



**UNIVERSITI PUTRA MALAYSIA**

***RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN VOCABULARY KNOWLEDGE AND  
READING COMPREHENSION AMONG ADULT  
EFL IRANIAN STUDENTS***

**SHIMA KAMELI**

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**MASTER OF SCIENCE  
UNIVERSITI PUTRA MALAYSIA**

**2012**



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READING COMPREHENSION AMONG ADULT  
EFL IRANIAN STUDENTS**



**By**

**SHIMA KAMELI**

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

**July 2012**

## DEDICATION

This research is dedicated to my beloved parents whose persistent patience, love and support gave me the strength to make this work possible.



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

**RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN VOCABULARY KNOWLEDGE AND  
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IRANIAN STUDENTS**

By

**SHIMA KAMELI**

**July 2012**

**Chairman: Ghazali Bin Mustapha, PhD**

**Faculty: Educational Studies**

This study was performed with three main goals in mind. The first goal was to explore the relationship between two aspects of vocabulary knowledge (breadth/size and depth/quality) and also their relation with reading comprehension performance, individually. The second goal was to clarify the association among two components of vocabulary knowledge, i.e., breadth/size and depth/quality, with reading comprehension performance of EFL Iranian students on subtest of VLT, WAT and IELTS. Last but not least, the study also attempted to investigate the association of demographic variables (i.e., gender, age, field of study, educational level, outside activity, and kind of outside activity) and EFL Iranian students' reading comprehension performance.

At the beginning of second semester of 2010-2011 the quantitative data was collected from 220 EFL Iranian adult students (46 female, 174 male) who studied English in BAHAR Institute, Shiraz, Iran. To accomplish the purpose of this study, Background

Questionnaire, Vocabulary Levels Test (VLT), Word Associates Test (WAT), and Reading Comprehension Test (IELTS) were administered in one session as research instruments. In general, the whole process of data collection took about five weeks during nine sessions. The respondents had a total time of 3 hours and 15 minutes to complete the three tests and the background questionnaire. Independent sample *t*-test, one-way ANOVA, two-tailed Pearson's product moment correlations coefficient, and Multiple linear regression analysis were carried out to examine the associations and differences among predictors to predict reading comprehension performance.

The analyzed results demonstrate that 1) different levels of vocabulary levels test were positively correlated, 2) test score on vocabulary size/breadth, depth/quality of vocabulary knowledge, and reading comprehension were also positively correlated, 3) vocabulary size/breadth was a stronger predictor of reading comprehension than depth/quality of vocabulary knowledge, 4) breadth/size and depth/quality of vocabulary knowledge were closely related one to another and mutually facilitative and also the significant relationship among vocabulary size and reading comprehension for the population tested were distinguished. In addition, the results revealed that gender, educational level, and having outside activity, had significant association with reading comprehension performance among demographic variables which, were considered in this study while the other variables namely age, field of study, and kind of outside activity had no significant correlation with the performance of reading comprehension.

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

**HUBUNGAN ANTARA PENGETAHUAN PERBENDAHARAAN KATA DAN  
KEFAHAMAN MEMBACA DI KALANGAN PELAJAR DEWASA  
EFL IRAN**

Oleh

**SHIMA KAMELI**

July 2012

**Pengerusi: Ghazali Bin Mustapha, PhD**

**Fakulti: Pengajian Pendidikan**

Kajian ini dilakukan dengan tiga matlamat utama. Matlamat pertama adalah untuk mengkaji hubungan antara dua aspek pengetahuan perbendaharaan kata (keluasan/saiz dan kedalaman / kualiti) dan juga hubungan mereka dengan prestasi kefahaman individu. Matlamat kedua pula adalah untuk menjelaskan hubungkait antara dua komponen pengetahuan perbendaharaan kata iaitu keluasan/saiz dan kedalaman/kualiti dengan prestasi kefahaman pelajar-pelajar EFL Iran pada subtest VLT, WAT dan IELTS. Akhir sekali adalah untuk menyiasat persatuan pembolehubah demografi (jantina, umur, pengkhususan universiti, tahap pendidikan dan aktiviti luar) terhadap prestasi kefahaman pelajar EFL Iran.

Pada awal semester kedua 2010-2011, data kuantitatif telah dikumpulkan daripada 220 pelajar dewasa EFL Iran yang (46 wanita, 174 lelaki) belajar Bahasa Inggeris di Institut BAHAR. Bagi mencapai matlamat kajian, soal selidik demografi, Vocabulary

Levels Test (VLT), Word Associates Test (WAT) dan Prestasi Kefahaman (IELTS) dikendalikan. Korelasi Two-tailed Pearson telah dijalankan bagi mengkaji hubungkait antara ujian keluasan /saiz perbendaharaan kata (VLT), ujian kedalaman/kualiti pengetahuan perbendaharaan kata (WAT) dan ujian kefahaman (bahagian kefahaman IELTS). Secara umumnya, keseluruhan proses pengumpulan data mengambil masa kira-kira lima minggu selama sembilan sesi. Responden mempunyai jumlah masa 3 jam dan 15 minit untuk melengkapkan tiga ujian dan soal selidik latar belakang. Analisis Regresi Berbilang telah dijalankan bagi mengenalpasti komponen ujian pengetahuan perbendaharaan kata yang terbaik untuk meramal prestasi kefahaman. Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) sehalal dan Independent sample *t*-test telah dikira bagi mengkaji perbezaan antara skor min kumpulan bagi pembolehubah yang dinyatakan. Hasil kajian menunjukkan bahawa (1) tahap perbezaan perbezaan bagi ujian tahap perbendaharaan kata adalah berkorelasi positif, (2) skor ujian terhadap keluasan/saiz perbendaharaan kata, kedalaman/kualiti pengetahuan perbendaharaan kata dan kefahaman juga berkorelasi positif, (3) keluasan/saiz perbendaharaan kata adalah ramalan yang lebih kukuh berbanding kedalaman/kualiti pengetahuan perbendaharaan kata, (4) keluasan/saiz dan kedalaman/kualiti pengetahuan perbendaharaan kata adalah berkait rapat antara satu sama lain dan saling memudahkan cara dan juga membezakan hubungan antara penting saiz perbendaharaan kata bagi populasi yang dikaji. Di samping itu, keputusan menunjukkan bahawa jantina, tahap pendidikan, dan yang mempunyai aktiviti luar, mempunyai hubungan yang signifikan dengan prestasi kefahaman membaca di kalangan pembolehubah demografi yang telah dipertimbangkan dalam kajian ini manakala pembolehubah lain iaitu umur, bidang pengajian, dan jenis aktiviti luartidak mempunyai hubungan yang signifikan dengan prestasi kefahaman membaca.



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All glory is to Allah Almighty, the superior and the sovereign. I might not know where the life's road will take me, but walking with You, Allah, through this journey has given me strength.

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Shima Kameli

I certify that a Thesis Examination Committee has met on February 2012 to conduct the final examination of Shima Kameli on her thesis entitled "The Relationship Between Vocabulary Knowledge and Reading Comprehension Performance Among Adult EFL Iranian Students" 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 student be awarded the Master of Science.

Members of the Thesis Examination Committee were as follows:

**Prof. Madya Dr. Arshad b Abd Samad, PhD**

Associate Professor  
Faculty of Educational Studies  
Universiti Putra Malaysia  
(Chairman)

**Prof. Madya Dr. Noritah Omar, PhD**

Associate Professor  
Faculty of Educational Studies  
Universiti Putra Malaysia  
(Internal Examiner)

**Dr. Nooreen bt Noordin, PhD**

Faculty of Educational Studies  
Universiti Putra Malaysia  
(Internal Examiner)

**Prof. Madya Dr. Parilah Hj. Mohd Shah, PhD**

Associate Professor  
University Kebangsaan Malaysia  
Malaysia  
(External Examiner)

---

**NORITAH OMAR, PhD**

Associate Professor and Deputy Dean  
School of Graduate Studies  
Universiti Putra Malaysia

Date: 19 September 2013

This thesis was submitted to the Senate of Universiti Putra Malaysia and has been accepted as fulfillment of the requirement for the degree of Master of Science. The members of the Supervisory Committee were as follows:

**Ghazali Bin Mustapha, PhD**

Associate Professor  
Faculty of Educational Studies  
Universiti Putra Malaysia  
(Chairman)

**Roselan Baki, PhD**

Lecturer  
Faculty of Educational Studies  
Universiti Putra Malaysia  
(Member)

---

**BUJANG BIN KIM HUAT, PhD**

Professor and Dean  
School of Graduate Studies  
Universiti Putra Malaysia

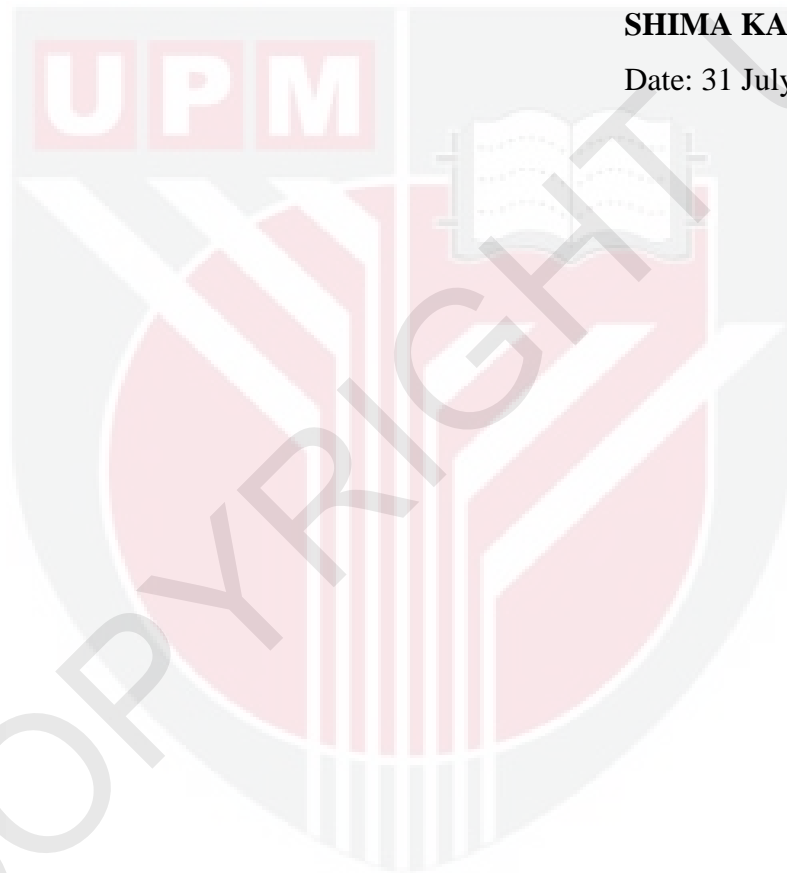
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## DECLARATION

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.

**SHIMA KAMELI**

Date: 31 July 2012



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