



Novel approach: Sultan Sharafuddin listening to an overview of Dr Hafandi's research on neurophysiology during the Majlis Gemilang Akademia Putra at UPM.

Formula to improve language and writing skills

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KUALA LUMPUR: A person's language and writing skills can be improved like how mathematical problems are solved by using a set of formulae, says a Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM) senior lecturer.

Dr Ghazali Lateh had managed to create his own formula for students to improve their writing skills.

"When I was a school teacher, I found that many of my students struggled to master social sciences like languages.

"But they fared better in subjects

with a fixed set of problem-solving methods like mathematics.

"A thought struck my mind – why not develop a formula for languages and writing, which the students can apply the same way they do with maths?" he said.

After 10 years of research, Dr Ghazali, from UPM's Department of Languages and Humanities, managed to discover a formula that worked not only for students, but also for teachers who wanted to simplify their lessons.

Dr Ghazali, who spoke on the sidelines of Majlis Gemilang Akademia Putra at UPM yesterday, was one

of two senior UPM lecturers who were awarded the Vice Chancellor Fellowship Award in the Young Educators category.

The other recipient, Dr Hafandi Ahmad, was awarded for his modern approach to education, which chose a more hands-on, student-centric method to teach undergraduates in the field of veterinary sciences.

A neurophysiology specialist, Dr Hafandi uses social media like Facebook to reach out to his students and engage them in their studies.

The awards were presented by the university's chancellor, Selangor Ruler Sultan Sharafuddin Idris Shah.