



**EFFECTS OF ALGEBRAIC REASONING INTEGRATION OF
COMPUTATIONAL THINKING ON WORD PROBLEM-SOLVING IN AN
INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL IN MALAYSIA**

By

KU SOH TING

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

October 2022

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Abstract of thesis presented to the Senate of Universiti Putra Malaysia in fulfillment of the requirement for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy

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October 2022

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Word problems solving refers to the students' ability on interpreting the problems, converting their knowledge into mathematical statements, and then doing arithmetic computations. In this study, the strength and precision of students' word problem-solving skills based on their additive and logical reasoning are studied. This study expanded coding by integrating it with the computational thinking and algebra reasoning that strengthened the communication, collaboration, logical reasoning, additive reasoning, and word problem solving abilities among students. The algebraic reasoning integration of computational thinking (AR-CT) instructional design was developed from the ADDIE model (Analyze, Design, Develop, Implement, and Evaluate). Sequential mixed method approaches incorporating interview, systematic literature review, and quasi-experimental procedures were used to collect the data. The experimental group (AR-CT) and the conventional instruction as control group (CVI) were investigated in this research. Through paired t-test results, the AR-CT group intervention outperformed than CVI group in terms of word problem solving, additive reasoning, and logical reasoning. Meanwhile, the impacts of the prior knowledge of arithmetic, computational thinking and ability of word problem solving on the effectiveness of AR-CT on performance of word problem solving are studied. When the analysis of covariance (ANCOVA) was adjusted for prior knowledge, the post-test of word problem-solving skills and additive reasoning remained significant, but not for logical reasoning. The results shown the students is increasingly affected in the order of prior computational thinking followed by prior arithmetic knowledge and word-problem solving skills, which these factors are selected as statistical covariates in this analysis. Adoption of AR-CT instructional strategy in math lessons can improve the additive reasoning however, there is no sign of enhancement on the logical reasoning of the students. The modules' benefits students' pre-algebra concepts and coding when solving word problems. Meanwhile, encouraging teachers to interact with students and teachers' creativity in creating excellent teaching situations.

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

**KESAN INTEGRASI ANTARA PENAAKULAN ALGEBRA DAN PEMIKIRAN
KOMPUTASIONAL TERHADAP PENYELESAIAN MASALAH PERKATAAN
DI SEBUAH SEKOLAH ANTARABANGSA DI MALAYSIA**

Oleh

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Penyelesaian masalah perkataan merujuk kepada kebolehan pelajar mentafsir masalah, menukar pengetahuan mereka kepada pernyataan matematik, dan kemudian melakukan pengiraan aritmetik. Dalam kajian ini, keupayaan dan ketepatan kemahiran menyelesaikan masalah perkataan pelajar berdasarkan penaakulan tambahan dan logik mereka dikaji. Kajian ini memperluaskan pengekodan melalui pengintegrasian dengan pemikiran komputasi dan penaakulan algebra yang mengukuhkan komunikasi, kerjasama, penaakulan logik, dan penaakulan aditif serta kebolehan menyelesaikan masalah perkataan di kalangan pelajar. Rekabentuk pengajaran penaakulan algebra berintegrasikan pemikiran komputasi (AR-CT) dibangunkan menerusi model ADDIE (Menganalisis, Merekabentuk, Pembangunan, Pelaksanaan, dan Penilaian). Pendekatan kaedah campuran berurutan yang meliputi temu bual, tinjauan literatur sistematik dan prosedur kuasi-eksperimen telah digunakan untuk mengumpul data. Kumpulan eksperimen (AR-CT) dan pengajaran konvensional sebagai kumpulan kawalan (CVI) telah dikaji dalam kajian ini. Berdasarkan keputusan ujian t-berpasangan, kumpulan intervensi AR-CT mengatasi prestasi kumpulan CVI dari segi penyelesaian masalah perkataan, penaakulan aditif, dan penaakulan logik. Manakala, kesan pengetahuan sedia ada tentang aritmetik, pemikiran komputasi dan kebolehan menyelesaikan masalah perkataan terhadap keberkesanan AR-CT dalam prestasi penyelesaian masalah perkataan juga dikaji. Apabila analisis kovarians (ANCOVA) diselaraskan dengan pengetahuan sedia ada, ujian pasca kemahiran menyelesaikan masalah perkataan dan penaakulan aditif kekal signifikan, tetapi tidak untuk penaakulan logik. Keputusan menunjukkan pelajar semakin terkesan menurut susunan pemikiran komputasi sedia ada diikuti oleh pengetahuan aritmetik sedia ada dan kemahiran menyelesaikan masalah perkataan, dimana faktor-faktor ini dipilih sebagai kovariat statistik dalam analisis ini. Penggunaan strategi pengajaran AR-CT dalam pelajaran matematik boleh menambah baik

penaakulan aditif namun, tiada tanda peningkatan pada penaakulan logik pelajar. Modul ini memanfaatkan konsep algebra sedia ada dan pengkodan pelajar apabila menyelesaikan masalah perkataan. Sementara itu, galakan guru berinteraksi dengan pelajar dan kreativiti guru dalam mencipta situasi pengajaran yang cemerlang ditingkatkan.



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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

OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
PISA	Programme for International Students Assessment
NCTM	National Council of Teachers of Mathematics Commission on Standards for School Mathematics
NGA	National Governors Association
CCSSO	Council of Chief State School Officers
MOE	Ministry of Education
HOC	Hour of Code
TMK	<i>Teknologi maklumat dan komunikasi</i>
KSSR	<i>Kurikulum Standard Sekolah Rendah</i>
ASK	<i>Asas komputer dan sains</i>
SK	<i>Sains komputer</i>
KSSM	<i>Kurikulum Standard Sekolah Menengah</i>
CompT	computational thinking
TIMSS	Third International Mathematics and Science Study
CVI	Conventional instruction
AR-CT	Algebraic reasoning integration of computational thinking
ICMI	12 th International Conference on Multimodal Interaction
ADDIE	Analyze, Design, Develop, Implement, and Evaluate
DDR	Design and Development Research
ICT	Information and communication technology
IQ	Intelligence quotient
NRC	National Research Council
SREB	Southern Regional Education Board

IFTF	Institute for the future
CAS	Computer algebra systems
CAME	Computer Algebra in Mathematics Education
DBR	Design based research
ASSURE	Analyze learner characteristics, state objectives, select, modify, or design materials; utilize materials, require learner response and evaluation
SLR	Systematic literature review
IGCSE	The International General Certificate of Secondary Education
CIS	Cambridge International School
TCISKL	Tzu Chi International School Kuala Lumpur
IEEE	Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers
ACM	Association for Computing Machinery
SPSS	Statistical Package for Social Sciences
ANCOVA	Analysis of Covariance
CUBES	Circle the number, Underline the questions, Box math 'action' word, Evaluate, Solve and Check
TIOBE	The Importance of Being Earnest
UML	Unified Modeling Language
PPW	Part-Part-Whole
SW	Shapiro Wilk
COMPS	Conceptual Model-based Problem Solving
ARCS	Attention, relevance, confidence and satisfaction

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CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Introduction

In this information age, high levels of mathematical competence and reasoning skills are required for entry jobs in the 21st century (Ellis et al., 2018; Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), 2010). Mathematics skills are integral to all areas and situations in daily life, employment depends on one's ability to apply mathematically model to solve real-world problem situations which students have learnt in school (so called application function of word problems) (de Walle, Karp, & Bay-Williams, 2013; Depaepe, De Corte, & Verschaffel, 2010; Geary, Hoard, Nugent, & Bailey, 2012; Price & Ansari, 2013). Of these skills, problem solving may be the most important as "virtually everyone, in their everyday lives and professional lives, regularly solves problems" (Jonassen, 2000).

1.2 Research Background

Understanding number concepts and the operations that go with them is important to basic mathematics. Problem solving and the application of mathematical principles to real-world situations are being emphasized as vital components of mathematics training and education in elementary schools worldwide (Mullis et al., 2008). Professional development is critical to the success of an innovative mathematics program (Hart et al., 2016). There has long been a desire to improve primary teachers' knowledge of elementary number theory (Liljedahl et al., 2006; Zazkis, 2011). Despite this, they have received far too little attention for their pedagogical knowledge for teaching arithmetic word problems, despite the fact that primary students have always demonstrated difficulty in solving multi-step word problems involving whole numbers in international assessments such as the Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study (TIMSS) (Mullis et al., 2016).

Davydov (1982) presents an alternative viewpoint to the usual one on how students can enhance their problem-solving ability in mathematics. The additive link is the cornerstone of knowledge about addition and subtraction since it is "the law of composition by which the relationship between two components generates a unique third element as a function." In other terms, it is "the law of composition that determines a unique third element as a function through the interaction between two components" (Davydov, 1982). He is adamant about teaching this additive relationship initially, even before counting, because it is so fundamental. The method in question has been dubbed the Relational Paradigm. Word problems with addition highlight addition interactions and can be solved

using either addition or subtraction. While it comes to teaching and learning, there is a huge difference between the solution approach and the calculation methodology used when attempting to answer an issue.

The progression of mathematical thinking is considered as progressing from knowing the additive relationships between physical objects (without numbers) to grasping the additive structures in word problems in a more flexible manner (with numbers). It is difficult for students to answer word problems when they do not comprehend and operate on the additive relationship. Thus, knowing additive interactions is essential for addressing additive word problems.

Critical thinking, according to Halpern (2014), is "purposeful, reasoned, and goal-directed." According to Halpern (2014), many definitions of critical thinking in the literature contain the phrase "reasoning/logic," having the ability to apply logic principles can be considered as a necessity for critical thinking. People of various ages have problems with logical reasoning, according to studies (Daniel & Klaczynski, 2006; Galotti, 1989; O'Brien et al., 1971; Stanovich et al., 2016). Because of these difficulties, it is unlikely that children in schools will be able to reason coherently and so improve their critical thinking skills on their own. Liu et al. (2015) stated that logical reasoning is a fundamental component of sound critical thinking. Some authors believe that one of the key purposes of education should be to help students develop their logical reasoning abilities as part of their higher order thinking abilities (Zohar & Dori, 2003).

21st century mathematical literacy includes mathematical reasoning and application of computational thinking to facilitate problem-solving (Lee & Cho, 2018). In the PISA 2021 framework that students should have and be able to demonstrate computational thinking skills as they contribute to mathematics as part of their problem-solving practice. Coding as an essential bridge to learn mathematics in the 21st century (Gadanidis et al., 2017). As quoted by Bill Gates on "Learning to write coding stretches your mind, and helps you think better, creates a way of thinking about things that I think is helpful in all domains".

Coding become technology tool as a partner in the computational practices learning process which easily and effective to acquire computational problem solving skills (Howland et al., 2013) and foster their computational thinking to enhance general problem solving ability (Lin & Liu, 2012; Ratcliff & Anderson, 2011). Coding languages can be taught as the foundation for teaching mathematics, and coding concepts and experience can be used to provide a conceptual structure for the presentation of the subject in mathematics. The use of a computer with sufficient programming language adds this additional dimension to the experience of mathematics; a new and efficient operating environment that is essential for mathematical experiments. Coding able to develop computational thinking, logical reasoning, critical thinking skills and at the same time helping students to understand the 21st century world.

Furthermore, coding also to be used to develop learners' digital literacy for sharing and expressing their idea to create and solve the problems by remixing digital resources (Hague & Payton, 2011; Mills, 2010; Ng, 2012). Coding is a platform to shape learners' computational perspective about technology and engage the building of technology products so that learners are no longer be passive consumers of the digital technology (Resnick et al., 2009). Throughout math lessons, students are helped to work in close coordination with the computer-based discussion of the classroom as an experimental laboratory. In addition to inspiring students' interest in the study, a mathematical laboratory at a realistic educational level may prevent the loss of vital components (Feurzeig et al., 2011). Moreover, this approach can ensure all students access to computing education and engage with core content in new and creative ways.

By emphasizing the importance of computational thinking as it relates to mathematics, the framework anticipates that the participating countries will focus on the role of computational thinking in curricula and pedagogy. Teachers have been asked to increase the depth of student discourse mathematics, to teach students about real-world problems, and to give them opportunities to connect with and across mathematical themes, to use different methods to solve problems, and to connect functions through different representations (Kieran, 2007; National Council of Teachers of Mathematics Commission on Standards for School Mathematics (NCTM), 1989, 2000; National Governors Association Center for Best Practices Council of Chief State School Officers (NGA Center and CCSSO), 2010).

1.3 Awareness of Coding in Education

There are three technology corporations (Microsoft, Intel, Cisco) were alarmed that current graduated students did not fit for employment to enter in a digital age workforce. They identified there is shifting workplace requirements which focus on 21st century skills, but they concerned about graduated students lack fostering thinking skills in school and university (Griffin et al., 2012). Many technology corporations in developed countries structural unemployment crisis, support "call to action" that there was a need to change the bases for firing and hiring to reflect the possession of 21st century skills (Griffin & Care, 2015). Nowadays, students are required to possess 21st century skills to be success such as collaboration, communication, critical thinking, and creativity.

According to the report from Digital Workforce of The Future conducted by LinkedIn Talent Solutions (2017), digital skills is the top five high demands in Malaysia. Malaysia is facing shortages of software development professionals. Due to high demand of coding skills in our current job market, the Ministry of Education (MOE) of Malaysia is decided to propose coding program in the current curriculum. MOE of Malaysia organized Hour of Code (HOC) campaign since 2017 (Ministry of Education Malaysia (MOE) & Malaysia Digital Economy Corporation (MDEC), 2022).

HOC is an hour activity where students were introduced to the basic of coding and computer science in every school. This activity was joined by about 100 million of students from 180 countries. Students were able to solve problem through gamification-based drag and drop programming online within a duration time of 30 – 60 minutes in this activity. HOC functioned as an awareness campaign which aimed to provide an early exposure and improve the awareness of the students on coding, programming, and computer science.

This campaign was in accordance to the implementation of information technology and communication (*teknologi maklumat dan komunikasi* (TMK)) in primary school standard curriculum (*Kurikulum Standard Sekolah Rendah* (KSSR)). Moreover, reviews of the current basic computer science (*asas komputer dan sains* (ASK)) and computer science (*komputer sains* (SK)) syllabus in secondary school standard curriculum (*Kurikulum Standard Sekolah Menengah* (KSSM)) also has been conducted where computational thinking and computer science element are being emphasized. This campaign also is a part of strategic component under the implementation of #mydigitalmaker movement. (Ministry of Education Malaysia (MOE) & Malaysia Digital Economy Corporation (MDEC), 2022).

Many countries implemented rapid changes in the primary and secondary school curriculums, in order to incorporate computational thinking (CompT) as part of their 21st century skills. In the recent years, many countries around the world have integrated computer coding in their primary and secondary education curriculums, such as UK (England), Finland, Belgium, Czech Republic, Malta, France, Austria, Bulgaria, Hungary, Denmark, Estonia, Lithuania, Ireland, Israel, Poland, Spain, Slovakia, Portugal and so on. One of our goal in our vision 2020 is to raise a sufficient number of qualified graduates to establish a scientific and innovative society (Ministry of Education Malaysia, 2013). According to Malaysia Education Blueprint 2013-2025, national and school-based assessment are focused on creative and problem-solving skills.

1.4 Learning Theories and Process Related to Problem Solving

The National Mathematics Advisory Panel (2008) proposed working together on algebra curriculum to facilitate problem solving. Algebra is an important subject in mathematics learning for pursuing success to access higher mathematics (Adelman, 2006; National Mathematics Advisory Panel, 2008). Algebra has been recognized as a major stumbling block in students' mathematics learning in the past and even at present time. Many students having learning difficulties in the formal algebraic system and problem solving (Kieran, 1992). Therefore, there has been a concern to address students' difficulties in learning algebra word problem.

Concerns emerged that conventional teaching, which concentrated on procedures and symbolic manipulation, particularly without focusing on the concepts underlying those procedures, inhibited student understanding (e.g., Carpenter & Lehrer, 1999) and created impediments higher-level cognitive processes, such as the transition from learning to new contexts (Skemp, 2006). It is very important that procedural knowledge and conceptual knowledge to carry out bidirectional, with increase in these two types of knowledge leading to better understand knowledge development (Rittle-Johnson et al., 2015). Further insight into algebra education is needed due to improvements in the conceptualization and teaching of algebra. Historically, algebra has been seen as a generalized arithmetic, with emphasis on symbol manipulation in terms of expressions and equations (Kaput, 1999; Kieran, 2007). Over time, it has developed to emphasize functions and relationships, patterns and structure, and to place algebraic concepts in the real-life sense of mathematical modelling (Fey & Smith, 2017; Kieran, 2007).

At the secondary level, mathematics curriculum focus on problem solving skills where students understand the mathematics concepts and solve the mathematics word problems, rather than computational skill (Brandell et al., 2008). At university level, is necessary routine skills in algebraic and arithmetic computations to solve the computational complexity of exercise; which is way above the words problem from secondary level (Filipsson & Thunberg, 2008). It seems there is a gap between secondary level and university level; so there is a concern that an increased focus on computational skills in secondary level to facilitate the transition from secondary level to university level (Kouvola et al., 2018).

Computer technology become increasingly important in daily life even in the field of education. Many researchers noted that computer technology is a useful and powerful tool in learning and teaching mathematics for students to understand the perception of mathematics (Bakker et al., 2015; Barkatsas et al., 2009) as well as their mathematics concepts (Guyer, 2008; Hohenwarter & Jones, 2007) by expressing and exploring mathematical ideas (Ghosh, 2012). Apart from this, it also found out that computer technology has positive effect on students' mathematics achievement (Li & Ma, 2010).

Computer technology can enhance students' mathematical problem-solving skills and the ability to solve the informal problems (Kolovou et al., 2013; Panhuizen et al., 2013). Meanwhile, using computer technology in algebra has a significant positive impact on the learning outcome (Rakes et al., 2010). Learners able to develop the notion of function (Doorman et al., 2012) and gain insight of symbol sense. Bokhove and Drijvers (2010, 2012) also immensely improve learners' conceptual understanding and procedural skills in algebra.

Wing (2006) advocated the necessity of computational thinking in our education by stating, "To reading, writing, and arithmetic, we should add computational thinking to every child's analytical ability". The fundamental subjects currently taught in school are generally introducing reading, writing, and mathematics which are accepted because all these subjects have cross-disciplinary benefits. In real life situations, the computation skill is needed to easily navigate life tasks such as using doubling or halving in cooking recipes, comparing the cheapest price during promotion sales, estimating the driving speed etc.

In a recent report, for example, when computational thinking is integrated into the sixth grade mathematical classroom, the students' understanding of mathematics has substantially increased compared to students in the control group (Calao et al., 2015). These results shown that coding not only affects the ability of students to solve problems in general, but also has a significant impact on academics (Calao et al., 2015). Computational thinking is a way of thinking about life in which a 4-step approach to problem-solving is defined, questions are defined, abstract, answers are computed, and results are interpreted. This 4-way problem-solving approach is innovative and cleverly applied to thoughts, problems, and opportunities to move forward.

Coding provided features that support the learner not only with activities, but also with cognitive processing and motivation. Graphic coding software programs are provided to meet these requirements in this regard. Coding designed to improve algorithmic thinking and learn programming skills, are particularly popular with high school students, such as Scratch, Alice, Python, Microsoft Small Basic, Toontalk, Stagecast Creor and Code GameLab.

Coding considered as an important skill in this present day and plays an important role. Coding is the most crucial element of computing and mutual strategies for developing computational thinking. With the awareness of the importance of coding skill, this has caused an increasing approach for introducing of computational coding skill since the early education of an individual development (Bers et al., 2014) until the high education (Allan et al., 2010), combining this skill with other key competences such as writing, reading, and math skills.

It is believed that the use of different coding tools in the process of early curriculum education may have influenced on the level of development of various skills such as "behaving like a computer". Computational modelling is an effective approach for learning challenging mathematics concepts (Hambrusch et al., 2009) where it closely aligns mathematics with coding and through this way it brings mathematics to life (Felleisen & Krishnamurthi, 2009). Let students use computational power as an application for mathematics, design of traffic structures, or crack hidden codes instead of rotating long-division learning methods. Such tasks train creativity and conceptual understanding, as well as

practical tests, just as computer computing is needed for real world computing (Wolfram, 2016).

Meanwhile, learning to code improves problem-solving skills in mathematics (Papert, 1972). Most of the coding research that seek to improve problem-solving skill in mathematics through coding have failed to produce ideal results (Noss, 1987). Indeed, researchers clarified that learning coding is not known as to transfer problem solving skills to solve the word problem in mathematics. Transfer of learning between two different disciplines requires proper instruction in how to deep structural connections and apply concepts from one discipline to the other disciplines (Bransford & Schwartz, 1999; Perkins, 2010; Rich et al., 2013).

Research studies reported that computing education and computational thinking have the potential to develop students' problem-solving skills, higher-order thinking, communication skills and collaboration in ways that can advance learning across the curriculum and empower students to be creative inventors with technology. Many studies have shown that coding instructions enable learners to solve problems (Calao et al., 2015; Saez-Lopez et al., 2016), to think critically (Dogan & Kert, 2016), to make people think creatively (Navarrete, 2013), to think algorithmically (Hromkovic et al., 2016), to think reflectively (Kalelioglu, 2015) and to think logically (Kafai & Burke, 2015). Coding instruction has a significant potential for ways to improve these capabilities (Saez-Lopez et al., 2016).

1.5 Students' Performance in Word Problems

When Malaysia first took part in Third International Mathematics and Science Study (TIMSS) in 1999, Malaysia's 8th grade mathematical success was above average around 519 and Malaysia was 16th out of 38. However, Malaysia's success in TIMSS mathematics has shown a declining trend over the next few years, with a low average of 440 in TIMSS 2011. Malaysia ranked 26th out of 45 countries. However, at TIMSS 2015, mathematics improved by 25 points, with a total 465 score, ranked 22nd out of 39 countries. Malaysia has shown higher results in mathematics in TIMSS in 2015 compared to TIMSS in 2011.

In 2015, There are 69 items to evaluate mathematics knowledge and an average score of 472 is shown to improve compared to the 2011 results. However, there are 94 items to evaluate the ability to apply mathematics, while there are 46 items to evaluate the reasoning for mathematics, with an average score of 463 and 453, respectively. The two results showed a significant decrease compared to the results of 2011. The average score for the assessment of algebra mathematics content is 467 which has shown no improvement compared to 2011. The overall result has shown that Malaysian students have achieved a low level of achievement in terms of advanced and high international benchmark.

According to the TIMSS, Malaysia's overall average mathematics score was 465, which is the intermediate benchmark, while students can only apply basic mathematical knowledge in a variety of situations. According to the TIMSS 2019 Mathematics Framework, TIMSS assesses the problem of solving around two-thirds of the items requiring students to use their application and reasoning skills.

Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Program, PISA (Program International Student Assessment) is a worldwide program which study 15 years old students' scholastic performance on mathematics, science and reading in every three years. The purpose of this program is to gauge how well students acquire the basic skills and knowledge besides evaluating their readiness for the real situation in adult world. In 2012, the average score for mathematics was 421 points, which was 52nd worldwide. The average score in 2018 was 440 points, 47th in the world. However, Malaysia's ranking is still well below the OECD benchmark of some 490 points. Malaysia has only reached a minimum level 2 of competence in mathematics.

According to the findings of PISA, many developed countries have faced problems with student engagement in the future study of mathematics. Most students only manage to perform basic arithmetic, but they have not been able to calculate two or more steps of complex situations. Current core mathematics curricula are insufficient to support students' ability to solve and identify mathematical problems in context; it is rare for students to explore complex and interactive issues that can uncover the information they need and stimulate students' knowledge to solve the problem (Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), 2014a).

According to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) (2012) and the National Mathematics Advisory Panel (2008), there are significant weaknesses in the ability of students to solve word problems compared to other areas of achievement. In PISA 2012, there are two key results showed that: (1) only 13% of students from 34 OECD countries could work strategically by using reasoning skills and well-developed thinking in complex situations model. (2) 32% of the students have difficulties to extract relevant information and using formulae, algorithms and procedure in solving word problems (Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), 2014b). There is considerable evidence from intervention studies that learners have persistent difficulties in solving word problems, specifically have difficulties in selecting the correct operation, identifying important features of a problem, reasoning, not cognizant of available strategies, metacognitive skills (e.g., ability to do a plan, monitor, check, and evaluation) and computing the solution (Cirino et al., 2007; Fuchs & Fuchs, 2005; Geary et al., 2007; Jordan et al., 2003; Maccini & Ruhl, 2001; Montague & Applegate, 1993; Rosenzweig et al., 2011; Vukovic & Siegel, 2010).

1.6 Problem Statement

Conventional teaching way widely used in mathematics education has been criticized for being taught in content-oriented, isolated and teacher-centered (Ministry of Education Malaysia, 2013; Schoenfeld & Kilpatrick, 2013). Students being highly passive and act as an empty vessel waiting for teachers to fill up them with new knowledge (Goeke, 2009). This kind of lecture seems to be an efficient and easy to present the knowledge that students' need; but students understand the mathematics in such a rote way and only know superficial. At the same times, students having difficulties in constructing knowledge and ability to absorb the information. A typical conventional instruction mathematics classroom takes up to 84% of classroom time in lecturing, do the demonstration and the individual practice (Boaler, 2008). The conventional mathematics only focus on learners' accuracy and fluency in arithmetic computations. Manual estimation, rigor and rigor are wrong with the broader issue of the mathematical solution. The mechanical hands of the past, once required, had been mistaken for most of which were then unused and timeless mathematics (Wolfram, 2016).

The main point of current education is not only to teach reading, writing or arithmetic, and to teach how to use creative thinking skills (Runco, 2007), but also to improve learning skills, scientific and technological literacy among students (Lawless & Brown, 2015; Tortop, 2013). Mathematics is the most efficient way to solve problems in the world. While in word problem solving, learners must have the capability to construct their knowledge to transform the equivalent algebraic expressions. It's about taking real things, applying, or inventing mathematics to get the answer. These skills are required for sustainability and lifelong education in addition to basic education for the young generation.

Word problem solving is a process to figure out the solution by moving from a given state to a goal state (Mayer & Hegarty, 1996). Students failed to represent discerning relevant information in the word problem correctly from irrelevant information, its due to language barrier and also requires a planning strategy, coordinating procedures, execute the plan by applying previously learned and verify the solution (Agostino et al., 2010; Hegarty et al., 1995). Current conventional education still important and effective but in the last 50 years or so, the fundamental shift in realm mathematics is that we simply quantify beyond our previous imaginations. Pedagogical factors also affect student's understanding of arithmetic word problem (Lean et al., 1990). Students' views on what mathematics means learning and practicing are very different from ideals (Jimenez & Verschaffel, 2014). Many researchers have called for change the mathematics teaching method and highlighted the importance of constructivist perspectives to provide accessibility and equity for all (Cobb & Yackel, 2011; Leder, 1992).

Researchers have started to investigate the difficulties experienced by students in solving various word problems, from simple arithmetic to more complicated situations requiring non-routine thinking (Verschaffel & De Corte, 1997). Based on the recent literature review by Daroczy, Wolska, Meurers, and Nuerk (2015), the interaction between linguistic and numerical factors are factors which have an impact on the ability to solve word problems. Word problem solving not only requires to retrieve an answer from student's memory and apply mathematical concepts and procedures but the crucial part is demanding different levels of text comprehension to construct a mental representation (Reusser et al., 1990; van Dijk & Kintsch, 1983; Verschaffel et al., 2015). Although master in the concept of mathematical procedures which prerequisite for solution accuracy but word problem solving go beyond procedural and conceptual knowledge (Jonassen, 2000).

Logical reasoning is the cornerstone upon which mathematics is built (Bako, 2002). A significant number of students were unable to identify the logical connections that exist between the concepts, theorems, instances, and counterexamples that were used to demonstrate those notions. Instead, they concentrated entirely on the mathematical aspects of the instances, paying no attention to the purposes underlying the examples (Liu & Raghavan, 2009; Raghavan et al., 2008). Because of this, their learning is limited to the replication of algorithmic processes, and they demonstrate very little comprehension. Many of them were not aware of which of the inverse, converse, or contrapositive of an if-then conditional statement is the same as the conditional statement (Hawthorne & Rasmussen, 2015). Because of this deficiency in logical reasoning, students may have a significantly reduced capacity for critical and analytical thinking. The ability to think in an additive sense is another domain-specific talent that students need to gain while studying mathematics. According to Cramer et al. (1993), additive reasoning is predicated on numbers that are linked together by part-whole relations, erroneous additive modelling problem scenarios, the inverse mistake, and missing-value word problems that have an additive underlying mathematical model

The scope of computational thinking research includes mathematics, logical reasoning, problem solving, computer use, coding, and the integration of technology in the classroom (Sands et al., 2018). While computational thinking is vital to computer science (Denning, 2017; Wing, 2006), we believe it is also an important ability for students to master in other disciplines (Yadav et al., 2016). Malara and Navarra (2018) define algebraic thinking in the context of problem-solving as a shift in attention from the outcome to the technique. Computational thinking (CompT) is similarly focused on problem-solving strategies like debugging and experimenting to examine algorithmic structure. Both domains place an emphasis on the framework of problem-solving processes.

1.7 Purpose of the Study

The aim of this study is to investigate the impact of the computational thinking module on technology coding where algebraic reasoning is adopted to solve word problem in mathematics. Moreover, the impacts of the algebraic reasoning integration of computational thinking (AR-CT) module on word problem-solving skills, critical thinking and logical thinking are compared with conventional instruction (CVI) word problem-solving teaching strategies among grade 4 students.

1.8 Research Objectives

Develop potential mathematics learning, there are essential skills to be incorporated into our current mathematics curriculum, which are coding and computational thinking skills. This research aims to contribute to AR-CT's theoretical notions and the impact of word problem solving on student's learning experience. This research aimed at:

1. Develop a teaching and learning module that algebraic reasoning integration of computational thinking (AR-CT).
2. Compare the effectiveness of the algebraic reasoning integration of computational thinking (AR-CT) to conventional instruction (CVI) with word problem-solving skills.
3. Compare the effectiveness of the algebraic reasoning integration of computational thinking (AR-CT) to conventional instruction (CVI) with logical reasoning and additive reasoning in word problems solving.

1.9 Research Questions

With the aim of being globally competitive and the coherence between the provision of skilled computational thinking for graduates and the demand to meet the computational thinking needs, teachers need to develop more curriculum and pedagogical suggestions to improve the rigor and relevance of computational teaching. This review addresses six research questions:

RQ 1: What content or activities do grade 4 students require in order to develop a module for learning and teaching mathematics word problems solving?

RQ1.1: Based on expert opinion, to what extent is it necessary to develop a module for learning and teaching word problem solving?

RQ1.2: How do the previous studies have instructional strategy in their implemented a computational thinking strategy in their studies?

RQ1.3: To what extent has the validity and reliability of the module been achieved between raters?

RQ 2: To determine whether there is a difference in students' ability to solve word problems before and after intervention using algebraic reasoning integration of computational thinking (AR-CT) and conventional instruction (CVI).

RQ 3: To determine whether there is a difference in students' logical reasoning and additive reasoning before and after intervention using algebraic reasoning integration of computational thinking (AR-CT) and conventional instruction (CVI).

1.10 Hypothesis

Based on RQ 2, four hypotheses have been developed for this research study.

H 2.1: There is a significant difference in the mean score of the word problem pre-test and post-test for the CVI group.

H 2.2: There is a significant difference in the mean score of the word problem pre-test and post-test for the AR-CT group.

H 2.3: There is a significant difference in the mean score of the word problem post-test between AR-CT and CVI while controlling for word problem pre-test.

H 2.4: There is a significant difference in the mean score of the word problem post-test between AR-CT and CVI while controlling for arithmetic pre-test.

H 2.5: There is a significant difference in the mean score of the word problem post-test between AR-CT and CVI while controlling for computational thinking pre-test.

Based on RQ 3, three hypotheses have been developed for this research study.

H 3.1: There is a significant difference in the mean score of the logical reasoning pre-test and post-test for the CVI group.

H 3.2: There is a significant difference in the mean score of the logical reasoning pre-test and post-test for the AR-CT group.

H 3.3: There is a significant difference in the mean score of the logical reasoning post-test between AR-CT and CVI while controlling for logical reasoning pre-test.

H 3.4: There is a significant difference in the mean score of the additive reasoning pre-test and post-test for the CVI group.

H 3.5: There is a significant difference in the mean score of the additive reasoning pre-test and post-test for the AR-CT group.

H 3.6: There is a significant difference in the mean score of the additive reasoning post-test between AR-CT and CVI while controlling for additive reasoning pre-test.

1.11 Operational Definition

In the context of this study, the definitions and functional specificities of some key words used in this research are clarified.

1.11.1 Conventional Instruction without Computational Thinking Strategy (CVI)

Conventional Instruction without Algebraic Computational Thinking Strategy (CVI) of mathematics is associated with teacher-centered instruction. Teachers based upon assumption of mathematics knowledge verbally presented to large group of students who passively receive the rote knowledge and mainly assess their recall ability (Fitzgerald, 2014). Students are preoccupied by taking notes, memorize the formula, practicing the exercises and procedures that need to be learned as mentioned by Cobb, Wood, Yackel and McNeal (1992). This kind of instructional limited use of unfamiliar situations and unproblematic knowledge transfer exhibits poor problem solving skills, poor attitudes and lack of interests among the students toward learning word problem (Greeno et al., 1993).

1.11.2 Algebraic Reasoning Integration of Computational Thinking (AR-CT)

Computational thinking practices such as abstraction, algorithm, decomposition, pattern recognition and automation with coding software that are effectively disseminated in word problem solving strategy using algebraic reasoning (Google Inc., 2018). The AR-CT module explores how computational thinking encoding applications can provide students with complementary skills to be enabled in their digital culture and even reflective students. A complementary link between computer thinking and coding with a wide range of capabilities helps students navigate critically and create digital content creatively to solve word problems.

1.11.3 Word Problem Solving Skill

The ability of students solving word problem by understanding a question and transform the information from question into mathematical statements and proceeded by arithmetic computation (Fuchs et al., 2014; Lannin, Barker, & Townsend, 2006; Lee, Ng, & Ng, 2009). In this study, examine the strength and accuracy of students' problem solving abilities in word problem through critical thinking and logical thinking related to executive functioning, arithmetic and working memory (Wang, 2015).

1.11.4 Additive Thinking

Additive thinking in a variety of contexts and in different ways to understand and able to manipulate numbers by joining, separating, and comparing while engaging in flexible mathematical reasoning (Nunes et al., 2012). It is more than just addition and subtraction as they occur in a wide range of contexts.

1.11.5 Logical Thinking

Logical thinking is a rational process of brain by which transforming knowledge from a given context and way of reasoning derives conclusions, but it is one of the most difficult learning concepts to achieve (Bronkhorst et al., 2019). In this study, logical thinking involves mathematical reasoning to interpret information from word problem, and expressions to logically form mathematical symbols and to solve the equations.

1.12 Significance of Study

In the last two decades, there has been a growing interest in teaching and learning algebra has investigated an international discussion on what we believe algebra should be and to be. Many researchers have been identified different aspect of algebra into core characteristics of algebraic language and algebraic reasoning, such as formalizing, generalizing and symbolizing (Bernarz et al., 1996; Filloy & Rojano, 1989; Herscovics, 1989; Herscovics & Linchevski, 1994; Kaput, 1998; Kieran, 1989, 1990, 1992; Linchevski & Herscovics, 1996; Sfard, 1995, 1991; Sfard & Linchevski, 1994).

12th International Conference on Multimodal Interaction (ICMI) raised the issues of algebra in the aspect of algebra language, approaches to algebra, early education of algebra, technology learning environment, why algebra and so on. Meanwhile, studied 'The Future of the Teaching and Learning of Algebra' has become clear that there is no agreement on what algebra should be or what

algebra is; each classification has its weak and strong points. Therefore, instead of trying to find out what algebra is, why don't consider the role of application algebra in different areas.

Bednarz et al. (1996) distinguish four principal algebra trends in curriculum development, there are problem solving, generalizing, functions and modelling. Learners find the meaningful of algebra by conceiving different role of algebra which associated with various characteristics of algebraic thinking. The classification of algebra eased to approach beginning algebra to the learners which all four components are needed in learning algebra. Valuable pedagogical tools are needed for education researchers and teachers to introduce algebra in school.

Core activity in every algebra curriculum is involved problem solving by constructing equations followed by solving equations. Problem solving seen in a wider and complex sense which through the process of exploring the problems in an open and many alternative ways, developing and expanding it in general ones and look for more best solutions. Algebra is not the separate branch from mathematics, because translating algebra word problems into equations form required the fundamental mathematics to transit from arithmetic to algebra, in terms of concept, symbolism and methods (Bell, 1996).

AR-CT will integrate with technology learning tool to enhance learners' word problem solving skills, additive thinking and logical thinking in the mathematics classroom. This research study would provide an alternative module as a guideline framework for mathematics teacher to perform collaboration learning activity during mathematics lesson. There are few research studies has shown that the learning coding with collaboration will produce promising effect on learners' performance in solving problems, and it also provides 21st century skills during learning process (Barg et al., 2000; Phumeechanya & Wannapiroon, 2014; Saez-Lopez et al., 2016).

The employment of analyze, design, develop, implement, and evaluate (ADDIE) Type 1 and Type 2 methodology as the selected approach to execute the development of AR-CT and focus on the experimental design to test the effectiveness of the module to the real respondents. Richey and Klein (2007) stated that using the DDR approach is very systematic which involving establishing a new instructional design, techniques, and tools by the process from the process and evaluation where it based on an empirical and specific need analysis.

1.13 Limitation of Study

This study focused on the development of an AR-CT module for use as a teaching tool. It aims to increase students' word problem-solving skills, additive reasoning and logical reasoning while emphasizing computational thinking to promote a broad understanding of programming. T-Test sampling was used in the study, and students served as participants. This lesson is intended for upper elementary and lower secondary students, and it only covers the chapter on word problems. The breadth of the inquiry is limited by infrastructure constraints such as a shortage of available classrooms and limited access to high-speed internet.

1.14 Conclusion

This chapter briefly presents the main concept of the research study. The discussion started with the research background of word problem in mathematics, the importance of computer technology in learning mathematics, integration of computational thinking and coding in learning mathematics and the awareness of coding in education curriculum. Problem statements of the research study with the need to address the issues, the research objective and purpose of study are discussed. Research questions and research hypotheses are presented respectively, followed by operational definition, significance and limitation of the study are expanded as well. The chapter closes with a summary of the thesis organization.

This chapter summarizes the importance of computational in our current education system. The integration of the computational thinking element in the mathematic curriculum helps to enhance the ability of the word problem solving skill of the students. Issues that arise in the mathematics are also highlighted in this chapter.

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