



**UNIVERSITI PUTRA MALAYSIA**

**ESL TEACHER AND STUDENT BELIEFS AND PRACTICES IN THE  
TEACHING OF ORAL COMMUNICATION SKILLS**

**CLARVIE M. CHARLES SPAWA**

**FPP 2011 23**

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**MASTER OF SCIENCE  
UNIVERSITI PUTRA MALAYSIA**

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**ESL TEACHER AND STUDENT BELIEFS AND PRACTICES IN THE TEACHING  
OF ORAL COMMUNICATION SKILLS**

**By**

**CLARVIE M. CHARLES SPAWA**

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

**May, 2011**



For Mum and Dad

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Abstract of thesis presented to the Senate, Universiti Putra Malaysia in partial fulfillment  
to the requirements of the Degree of Masters of Science

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**May 2011**

**Chair: Fauziah Hassan, PhD**

**Faculty: Faculty of Educational Studies**

Poor oral communication proficiency among Malaysian learners has become a national problem. Oral communication skills in ESL is important if Malaysia wants to produce a generation of global communicators which is in line with the country's mission to become a fully developed nation. However, we often hear of grievances that many of Malaysian graduates are not employed due to their poor communication skills in English. This study seeks to compare between the beliefs and practices in the teaching of ESL speaking skill. The study involved ESL teachers and from different regions in Malaysia. The respondents were chosen using purposive sampling. The major statistical procedures used in the quantitative study were descriptive statistics and paired samples t-tests. Semi structured interviews were analyzed for themes and categories. The results suggest that both teachers believe oral communication skills in English is important in students' language learning. However, teachers faced numerous challenges in translating

this belief into practice. This has led to a discrepancy between in teachers' beliefs and practice in developing students' oral communication skills.



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

**KEPERCAYAAN DAN AMALAN GURU DAN PELAJAR DALAM  
PENGAJARAN KEMAHIRAN BERKOMUNIKASI SECARA ORAL DALAM  
BAHASA INGGERIS SEBAGAI BAHASA KEDUA**

Oleh

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Kelemahan dalam kemahiran berkomunikasi secara oral di kalangan pelajar Malaysia kian menjadi masalah di seluruh negara. Kemahiran berkomunikasi secara oral adalah amat penting jika negara kita ingin melahirkan generasi yang mampu berkomunikasi secara global, seiring dengan misi untuk menjadi negara yang maju. Walaubagaimanapun, kita sering mendengar mengenai masalah pengangguran di kalangan graduan Malaysian yang disebabkan oleh kelemahan bertutur dalam Bahasa Inggeris. Kajian ini bertujuan untuk membandingkan kepercayaan dan amalan guru Bahasa Inggeris dalam pengajaran kemahiran berkomunikasi secara oral di dalam bilik darjah. Kajian ini melibatkan guru Bahasa Inggeris daripada empat bahagian di semenanjung Malaysia. Responden dipilih berdasarkan persampelan purposif. Prosedur analisa statistik yang digunakan dalam kaedah kuantitatif ialah statistik deskriptif dan *paired sample t-test*. Temubual semistruktur dianalisis untuk mencari tema dan kategori. Hasil daripada kajian menunjukkan guru melihat kemahiran bertutur sebagai suatu

kemahiran yang penting. Namun, para guru menghadapi pelbagai kekangan dalam mempraktikkan kepercayaan mereka. Masalah ini telah menjurus kepada perbezaan di antara kepercayaan dan amalan guru dalam pengukuhan kemahiran bertutur dalam Bahasa Inggeris di kalangan pelajar.





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Mum and dad, thank you for believing in me. I dedicated this to both of you.

I certify that an Examination Committee has met on date of viva voce to conduct the final examination of Clarvie M. Charles Spawa on her degree thesis entitled " Teacher's Beliefs and Practices in the Teaching of Oral Communication Skills " in accordance with Universiti Pertanian Malaysia (Higher Degree) Act 1980 and Universiti Pertanian Malaysia (Higher Degree) Regulations 1981. The Committee recommends that the student be awarded the Master of Science.

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## TABLE OF CONTENT

	<b>Page</b>
<b>DEDICATION</b>	ii
<b>ABSTRACT</b>	iii
<b>ABSTRAK</b>	v
<b>ACKNOWLEDGEMENT</b>	vii
<b>APPROVAL</b>	viii
<b>DECLARATION</b>	xiii
<b>LIST OF FIGURES</b>	xiv
<b>LIST OF TABLES</b>	xv
<b>CHAPTER</b>	
<b>1 INTRODUCTION</b>	<b>1</b>
Introduction	1
Background of the Study	4
Statement of the Problem	11
Purpose of the Study	14
Research Questions	15
Significance of the Study	15
Limitations of the Study	18
Definition of terms	19
Summary	20
<b>2 LITERATURE REVIEW</b>	<b>22</b>
Introduction	22
Teacher's Beliefs and Practice	23
Teacher's Beliefs	22
Practice	24
Communicative Language Teaching	27
Theoretical Framework	30
Teacher's Beliefs and Practice of Oral Communication Skills	38
Conceptual Framework	49
Summary	52

<b>3</b>	<b>METHODOLOGY</b>	<b>53</b>
	Introduction	53
	Population and Sampling	54
	Research Instruments	55
	Questionnaires	54
	Semi structured Interview	56
	Validity and Reliability of Instruments	58
	Questionnaire	58
	Semi structured Interview	60
	Data Collection Procedure	61
	Questionnaire	61
	Semi structured Interview	62
	Data analysis	63
	Questionnaire	63
	Semi structured Interview	64
	Conclusion	64
<b>4</b>	<b>RESULTS AND DISCUSSION</b>	<b>65</b>
	Introduction	65
	Demographic characteristics	66
	Teacher's beliefs in the importance of Language Learning	68
	Results from the Quantitative data	68
	Results from the Semistructured Interviews	69
	Most emphasized language skill in language teaching	70
	Results from the Quantitative data	70
	Results from the Semistructured Interviews	71
	Comparison between what the teachers believe as the most important skill in students' language learning and what they practice in language teaching	72
	Results from the Quantitative data	73
	Results from the Semistructured Interviews	75
	Discussion of the Findings	76
	Teachers' Beliefs in Language Teaching and Learning	77
	Teachers' practice in their language teaching	80
	Beliefs VS Practice	82
	Summary	88

<b>5</b>	<b>CONCLUSIONS, IMPLICATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS</b>	<b>90</b>
	Summary of Study	90
	Implications of the Study	93
	Theoretical Implication	93
	Teachers as Implementers	94
	Reforms in the Examination	97
	Recommendations for Future Research	98
	Conclusion	100
	<b>REFERENCES</b>	<b>101</b>
	<b>APPENDICES</b>	<b>111</b>
	<b>BIODATA OF STUDENT</b>	<b>147</b>

