



**UNIVERSITI PUTRA MALAYSIA**

***TEACHERS' AND STUDENTS' PERCEPTIONS OF  
LITERATURE IN ESL LEARNING ACTIVITIES***

**SUJATHA KRISHNAN**

**FPP 2012 93**

# **TEACHERS' AND STUDENTS' PERCEPTIONS OF LITERATURE IN ESL LEARNING ACTIVITIES**



**MASTER OF SCIENCE  
UNIVERSITI PUTRA MALAYSIA**

**2012**

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

**TEACHERS' AND STUDENTS' PERCEPTIONS OF LITERATURE IN ESL  
LEARNING ACTIVITIES**

**By**

**SUJATHA KRISHNAN**

**March 2012**

**Chair: Fauziah Hassan, PhD**

**Faculty: Educational Studies**

Do students enjoy the activities that are carried out by their teachers in Literature in ESL (LIT in ESL) classes? There is a lot of focus from the teacher's point of view, but the same cannot be said for the students. This purpose of this study is to investigate the Teachers' and Students' Perceptions of Literature in ESL Learning Activities. The participants of this survey were 525 Form Four ESL students and 26 ESL teachers from four different schools in the state of Kelantan. The instruments used were questionnaires developed for teachers and students to gauge their preferences in teaching and learning related to Lit in ESL activities. The data was analysed using descriptive statistics of frequency and percentage. The findings of this study indicate that the choice of activities identified by students did not match their teachers' choices. Students found the activities carried out as uninteresting and repetitive. The students prefer activities like drama, watching a movie and predicting a new ending to the text, while teachers, gave more reading comprehension, in class discussion and inferring. Most teachers were unaware of these students' preference of the activities they

wanted. Thus, by the matching of activities, the students would be able to not only like Literature in English, but also be more participative in class due to their interest. The disparity of preference is further discussed in terms of its pedagogical implications.



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

**PERSEPSI GURU DAN PELAJAR BERKAITAN AKTIVITI  
PEMBELAJARAN KOMPONEN SASTERA BAHASA INGGERIS**

Oleh

**SUJATHA KRISHNAN**

Mac 2012

**Pengerusi: Fauziah Hassan, PhD**

**Fakulti: Pengajian Pendidikan**

Adakah pelajar meminati aktiviti-aktiviti yang dilakukan oleh guru mereka di dalam kelas Pengajaran Bahasa Inggeris sebagai Bahasa Kedua? Dalam kajian-kajian terdahulu, banyak tumpuan diberikan ke atas pandangan guru-guru terhadap aktiviti-aktiviti yang dilakukan di dalam kelas Pengajaran Kesusteraan Bahasa Inggeris sebagai Bahasa Kedua, yang nyata berbeza daripada sudut pandangan pelajar. Oleh yang demikian, objektif kajian ini adalah untuk mengkaji persepsi guru-guru dan para pelajar Tingkatan Empat terhadap aktiviti-aktiviti yang dijalankan di dalam kelas Pengajaran Bahasa Inggeris sebagai Bahasa Kedua. Sampel dalam kajian ini terdiri daripada 525 pelajar Tingkatan Empat dan 26 guru kelas Pengajaran Kesusteraan Bahasa Inggeris sebagai Bahasa Kedua, yang dipilih daripada pelbagai sekolah yang berlainan di negeri Kelantan. Instrumen yang digunakan dalam kajian ini ialah borang kaji selidik yang dirangka untuk mengetahui pilihan aktiviti-aktiviti yang diminati oleh para pelajar dan guru-guru di dalam kelas

Pengajaran Kesusasteraan Bahasa Inggeris sebagai Bahasa Kedua. Data yang diperolehi telah dianalisis menggunakan kaedah statistik perihalan dengan memberi penilaian kepada frekuensi dan peratusan data. Hasil kajian secara umumnya merumuskan bahawa wujud perbezaan di dalam pilihan aktiviti-aktiviti di antara para pelajar dan guru-guru di dalam kelas Pengajaran Bahasa Inggeris sebagai Bahasa Kedua. Kajian juga turut mendapati para pelajar tidak berminat dengan aktiviti-aktiviti yang telah dijalankan oleh guru mereka serta menyifatkannya sebagai berulang. Para pelajar didapati lebih menggemari aktiviti-aktiviti seperti sketsa, menonton filem serta meramalkan penutup atau kesimpulan yang baru di dalam teks. Bagi guru-guru pula, mereka lebih cenderung melakukan aktiviti pembacaan komprehensif, diskusi dan membuat kesimpulan. Selain itu, majoriti guru tidak menyedari kehendak serta pilihan aktiviti-aktiviti yang diinginkan oleh para pelajar. Kesimpulannya, dengan menilai dan mengkaji perbandingan di antara kehendak pelajar dan guru terhadap aktiviti-aktiviti yang dijalankan, adalah diharapkan para pelajar akan lebih berminat dan bergiat aktif di dalam kelas Pengajaran Bahasa Inggeris sebagai Bahasa Kedua. Perbezaan di antara dua pilihan ini akan dibincangkan dengan lebih lanjut berdasarkan implikasi pedagogikalnya.

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

I am extremely thankful to God for giving me excellent supervisors, supportive family members and friends. Without their continuous support and encouragement, completion of this thesis would not have been possible. First of all, I would like to thank Dr Fauziah Hassan for her tremendous support and constant guidance throughout my duration of writing. I am extremely grateful for all that she has done.

I would also like to express my heartfelt gratitude to Professor Dr. Malachi Edwin Vethamani. His untiring supervision, guidance, words of wisdom, and encouragement propelled me towards completion of this thesis, despite numerous setbacks that I had to face. I will always be thankful for everything he has done for me.

I would also like to thank Dr Shamsuddin Ahmad for his assistance and insightful comments on my work. His support and guidance helped me to gain another perspective when I was working on my thesis. I will always be grateful for his assistance.

I would also like to show appreciation and express my gratitude to Dr. Too Wei Keong and Mr. Rajandran Perumal for their support, encouragement and assistance provided throughout the duration of my study.

Lastly, I would like to thank my family members for their continuous support. I would always be thankful for them being at my side throughout this duration of my study.

I certify that an Examination Committee has met on 16<sup>th</sup> March 2012 to conduct the final examination of Sujatha Krishnan on her Masters of Science thesis entitled “Teachers’ And Students’ Perceptions of Literature in ESL Learning Activities” 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 degree of Masters of Science.

Members of the Examination Committee were as follows:

Rosnaini Mahmud, PhD  
Senior Lecturer  
Faculty of Education  
University Putra Malaysia  
(Chairman)

Roselan Baki, PhD  
Senior Lecturer  
Faculty of Education  
University Putra Malaysia  
(Internal Examiner)

Arbaayah Ali Termizi, PhD  
Senior Lecturer  
Faculty of Modern Languages and Communication  
University Putra Malaysia  
(Internal Examiner)

Ganakumaran Subramaniam, PhD  
Associate Professor  
School of Education  
University of Nottingham,  
Malaysia Campus  
(External Examiner)

---

**SEOW HENG FONG, PhD**  
Professor and Deputy Dean  
School of Graduate Studies  
Universiti Putra Malaysia

Date:

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

**Fauziah Hassan, PhD**

Senior Lecturer

Faculty of Educational Studies

University Putra Malaysia

(Chairman)

**Malachi Edwin Vethamani, PhD**

Professor

Language Centre and Compulsory Subjects

Taylor's University (Lakeside Campus)

(Member)

**Shamsudin Ahmad, PhD**

Lecturer

Faculty of Educational Studies

University Putra Malaysia

(Member)

---

**BUJANG BIN KIM HUAT, PhD**

Professor and Dean

School of Graduate Studies

Universiti Putra Malaysia

Date:

## **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.

**SUJATHA KRISHNAN**

Date:



## TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
<b>ABSTRACT</b>	ii
<b>ABSTRAK</b>	iv
<b>ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS</b>	vi
<b>APPROVAL</b>	viii
<b>DECLARATION</b>	ix
<b>LIST OF TABLES</b>	xii
<b>LIST OF FIGURES</b>	xiii
<b>LIST OF APPENDICES</b>	xiv
CHAPTER	
<b>1 INTRODUCTION</b>	
1.1 Literature in the Academic World	1
1.2 Background to the study	2
1.2.1 Literature Component in the English Language Syllabus	4
1.2.2 Rationale of the Syllabus Design of the Lit. Component for Students	4
1.3 Statement of the Problem	5
1.4 Purpose and Objectives of the Study	7
1.5 Significance of the Study	8
1.6 Limitations of the Study	8
1.7 Operational Definitions of Terms	9
Summary	10
<b>2 REVIEW OF LITERATURE</b>	
2.1 Literature in Malaysian Secondary Schools	11
2.2 Introduction of the Literature Component in the Syllabus	13
2.3 Reasons for Using and Teaching Literature	13
2.4 Approaches on Teaching and Learning of Literature	15
2.5 Teachers' and students' preferences on activities	18
2.5.1 Teachers' and Students' Preference of text	25
2.6 Influence of Perceptions on Teaching and Learning of Literature	26
2.7 Literature in English in Malaysian schools	27
2.8 Theories for the theoretical framework of the study	33
2.8.1 Gardner's (1985) Socio- educational Model	33
2.8.2 Integrative Motivation	35
2.8.3 Intrinsic Motivation	35
2.8.4 Reader Response Theory	37
2.8.5 Theoretical Framework	39
Summary	41
<b>3 METHODOLOGY</b>	
3.0 Introduction	43
3.1 Research Design	43
3.1.1 Rationale of using this design	44
3.2 Sampling	47

3.3	Data collection	48
3.3.1	Students' Questionnaire	49
3.3.2	Teacher's Questionnaire	50
3.4	Data Analysis for Quantitative sections	52
3.5	Data Analysis for Qualitative sections	53
3.6	Procedures of Data Analysis	53
	Summary	54
<b>4</b>	<b>FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION</b>	
4.1	Introduction	55
4.2	Background of the teachers	56
4.3	Background of the students	61
4.4	Practices and activities used by teachers in a typical Literature in ESL classroom	63
4.4.1	Teachers' Useful Activities	66
4.4.2	Teachers' Activity Frequency	70
4.5	Students' perceptions on the activities	73
4.5.1	Students' Preferred Activities	76
4.5.2	Students' Most preferred Activities	80
4.5.3	Students' Least preferred Activities	84
4.5.4	Students' Most Useful Activities	87
	Summary	90
<b>5</b>	<b>SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FUTURE RESEARCH</b>	
5.1	Summary of the Study	94
5.2	Summary of the Findings	94
5.2.1	Summary of the current practices and activities by teachers	95
5.2.2	Summary of students' perceptions on the activities	97
5.2.3	Summary of students' preferred activities	98
5.3	Implications and Recommendations	99
5.3.1	Pedagogical Implications	99
5.3.2	Recommendations	100
5.4	Recommendations for Future Research	102
5.5	Conclusion	103
<b>REFERENCES</b>		106
<b>APPENDICES</b>		110
<b>BIODATA OF STUDENT</b>		123