



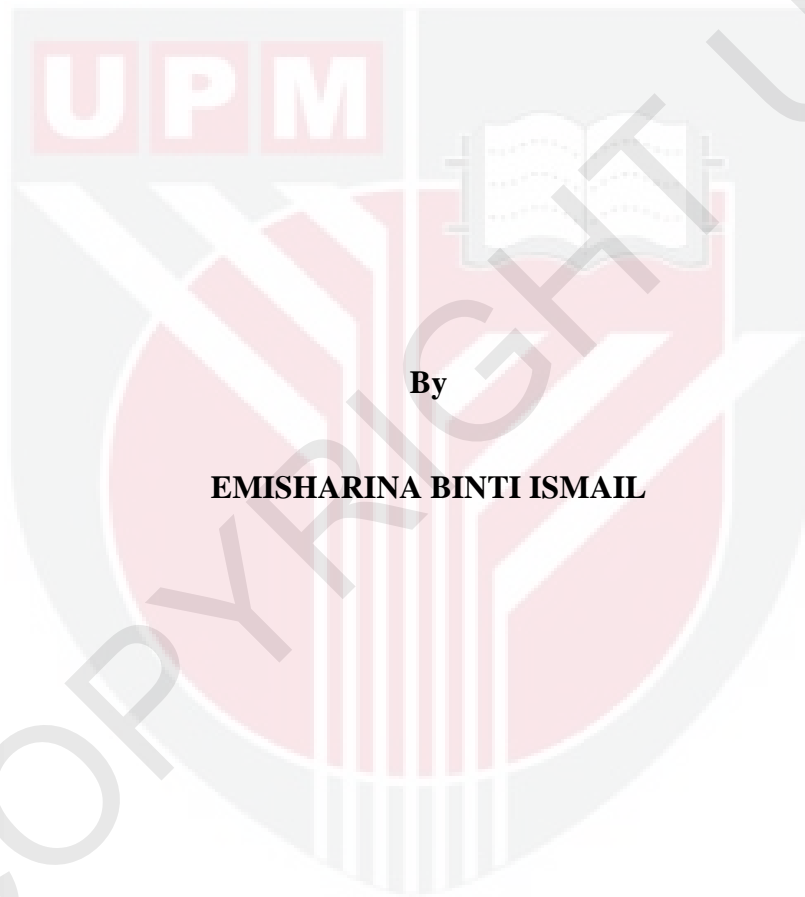
UNIVERSITI PUTRA MALAYSIA

***USE OF DIALOGUE JOURNALS AMONG STUDENTS IN SELECTED
MALAYSIAN MATRICULATION ENGLISH CLASSES***

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MALAYSIAN MATRICULATION ENGLISH CLASSES**



By

EMISHARINA BINTI ISMAIL

**Thesis Submitted to the School of Graduate Studies, Universiti Putra Malaysia,
In Fulfillment of the Requirement for the degree of Master of Science**

November 2011

DEDICATION



To

MA & BA

Abstract of Thesis presented to the Senate of the University Putra Malaysia in fulfillment of the requirement for the degree of Master of Science

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Chairman : Roselan Baki, PhD

Faculty : Educational Studies

Dialogue journal is a writing technique that has been used in many classrooms for many different purposes. This study was conducted to explore the roles that dialogue journal can play in Matriculation English classrooms from students' perspectives. This study employed a single-site single-case study using qualitative approach. Nine matriculation students from different levels of proficiency were chosen as the participants in this study. The study was conducted over a period of ten weeks in which students were asked to write a weekly journal. Data were collected from three semi-structured interviews conducted with each participant and also the weekly journals written by the participants. The interviews were analysed using Strauss and Corbin's (1998) Coding Procedure to find out the students' attitude and views towards dialogue journal. The journals were analysed for length, topic choice and use of language to understand how the students approached dialogue journal writing. Findings showed that using dialogue

journals in Matriculation English classrooms has its own strengths and drawbacks. It was found that while most participants were able to point out some advantages of practicing dialogue journal writing, many did not find the technique effective enough to improve either their writing skill or language proficiency. The study also found that even though students may differ in terms of the language proficiency and their views on dialogue journal, they basically used the same strategies when writing their journals. This is reflected in their choice of journal topics and language use. The conclusion that can be made from this study is that dialogue journal is not for everybody. This study suggests that aspects such as attitudes, proficiency levels and preferred learning styles may influence how students view and approach dialogue journal. Therefore the implementation of dialogue journals in matriculation English classrooms should consider these elements to ensure maximum benefits.

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

PENGGUNAAN *DIALOGUE JOURNALS* DALAM KALANGAN PELAJAR-PELAJAR DALAM KELAS-KELAS BAHASA INGGERIS TERPILIH DI PERINGKAT MATRIKULASI MALAYSIA

Oleh

EMISHARINA BINTI ISMAIL

November 2011

Pengerusi : Roselan Baki, PhD
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Dialogue journal adalah satu teknik penulisan yang telah digunakan dalam banyak bilik darjah untuk pelbagai tujuan. Kajian ini dilakukan untuk meneroka peranan-peranan yang boleh dimainkan oleh *dialogue journal* dalam kelas-kelas Bahasa Inggeris di kolej matrikulasi. Kajian ini merupakan satu kajian kes di satu lokasi menggunakan pendekatan kualitatif. Sembilan pelajar dari aras penguasaan Bahasa Inggeris yang berbeza dipilih sebagai peserta kajian ini. Kajian ini mengambil masa selama sepuluh minggu di mana pada setiap minggu setiap peserta dikehendaki menulis dan menghantar kepada pensyarah mereka satu *dialogue journal*. Data diperolehi daripada tiga temubual separuh berstruktur yang dilakukan bersama setiap peserta dan juga daripada *dialogue journal* mingguan yang ditulis oleh pelajar. Temubual dianalisa menggunakan kaedah

Strauss dan Corbin (1998) untuk mengetahui sikap dan pandangan pelajar terhadap *dialogue journal*. *Dialogue journal* dianalisa dari segi pilihan tajuk dan penggunaan bahasa untuk memahami bagaimana pelajar mendekati *dialogue journal*. Hasil kajian menunjukkan penggunaan *dialogue journal* di dalam kelas matrikulasi mempunyai kebaikan dan kekurangan. Kajian mendapati walaupun peserta dapat mengenalpasti kelebihan menggunakan *dialogue journal*, tetapi pada mereka, *dialogue* masih tidak cukup efektif untuk membantu mereka memperbaiki penguasaan Bahasa Inggeris dan kemahiran menulis mereka. Kajian ini juga mendapati walaupun peserta mempunyai penguasaan Bahasa Inggeris dan pandangan yang berbeza mengenai *dialogue journal*, pada asasnya mereka menggunakan strategi yang sama semasa menulis *dialogue journal* mereka. Ini dapat dilihat menerusi pilihan tajuk dan penggunaan bahasa mereka. Kesimpulannya, kajian ini mendapati bahawasanya *dialogue journal* bukan untuk setiap pelajar. Kajian ini mencadangkan aspek seperti sikap, tahap penguasaan Bahasa Inggeris dan gaya belajar pelajar mempengaruhi pandangan dan pendekatan yang diambil pelajar terhadap *dialogue journal*. Oleh itu pelaksanaan *dialogue journal writing* dalam kelas-kelas Bahasa Inggeris matrikulasi perlu mengambil kira elemen-elemen ini untuk memastikan faedah yang maksimum dicapai.

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To my family and friends, thank you, for always being there for me.

To my respondents and the lecturer involved, my sincere thank you for the cooperation given.

I certify that a Thesis Examination Committee has met on 4 November 2011 to conduct the final examination of Emisharina binti Ismail on her thesis entitled "Use of Dialogue Journals Among Students in Selected Malaysian Matriculation English Classes" 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.

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DECLARATION

I hereby declare that the thesis is based on my original work except for quotations and citations which have been duly acknowledged. I also declare that it has not been previously or concurrently submitted for any degree at Universiti Putra Malaysia and other institutions.

EMISHARINA BT ISMAIL

Date: 4 November 2011

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