



UNIVERSITI PUTRA MALAYSIA

**NEGOTIATING AND LEARNING GRAMMAR IN SYNCHRONOUS
ON-LINE CHATS AMONG MALAYSIAN TERTIARY ESL STUDENTS**

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By

EBRAHIM SAMANI

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

May 2014

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In The Name of ALLAH, the Most Gracious and the Most Merciful

Dedicated
To

Those who have enhanced my life in many untold ways

Abstract of thesis presented to the Senate of Universiti Putra Malaysia in fulfillment of the requirement for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy

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May 2014

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Faculty : Educational Studies

Taking into consideration the importance of using negotiated interaction over grammatical structures through computer-mediated communication (CMC), conflicting results of attitude toward CMC, and the nature of CMC environments, the current study attempted to examine immediate and long-time effect of negotiated interaction on students' achievement in grammar in Malaysian context. The study also sought to evaluate opinions of participants in this study regarding CMC. Furthermore, it focused on gaining more in-depth and detailed picture of learners' beliefs and experiences of their interaction over grammatical structures in written synchronous computer-mediated communication (SCMC). Finally, the aim of this study was also to analyze the discourse patterns of text-based CMC in terms of negotiation functions.

These aims were addressed using an experimental research design. Fifteen students from Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM) participated in the study. All of these students were undertaking Bachelors of Education undergraduate program, with specialization in teaching English as a second language (TESL). The students were involved in written interaction via text-chat over sentence combining activities with an aim to practice preselected grammatical structures.

Pretests, posttests, and delayed posttests were administered to measure students' achievement in grammar. Findings of the study indicated that there were statistically significant differences on the outcomes of pre, post, and delayed posttests for the students who involved in negotiated interactions over preselected grammatical structures. **The second major finding was that participants' attitude toward computer-mediated communication (CMC) did not show any significant changes.**

Furthermore, results from the interview conducted indicated anonymity, feedback, durability, involvement in learning, individualized instruction, time, comfortable

environment, and contextualized instruction as the beneficial effects of involving in negotiated interaction over preselected grammatical structures through the medium of written SCMC. In terms of negotiation functions, the most frequent function was confirmation check and the least frequent one was reply confirmation. The beneficial effects of negotiated interactions through written SCMC were confirmed according to the findings of this study. This clearly shows that negotiated interactions via CMC can indeed be an effective pedagogical tool for teachers to improve students' grammatical knowledge.

Abstrak tesis yang dikemukakan kepada Senat Universiti Putra Malaysia sebagai memenuhi keperluan untuk Ijazah Doktor Falsafah

RUNDINGAN DAN PEMBELAJARAN NAHU DALAM PERBUALAN PENDEK ATAS TALIAN SECARA 'SYNCHRONOUS' DI KALANGAN PELAJAR MALAYSIA LEPASAN MENENGAH ESL

Oleh

EBRAHIM SAMANI

Mei 2014

Pengerusi : Nooreen Noordin, PhD
Fakulti : Pengajian Pendidikan

Dengan mengambilkira kepentingan penggunaan interaksi rundingan struktur nahu melalui komunikasi berasaskan komputer, percanggahan keputusan mengenai sikap pelajar terhadap komunikasi berkomputer dan persekitarannya, tujuan kajian adalah untuk mengkaji kesan jangka pendek dan jangka panjang interaksi rundingan terhadap pencapaian nahu pelajar dalam konteks Malaysia. Kajian ini juga bertujuan untuk menilai pendapat subjek berkenaan komunikasi berasaskan komputer. Selain itu, fokus kajian juga adalah untuk mendapatkan gambaran lebih terperinci dan mendalam tentang kepercayaan dan pengalaman pelajar berkenaan penulisan struktur nahu dan interaksi berasaskan komputer secara 'synchronous'. Akhir sekali, tujuan kajian ini juga adalah untuk menganalisa gaya wacana teks komunikasi berasaskan komputer dari segi fungsi rundingan.

Tujuan-tujuan kajian ditangani menggunakan reka bentuk kajian eksperimental. Lima belas pelajar dari UPM terlibat dalam kajian ini. Kesemua pelajar mengikuti program prasiswazah Bachelor Pendidikan dengan pengkhususan dalam pengajaran Bahasa Inggeris sebagai bahasa kedua (TESL). Mereka terlibat dalam interaksi penulisan melalui teks-perbualan tentang aktiviti menggabungkan ayat dengan tujuan untuk berlatih struktur nahu yang telah terpilih. Ujian pra, pos dan pos tertanggung telah dilakukan untuk mengukur pencapaian nahu pelajar. Dapatan kajian menunjukkan terdapat perbezaan ketara pada hasil ujian pelajar yang terlibat dengan interaksi rundingan struktur nahu yang terpilih. Dapatan utama kedua menunjukkan tiada perubahan signifikan terhadap sikap pelajar terhadap komunikasi berasaskan komputer.

Selain itu, dapatan hasil dari temubual yang dilakukan menunjukkan 'anonymity', maklum balas, ketahanan, penglibatan dalam pembelajaran, arahan secara individu, masa, persekitaran selesa dan arahan dalam konteks sebagai kesan-kesan berfaedah

dalam penglibatan interaksi rundingan struktur nahu terpilih yang dilakukan melalui penulisan perbualan pendek atas talian secara 'synchronous'. Dari segi fungsi rundingan, semakan pengesahan merupakan fungsi yang paling kerap digunakan dan jawapan pengesahan merupakan fungsi yang paling kurang digunakan. Faedah kesan interaksi rundingan melalui penulisan perbualan pendek atas talian secara 'synchronous' adalah sah berdasarkan dapatan kajian ini. Ini jelas menunjukkan bahawa interaksi rundingan melalui komunikasi berasaskan komputer mampu dijadikan alat pedagogi efektif untuk guru memperbaiki pengetahuan nahu pelajar.

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I certify that a Thesis Examination Committee has met on 27 May 2014 to conduct the final examination of Ebrahim Samani on his thesis entitled "Negotiating and Learning Grammar in Synchronous Online Chats among Malaysian Tertiary ESL 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 Doctor of Philosophy.

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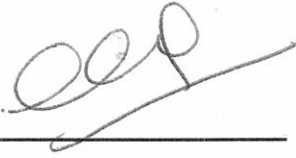
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