



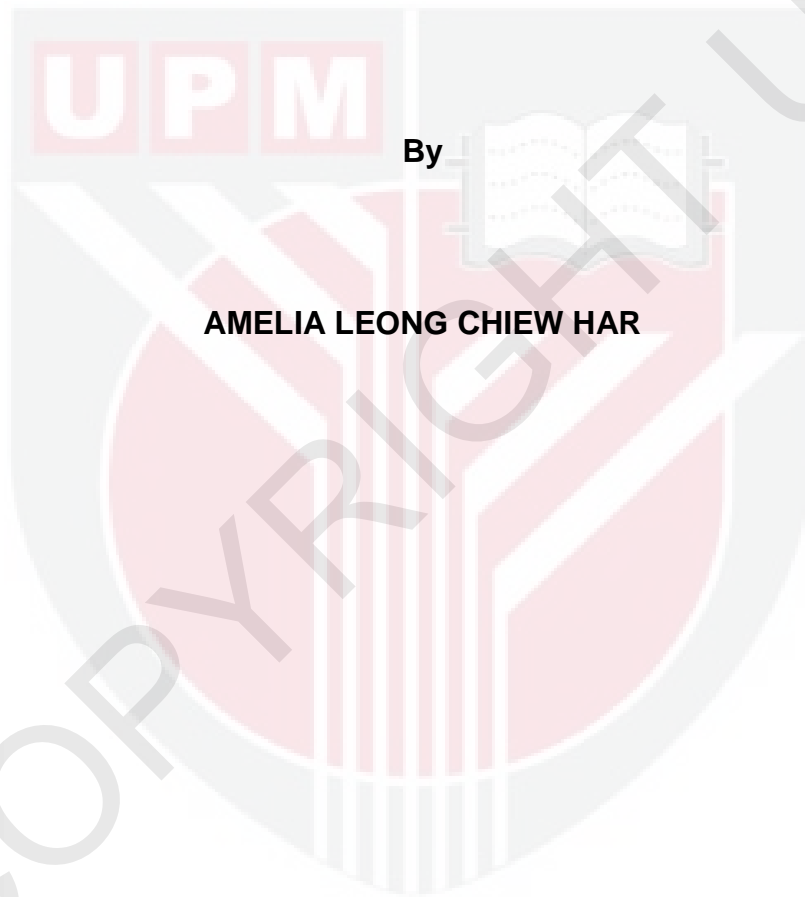
UNIVERSITI PUTRA MALAYSIA

**USE OF ARTICLES IN MALAYSIAN SECONDARY
SCHOOL ENGLISH LANGUAGE TEXTBOOKS**

AMELIA LEONG CHIEW HAR

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LANGUAGE TEXTBOOKS**



By

AMELIA LEONG CHIEW HAR

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

February 2012

This thesis is dedicated to my parents for their love, encouragement and continuous support throughout my studies.



Abstract of thesis presented to the Senate of Universiti Putra Malaysia in fulfillment of the requirement for the degree of Masters of Science

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By

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February 2012

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The English grammar articles are said to be the most difficult and the latest grammatical items to be acquired by the learners although articles are commonly used aspects of grammar in the English language. The problem with the article system is also faced by Malaysian English as Second Language (ESL) learners. Although all the three articles should be taught throughout the five years in the secondary schools in Malaysia as outlined in the Malaysian Curriculum Specification for English Language, learners are found to be still committing errors in using the articles. Due to this, the present study aims to investigate the use of the articles in the Malaysian Form One to Form Five English Language textbooks as textbooks are the core material used in the classroom to aid the teaching and learning process.

This thesis analyses the distribution patterns of the articles, the distribution patterns of the word classes that colligate with the articles and the way the articles are presented in the five Malaysian Secondary School English Language textbooks. For this purpose, content analysis is employed and WordSmith Tools 4.0 is used to analyze the articles in the Malaysian Form One to Form Five English Language textbooks. Through the analyses of wordlists, and concordance lines, the distribution patterns and the way of presentation of the articles were obtained.

The findings indicated that the article *the* is the most frequently occurring among the three articles, followed by the article *a* and lastly the article *an*. This result is similar to the frequency ranking of the articles in the British National Corpus (BNC) and Longman Grammar of Spoken and Written English (LGSWE). The findings also displayed that out of the 15 colligation patterns of the articles, there is only one colligation pattern that did not occur in all the five Malaysian Form One to Form Five English Language textbooks which is the colligation pattern of the article *a* with the words spelled with a vowel but pronounced with a consonant sound. The study also revealed that in the sections presenting the articles in the textbooks, the explicit explanations and input on the article usages before the article exercises are insufficient. There is also a lack of variety in the exercises on articles; most of the exercises are in the form of cloze passages. Although there are many article usages, only certain usages of article are put into emphasis in the textbooks, others are neglected. This study also uncovered that

although not all the colligation patterns occurred in the textbooks but all of the colligation patterns were indirectly illustrated in between the blanks in the articles exercises. Hence, the findings portrayed the strengths and weaknesses of our Malaysian Secondary School English Language textbooks in terms of the English grammar articles.

The findings of this study will expectedly provide the teachers with the knowledge on the articles occurrences and the teaching of articles in the textbooks. They can help the teachers to prepare efficient lesson plans for teaching articles in the ESL classrooms.



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

**PENGGUNAAN KATA SANDANG DALAM BUKU-BUKU TEKS BAHASA
INGGERIS UNTUK SEKOLAH MENENGAH DI MALAYSIA**

Oleh

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Februari 2012

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Kata sandang dalam tatabahasa Bahasa Inggeris merupakan salah satu tatabahasa Bahasa Inggeris yang paling sukar dan yang paling lewat dikuasai oleh para pelajar walaupun kata sandang merupakan tatabahasa Bahasa Inggeris yang paling kerap digunakan. Masalah dengan penggunaan kata sandang juga dihadapi oleh pelajar di Malaysia yang mempelajari Pengajaran Bahasa Inggeris sebagai Bahasa Kedua. Walaupun ketiga-tiga kata sandang ini perlu diajarkan kepada para pelajar dalam tempoh kelima-lima tahun pembelajaran mereka di sekolah menengah di Malaysia, seperti mana yang disarankan dalam Spesifikasi Kurikulum untuk Bahasa Inggeris di Malaysia, didapati bahawa para pelajar masih melakukan kesalahan dalam penggunaan kata sandang. Oleh yang demikian, kajian ini bertujuan untuk mengkaji penggunaan kata sandang dalam buku-buku teks Bahasa Inggeris untuk Tingkatan Satu sehingga Tingkatan Lima di Malaysia kerana buku teks

merupakan bahan utama yang digunakan di dalam kelas dalam membantu melancarkan proses pengajaran dan pembelajaran.

Tesis ini menganalisis corak edaran kata sandang, corak edaran kategori perkataan yang menganggotai kata sandang dan cara-cara bagaimana kata sandang dibentangkan didalam kelima-lima buku teks Bahasa Inggeris untuk sekolah menengah di Malaysia. Oleh itu, analisis kandungan dan WordSmith Tools 4.0 digunakan untuk menganalisis kata sandang dalam buku-buku teks Bahasa Inggeris untuk Tingkatan Satu sehingga Tingkatan Lima di Malaysia. Daripada penganalisaan senarai kata dan baris-baris konkordans, corak edaran dan cara pengajaran kata sandang dikenalpasti.

Hasil kajian menunjukkan bahawa kata sandang *the* merupakan kata sandang yang paling kerap digunakan , diikuti oleh kata sandang *a* dan akhirnya kata sandang *an*. Hasil kajian ini menyerupai kedudukan frekuensi kata sandang di dalam British National Corpus (BNC) dan Longman Grammar of Spoken and Written English (LGSWE). Hasil kajian juga menunjukkan bahawa daripada kesemua lima belas corak penganggotaan kategori perkataan dengan kata sandang, terdapat satu penganggotaan kategori perkataan dengan kata sandang yang tidak didapati langsung dalam kelima-lima buku teks Bahasa Inggeris untuk Tingkatan Satu sehingga Tingkatan Lima di Malaysia iaitu corak penganggotaan kata sandang *a* dengan perkataan yang dieja dengan vokal tetapi mempunyai sebutan yang berbunyi konsonan. Kajian ini juga mendapati bahawa seksyen

dalam buku teks yang mengandungi kata sandang mengandungi penerangan yang kurang jelas mengenai kata sandang tersebut sebelum latihan yang diberikan. Bentuk latihan kata sandang yang diberi juga adalah amat terhad, kebanyakannya dalam bentuk mengisi tempat kosong dalam petikan. Selain daripada itu, walaupun terdapat pelbagai jenis penggunaan kata sandang, hanya sebilangan kecil penggunaan kata sandang yang ditekankan dalam buku teks, yang selaginya diabaikan. Dapatan kajian menunjukkan bahawa walaupun bukan semua corak penganggotaan wujud di dalam buku teks, namun demikian, corak penganggotaan ini dapat dilihat di dalam latihan di antara tempat kosong di dalam petikan. Oleh yang demikian, hasil kajian dapat menggambarkan kelebihan dan kelemahan buku-buku teks Bahasa Inggeris untuk sekolah menengah di Malaysia dalam pengajaran kata sandang.

Dapatan kajian yang diperolehi dapat melengkapi guru-guru dengan pengetahuan dalam kewujudan dan pengajaran kata sandang di dalam buku-buku teks. Ini bertujuan untuk membantu guru-guru menyediakan rancangan pengajaran yang berkesan untuk pengajaran kata sandang di dalam kelas Pengajaran Bahasa Inggeris sebagai Bahasa Kedua.

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APPROVAL

I certify that a Thesis Examination Committee has met on 24/02/2012 to conduct the final examination of Amelia Leong Chiew Har on her thesis entitled "Use of Articles in Malaysian Secondary School English Language Textbooks" 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 student be awarded the Master of Science TESL.

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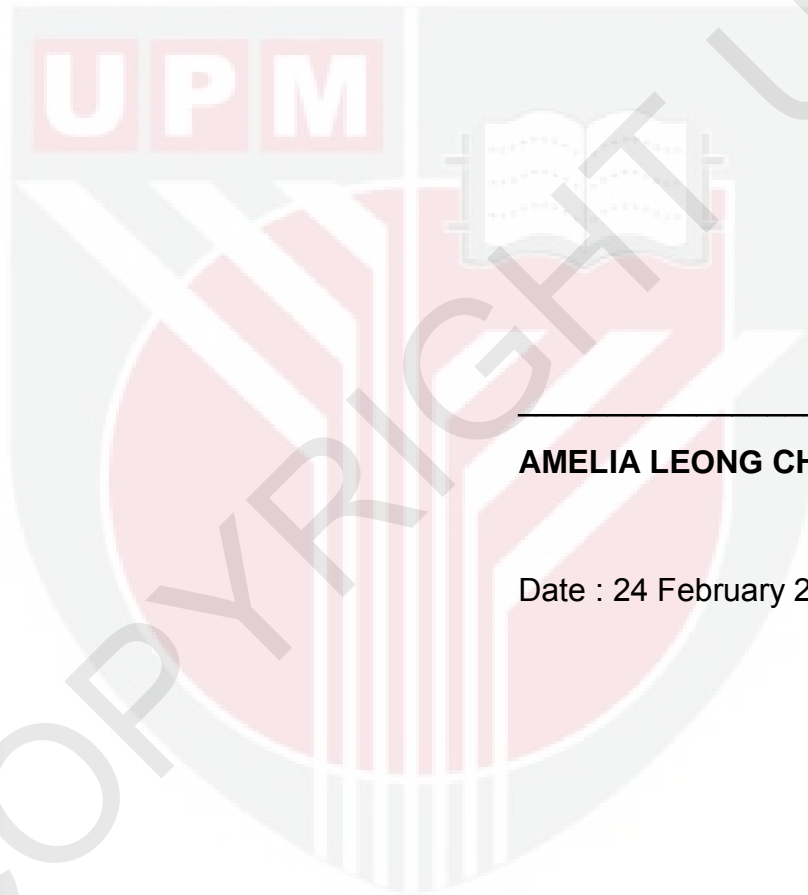


BUJANG BIN KIM HUAT, PhD
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DECLARATION

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 University Putra Malaysia or at any other institution.



AMELIA LEONG CHIEW HAR

Date : 24 February 2012



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