UNIVERSITI PUTRA MALAYSIA

USE OF ARTICLES IN MALAYSIAN SECONDARY SCHOOL ENGLISH LANGUAGE TEXTBOOKS

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By

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

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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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Chairman:      Jayakaran Mukundan, PhD
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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

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

Oleh

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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 penggangotaan kategori perkataan dengan kata sandang, terdapat satu penggangotaan 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 penggangotaan kata sandang a dengan perkataan yang dieja dengan vokal tetapi mempunyai sebutan yang berbunyi konsonan. Kajian ini juga mendapati bahawa seksyen

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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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
TABLE OF CONTENTS

DEDICATION ii
ABSTRACT iii
ABSTRAK vi
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS ix
APPROVAL x
DECLARATION xii
LIST OF TABLES xvi
LIST OF FIGURES xvii

CHAPTER

1 INTRODUCTION 1
   Background of Study 1
   Statement of the Problem 5
   Research Questions 8
   Objectives of the Study 8
   Scope and Significance of the Study 9
   Limitations of the Research 11
   Operational Definitions 12
   Summary 14

2 LITERATURE REVIEW 16
   The Textbooks’ Role in ESL/EFL Classroom 16
   Textbooks and Grammar Teaching 19
Corpus Linguistics and English Language Teaching Materials 23

English Language Corpus in Malaysia 28

Related Studies on ESL/EFL Textbook Corpus 29

English Grammar Articles: Definite and Indefinite Articles 34

Articles and ESL/EFL Learners 42

Related Studies on Articles 46

Summary 53

3 METHODOLOGY 54

Introduction 54

Research Design 54

Population and Sampling 56

Corpus Size 58

Reliability 59

Instrumentation 60

Data Collection Procedures 63

Data Analysis Method 65

Data Analysis 67

Summary 73

4 RESULTS AND DISCUSSION 74

Introduction 74

Research Question 1 74
5 SUMMARY, PEDAGOGICAL IMPLICATIONS,
SUGGESTION FOR FUTURE RESEARCH AND
CONCLUSION

Research Summary 118
Pedagogical Implications 121
Suggestions for Future Research 124
Conclusion 125

REFERENCES 127
APPENDICES 145
BIODATA OF STUDENT 147