



UNIVERSITI PUTRA MALAYSIA

**USE OF VOICE AND MUSIC MAKING AMONG SIX-YEAR OLD
FOOCHOW CHILDREN IN SARIKEI, SARAWAK, MALAYSIA**

ANNIE WONG KAI SZE

FEM 2011 5

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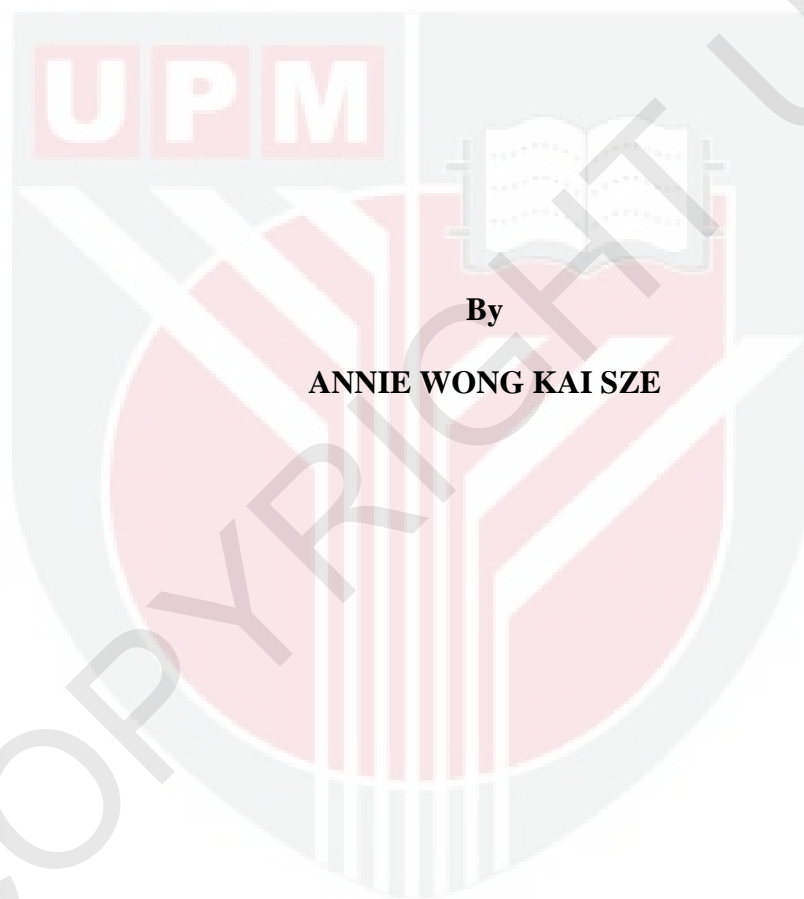
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ANNIE WONG KAI SZE

**MASTER OF SCIENCE
UNIVERSITI PUTRA MALAYSIA**

2011

**USE OF VOICE AND MUSIC MAKING AMONG SIX-YEAR OLD
FOOCHOW CHILDREN IN SARIKEI, SARAWAK, MALAYSIA**



By

ANNIE WONG KAI SZE

**Thesis submitted to the School of Graduate Studies, Universiti Putra Malaysia in
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Abstract of thesis presented to the Senate of Universiti Putra Malaysia in
fulfilment of the requirements for the degree of Master of Science

**USE OF VOICE AND MUSIC MAKING OF SIX YEAR OLD FOOCHOW
CHILDREN IN SARIKEI, SARAWAK, MALAYSIA**

By

ANNIE WONG KAI SZE

March 2011

Chair: Chan Cheong Jan, D.Lit.

Faculty: Human Ecology

This study describes comprehensively the musical characteristics of the Sarikei's Foochow children in relation to the cultural environment in which they live. The description of music characteristics covers the aspects of the use of voice, rhythm and singing languages. Methodology used in this study is ethnographical fieldwork which includes structural and casual observation of children's music learning process supplemented by dialogues with the teachers and parents.

The use of voice of the Foochow children takes place in the form of singing, game and voice exclamation, which can be further divided as the singings of familiar, modified and self composed song, imitation of sound, verbal prescription of movements, emotional expression, and, the exploration of voice colors. The ubiquitous interplay between children's speech and the voice play resembles the strong influence of the Foochow dialect, which can be observed in many instances

like the use of onomatopoeia, Foochowized intonation of certain terms, exclamation syllabus of certain words, among others.

The use of rhythm of Sarikei Foochow children, on the other hand, is observed in their number counting, vocabulary chanting, general activities in their kindergarten, as well as in their games. The structural features in the use of rhythm such as head emphasis, extension of end syllabus, and, the even distribution of duration, are consistently observed; which suggests its close relation to the rhythmic features of Southern Chinese dialects in general.

Observation on the use of different singing languages which are Malay, English, Mandarin and Foochow revealed that children singing in familiar languages are found to be able to memorize the text faster, were more motivated to learn, and had higher level of concentration. The use of Foochow dialect, their mother tongue, has given a remarkable impact on the children's motivation and behavior in singing, which surpassed their musical responsiveness when other languages were used. The outcome of study showed that linguistic environment, religion, lifestyle, and family influence contributed to children's development of musicality and creativity. Further study could involve other dialect groups of the Chinese communities in Malaysia to further explicate the many ways cultural environment shapes the musicality of a child.

Abstrak tesis yang dikemukakan kepada Senat Universiti Putra Malaysia sebagai memenuhi keperluan untuk ijazah Master Sains

**PENGGUNAAN SUARA DAN PENGHASILAN MUZIK DI KALANGAN
KANAK-KANAK FOOCHOW YANG BERUMUR ENAM TAHUN DI
SARIKEI, SARAWAK, MALAYSIA**

Oleh

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Kajian ini menggambarkan secara menyeluruh sifat kemuzikan kanak-kanak Foochow di Sarikei yang berhubungan rapat dengan persekitaran kebudayaan setempat yang mereka tinggal. Penggambaran sifat kemuzikan merangkumi aspek-aspek seperti penggunaan suara, penggunaan rentak dan penggunaan bahasa nyanyian. Pendekatan yang digunakan dalam kajian ini adalah kaedah kajian lapangan etnografik yang terdiri daripada pemerhatian secara berstruktur dan bebas terhadap proses pembelajaran kanak-kanak, serta dialog dengan guru dan ibu bapa.

Penggunaan suara kanak-kanak Foochow boleh diperhatikan dalam bentuk nyanyian, permainan dan seruan suara, di mana ia boleh dibahagikan kepada menyanyi lagu lazim, lagu ubahsuai dan gubahan sendirian, peniruan bunyi, preskripsi secara lisan terhadap gerakan, pernyataan emosi dan penjejahan warna-warna suara. Permainan suara dan gaya pertuturan yang saling mempengaruhi telah menunjukkan pengaruh

Foochow dialek yang kukuh, di mana ia boleh diperhatikan dalam banyak contoh, antaranya seperti peniruan bunyi benda, intonasi *kefoochow* dalam patah perkataan dan permainan seruan suara menggunakan suku kata.

Penggunaan rentak kanak-kanak Foochow di Sarikei, sebaliknya boleh diperhatikan dalam kiraan nombor, pendikiran suku kata, aktiviti umum tadika dan juga permainan mereka. Ciri-ciri struktur dalam penggunaan rentak seperti penekaan pada sukukata pertama, sambungan nada pada suku kata akhir dan pembahagian tempoh yang sama rata boleh diperhatikan secara konsisten, di mana ia sejurusnya telah mencadangkan hubungan rapat ciri-ciri rentak dialek Cina Selatan.

Pemerhatian terhadap penggunaan bahasa nyanyian yang berlainan iaitu Bahasa Melayu, Inggeris, Mandarin dan Foochow telah menunjukkan bahawa apabila menyanyi dalam bahasa yang mereka biasai kanak-kanak menghafal teks dengan lebih cepat, lebih bermotivasi untuk belajar dan mempunyai tahap penumpuan yang lebih tinggi. Menyanyi dalam dialek Foochow iaitu bahasa ibunda mereka didapati telah membawa impak yang mengesankan terhadap motivasi dan kelakuan nyanyian kanak-kanak, di mana ia jauh melebihi ketindakbalasan muzikal kanak-kanak apabila bahasa lain digunakan.. Kajian ini menunjukkan bahawa pengaruh persekitaran linguistik, agama, gaya kehidupan dan keluarga telah menyumbang kepada perkembangan sifat kemuzikan dan kreativiti kanak-kanak. Kajian selanjutnya boleh melibatkan kumpulan dialek komuniti Cina yang lain bagi menjelaskan pelbagai cara persekitaran kebudayaan membentuk sifat kemuzikan seseorang kanak-kanak.

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I certify that a Thesis Examination Committee has met on 15 March 2011 to conduct the final examination of Annie Wong Kai Sze on her thesis entitled “The Use of Voice and Music Making of Six-year-old Foochow Children in Sarikei” in accordance with the Universities and University Colleges Act 1971 and the Constitution of the Universiti Putra Malaysia [P.U.(A) 106] 15 March 1998. The Committee recommends that the students be awarded the Master of Science.

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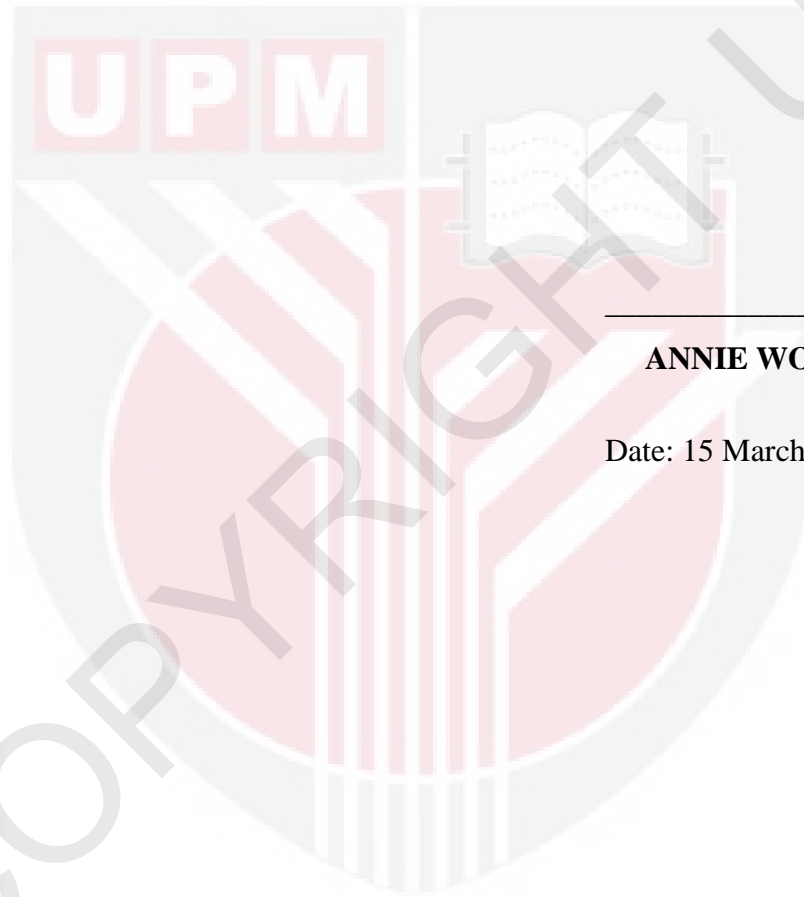
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DECLARATION

I declare that the thesis is my original work except for quotations and citations which have been duly acknowledged. I also declare that it has not been previously, and is not concurrently, submitted for any other degree at Universiti Putra Malaysia or at any other institution.



ANNIE WONG KAI SZE

Date: 15 March 2011



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