implicit characteristics of organic reactions for simplification of its abstractness.

1.7 Scope and Limitation of the Study

The development of ORTM was proposed as an example of how related principles could be incorporated into the teaching of organic reactions to enhance understanding of organic chemistry content. In the scope of organic chemistry, the study chose reaction mechanisms of basic organic reactions in the matriculation chemistry curriculum as the focus of the study. The study was primarily concerned with the context of organic reaction mechanisms in the chemistry matriculation curriculum (Akker, 2006; Baker et al., 2006; Richey & Klein, 2005) where it was developed for a specific phenomenon of common errors in organic reaction mechanisms.

Concerning methodology, this study used research findings from previous studies, the collective view of experts, and the common errors of students in judging the need for the model development was the phase one. In the second phase, the study adopted the conventional Delphi method to obtain the components for the model, and determine the level of relevance and weightage of the model components, and the fuzzy Delphi field testing methods were used to validate the suitability, usability, practicability and effectiveness of the model. These methods are primarily based on experts' collective views. Thus, the validity of the model components depends on the experts' experiences

and their opinions on the phenomenon of student's common error in the mechanisms of organic reactions. In the first Delphi round, twenty-one (21) experts (10 matriculation chemistry lecturers, 4 university chemistry lecturers, 3 science education lecturers, and 4 curriculum and instruction experts) were involved. The second phase comprised of seventeen (17) experts (8 from matriculation colleges, 3 from chemistry, and 6 from education fields).

The internal validation involved 14 experts, the majority of them were matriculation chemistry lecturers (n= 8), 4 from education fields, and 2 were university chemistry lecturers. External validation was conducted with 5 chemistry lecturers and 40 students from five matriculation colleges. It indicates that the findings vary because the analysis was performed using a different number of experts with different experiences from a different setting. The model should not, therefore, be applied to all higher institutions. This could, however, be repeated to establish a similar instructional model adapted to a particular level of education at various institutions and for different concepts. Another limitation of the study is that ORTM was focused on incorporating instructional activities as the model's major component. Other components of the ORTM primarily established the relationship between the instructional activities with other variables such as the implementers' role, teaching and learning strategies, and context.

1.8 Definition of Key Terms

The following are important terminologies considered very significant in this research, and are therefore defined based on the perspective of this study:

An Error: Error is a natural by-product of trying to minimise learning tasks and can, in particular, provide students with learning opportunities (VanLehn, 1990). An error is also described as students' behaviours that may have had negative effects that could have been avoided (Tulis, Steuer, & Dresel, 2016, p. 103)". In this study, students' error is defined as the variation observed from the students' attempts to solve organic reaction mechanisms tasks that result in an unacceptable disparity between the processes expected that could have been prevented.

Teaching Model: Is the widest level of teaching practice that gives instruction a logical coordination. Generally used to choose and arrange instructional task, technique, and skill that allow students' interactions with a specific focus on instruction (Richey & Klein, 2005). In this situation, a teaching model is defined as a collection of structured instructional activities that would be used by chemistry teachers in scheming and planning instructions for teaching mechanisms of organic reactions with the aim of minimizing errors to improve students' performance.

Symbolism: is defined as a series of unique grammatical symbols that explicitly explain specialized forms of knowledge that can be understood more than using the natural language (Liu & Taber, 2016). In this study, symbolism is referred to as a unique symbol of representation such as alphanumeric character, Greek symbol, line, dot, a curved

arrow, and geometric shape for explicit explanation of what is happening in the reaction of organic compound.

Crosscutting: This is a construct which is described in a similar way to a gateway of understanding, opening a new way of thinking about the previously challenging concepts (Meyer & Land, 2003). It is a changed way of thinking, or remembering, or experiencing things that students must understand for learning to progress. In this study, crosscutting construct is considered as verging core concepts that are critically needed for understanding organic reaction mechanisms without which students cannot progress in learning advanced organic chemistry.

Visualization: This is an effective way for learner to access a complex concept through drawing graphing, sketching, expanding or putting numbers on a number line to make complex ideas in more explicit, whether online or offline (Gilbert, 2005). Visual representation in this study, entails the explicit presentation of the abstract and salient features of the organic reaction mechanism using diagrams, sketches, simulations, short videos, computer applications, tools, and colors.

Mechanisms: is described as the mechanistic steps to explain how and why a reaction occurs and from which entities and activities they were generated (Hsiao et al., 2019). In this study, mechanisms construct describes how the formation of radical, and movement of electrons, as well as the systematic conversion of reactant into the product occurred during the reactions.

Reflection: This is referred to as considering and recalling the previous issues in classroom practices for improving the learning outcome (Chacón, 2018). Reflection is also defined as a practice in which teachers, and students, learn from past classroom experiences to gain new insight for better outcome (Finlay & Gough, 2008). The reflection construct in this study refers to the recalling issues from previous instructional classroom activities through a structured evaluation process that help teacher guide student to correct some mistakes from previous instructions.

1.9 Organisation of the Study

This study was structured into seven chapters and each chapter is focusing on an important part of the thesis. Chapter one addresses the topic of the subject under investigation and the scholars' claims about the research problem. Chapter two examines and critically reviews the related literature by highlighting the opinions of scholars on the research variables and defining areas that received less attention or lack of studies that concentrate on organic chemistry instruction to minimise the common errors of students. To bridge this gap, the development and validation of organic reactions teaching model from perspectives of students' practices and experts' consensus is justified. It is then followed by an explanation of how the relevant variables are underpinned by both learning and development theories and models which are combined and included in the research framework of the study.

Chapter three outlines the methodologies adopted in the study, which comprises of three phases, including the need analysis by experts' interviews, scoping review and errors identification from students' manuscripts; the model development process, the composition of the experts' panel, and the execution of the Delphi rounds, as well as the procedures for the model validation through Fuzzy Delphi and field-testing methods. The findings of the study were elaborated at Section A, B, C and D of Chapters 4, respectively. Chapter 5 summarises the research implications, offers recommendations, and suggestions for future research directions.

1.10 Summary

This chapter discusses the issue specifically related to the topic under study, the whole chapter provides background information and explains the existing situations related to common errors in organic reaction mechanisms among matriculation students. The study objectives, the intended contributions, and the operational definition of terms were outlined based on the argument presented. The subsequent chapter is on the review of related literatures and a thorough description of underlying theories and models surrounding the development of the organic reaction teaching model (ORTM).

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