



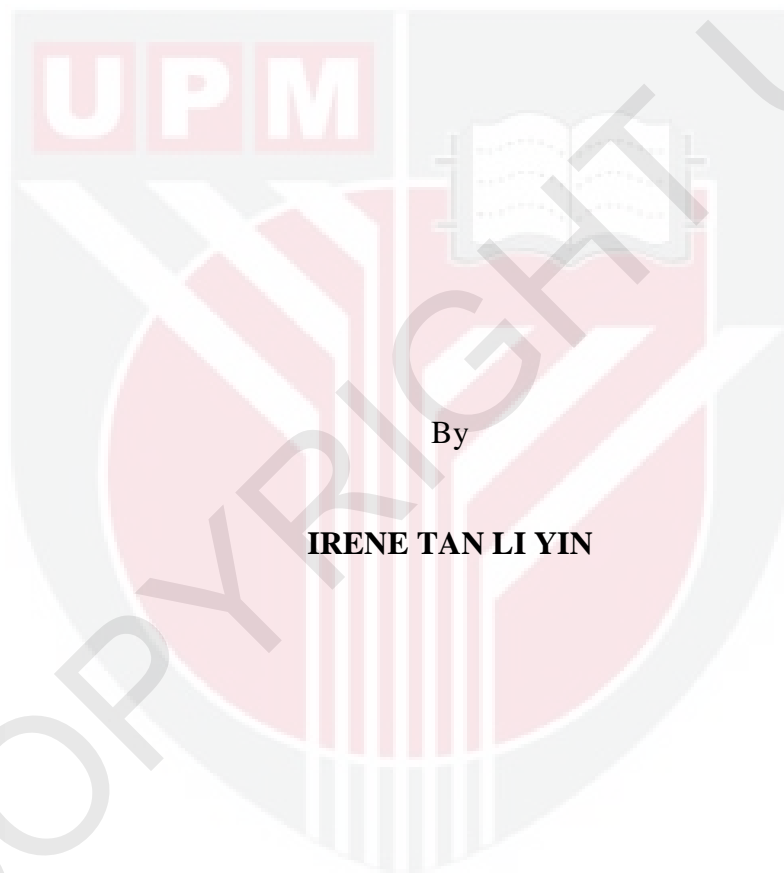
**UNIVERSITI PUTRA MALAYSIA**

**RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN VERBAL ABUSE,  
NEGATIVE ATTRIBUTIONAL STYLE, HOPELESSNESS AND  
INTERNALIZING PROBLEMS IN EARLY ADOLESCENCE  
IN PETALING DISTRICT, SELANGOR**

**IRENE TAN LI YIN**

**FEM 2011 11**

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IN PETALING DISTRICT, SELANGOR**



By

**IRENE TAN LI YIN**

**Thesis Submitted to the School of Graduate Studies, University Putra Malaysia,  
in Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Degree of Master of Science**

**August 2011**

Abstract of thesis presented to the Senate of University Putra Malaysia in fulfillment of the requirement for the Degree of Master of Science

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**August 2011**

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This study examines the contribution of verbal abuse to internalizing problems among 324 early adolescent students (aged 11-13 years) in Selangor, and the mediating role negative attributional style and hopelessness play in this relationship. Students were selected using purposive sampling and data was gathered with structured questionnaire. Data was analyzed using Baron and Kenny (1986) statistical framework for assessing the mediational effects. The mediational analyses were divided into three parts in order to examine the application of extended etiological chain of hopelessness theory on these variables. In the first part, negative attributional style failed to support as a mediator between verbal abuse and hopelessness. In the second part, hopelessness was supported as a significant mediator between negative attributional style and internalizing problems. In the third part, negative attributional

style was not supported as mediator between verbal abuse and internalizing problems; whereas hopelessness consistently emerged as a significant mediator in the model. Notably, the present study found that verbal abuse was directly influenced the thought of hopelessness for the onset of internalizing problems without the presence of negative attributional style.

This result showed that the application of etiological chain was not supported. However, the current study made an initial step in furthering the understanding of extended etiological chain of hopelessness study regarding the development of internalizing problems. Despite the limitations, this study provides a better understanding of the influence of verbal abuse and hopelessness on internalizing problems of early adolescents in Malaysian context. The result of this study yielded the relatedness of hopelessness mind-set and resilience in the intervention of adolescents with internalizing problems. Besides, prevention work for building robust parent-child relationship must pay more attention to the appropriate communication skills between parent and child in order to effectively avoid verbal abuse.

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

**PERKAITAN ANTARA PENDERAAAN VERBAL, ATRIBUSI NEGATIF,  
PUTUS HARAPAN DAN MASALAH *INTERNALIZING* DI KALANGAN  
REMAJA AWAL  
DI DAERAH PETALING, SELANGOR**

Oleh

**IRENE TAN LI YIN**

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Kajian ini bertujuan mengkaji perkaitan antara penderaan verbal dengan masalah *internalizing* di antara 324 pelajar dalam peringkat awal remaja (usia 11 hingga 13 tahun) di Selangor, di mana ia melibatkan perkaitan mediasi dari atribusi negatif dan putus harapan. Pelajar dipilih menerusi persampelan bertujuan dan menjawab ke atas borang soal selidik. Analisis data dijalankan dengan menggunakan rangka kerja statistik oleh Baron dan Kenny (1986) untuk menguji kesan perkaitan mediasi. Untuk menguji sejauhmana pekaitan rangkaian lanjutan etiologikal dari teori putus harapan dengan pembolehubah-pembolehubah yang lain, analisis telah dibahagikan kepada tiga bahagian. Dalam bahagian pertama, atribusi negatif gagal bertindak sebagai mediator di antara penderaan verbal dan putus harapan. Dalam bahagian kedua, putus harapan disokong sebagai mediator di antara atribusi negatif dengan masalah

*internalizing*. Dalam bahagian ketiga pula, atribusi negatif tidak disokong sebagai mediator di antara penderaan verbal dan masalah *internalizing*, manakala putus harapan didapati mediator yang signifikan secara konsisten dalam model tersebut. Seterusnya, kajian ini mendapati, penderaan verbal mempengaruhi secara langsung ke atas niat putus harapan bagi masalah *internalizing* tanpa kehadiran atribusi negatif.

Rantaian etiologikal tidak disokong dalam kajian ini. Namun, kajian ini menghasilkan langkah awal dalam penelitian dan pemahaman rantaian etiologikal terhadap perkembangan masalah *internalizing*. Walaupun terdapat limitasi, kajian ini memberi pemahaman yang lebih mendalam mengenai pengaruh masalah *internalizing* di kalangan remaja penringkat awal di Malaysia. Hasil kajian menunjukkan terdapat perkaitan di antara set pemikiran putus harapan dengan resilien dalam proses intervensi ke atas remaja yang mempunyai masalah *internalizing*. Di samping itu, bagi membina hubungan ibu bapa-anak yang lebih erat, perhatian yang lebih harus diberikan kepada kemahiran komunikasi yang sesuai antara ibu bapa-anak supaya mengelak daripada berlakunya penderaan verbal.

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I certify that a Thesis Examination Committee has met on ( ) to conduct the final examination of Irene Tan Li Yin on her thesis entitled “Relationship between verbal abuse, negative attributional style, hopelessness, and internalizing problems in early adolescence in Petaling District, Selangor” in accordance with the Universities and University Colleges Act 1971 and the Constitution of the University 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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## **DECLARATION**

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



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**IRENE TAN LI YIN**

Date: 4 August 2011

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