



UNIVERSITI PUTRA MALAYSIA

***MALAYSIAN SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS' WILLINGNESS
TO COMMUNICATE IN ENGLISH***

EVELYN YEAP EWE LIN

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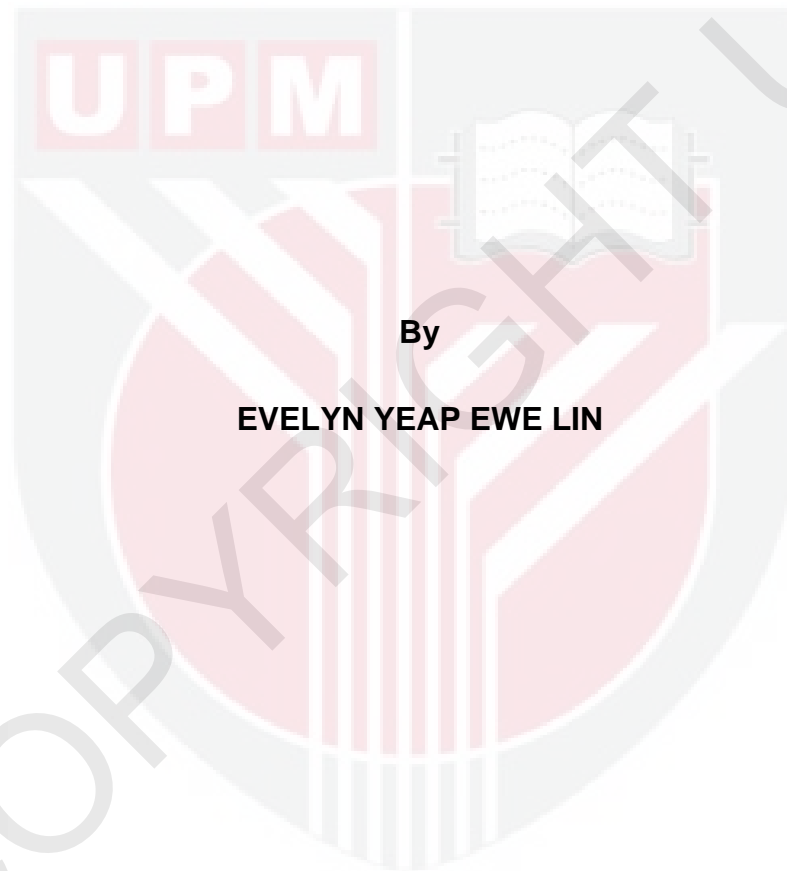
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**MASTER OF SCIENCE
UNIVERSITI PUTRA MALAYSIA
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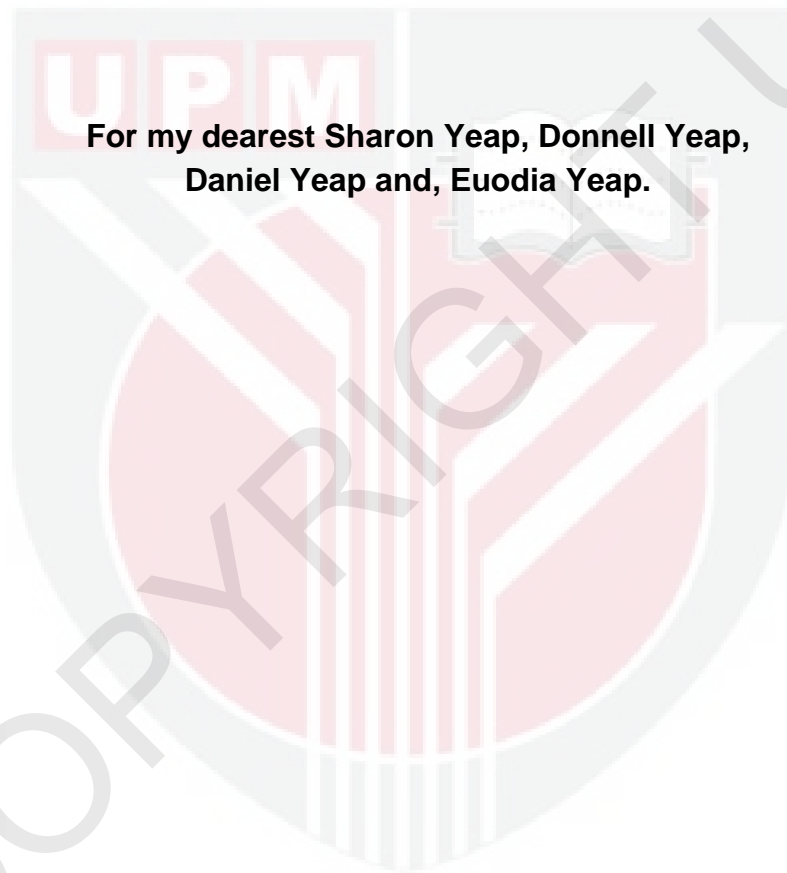


By

EVELYN YEAP EWE LIN

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

February 2012



**For my dearest Sharon Yeap, Donnell Yeap,
Daniel Yeap and, Euodia Yeap.**

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Abstract of thesis presented to the School of Graduate Studies, Universiti Putra Malaysia in fulfilment of the requirements for the Degree of Master in Science.

MALAYSIAN SECONDARY SCHOOLS STUDENTS' WILLINGNESS TO COMMUNICATE IN ENGLISH

By

EVELYN YEAP EWE LIN

February 2012

Supervisor: Fauziah Hassan, PhD

Faculty : Educational Studies

Poor communication competency among Malaysians has become a national problem as this has affected the performance and employability of Malaysian graduates (Azizan and Chew, 2007). In one of the surveys was by the Ministry of Higher Education (2010) on 10,818 undergraduates, it is found that one out of the three soft skills Malaysian students lack is English language communication skills. Lately, as highlighted in the newspapers, the declining standard of English in the country have been attributed to policies that have not emphasised English in the education system, and students' lack of interest in learning the language (Azizan and Lee, 2011). Therefore, factors which contribute to Malaysian students' inability to orally

communicate in English have become an important area of study. This study investigates Malaysian students' willingness to communicate (WTC) in English as a Second Language (ESL) and its relationship to Motivation, and to Self-perceived Communication Competence (SPCC) respectively. The subjects comprised eight hundred and twenty five secondary schools students who were selected using convenience sampling. The data was collected using questionnaires and semi-structured interview. The questionnaires were used to assess students' perception of their own WTC, SPCC and Motivation, while the interview questionnaire was used to triangulate the data. The data was analyzed using descriptive analysis, Pearson Correlation Coefficient, Multiple Linear Regression, and Hierarchical Multiple Regression. Results show that there is a high, positive, and significant correlation between WTC and SPCC; and an indirect, significant correlation between WTC and Motivation. It is found that both variables significantly contribute to WTC. Between the two, SPCC is found to contribute higher to WTC as compared to Motivation. The findings are discussed in relation to its pedagogical implications.

Abstrak tesis yang dikemukakan kepada Fakulti Pengajian Pendidikan,
Universiti Putra Malaysia sebagai memenuhi sebahagian syarat bagi
mendapatkan Ijazah Master Sains

**KERELAAN PELAJAR-PELAJAR SEKOLAH MENENGAH MALAYSIA
UNTUK BERKOMUNIKASI DALAM BAHASA INGGERIS**

Oleh

EVELYN YEAP EWE LIN

Jun 2011

Penyelia : Fauziah Hassan, PhD

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Kajian lepas menunjukkan salah satu sebab utama graduan Malaysia manganggur adalah kelemahan mereka dalam Bahasa Inggeris, dan kelemahan mereka dalam kemahiran untuk berkomunikasi dalam Bahasa Inggeris (Azizan and Chew, 2007). Salah satu daripada kajian yang telah dijalankan oleh Kementerian Pengajian Tinggi (2010) ke atas 10,818 mahasiswa mendapati salah satu daripada tiga kelemahan mahasiswa dalam kemahiran insaniah adalah kemahiran berkomunikasi dalam Bahasa Inggeris. Kebelakangan ini, media massa melaporkan bahawa standard kelemahan Bahasa Inggeris adalah berkaitan dengan dasar system pendidikan yang tidak memberi penekanan kepentingan ke atas Bahasa Inggeris dan kekurangan minat di kalangan generasi muda untuk

mempelajari Bahasa Inggeris (Azizan and Lee, 2011). Dengan itu, masalah ini perlu dijadikan bidang yang penting dalam kajian. Kajian ini bertujuan untuk menyiasat keinginan pelajar Malaysia untuk berkomunikasi (WTC) dalam bahasa Inggeris sebagai Bahasa Kedua (ESL) dan hubungannya dengan Motivasi, serta Persepsi diri dalam kebolehan berkomunikasi (SPCC). Subjek kajian terdiri daripada 825 pelajar sekolah menengah yang dipilih menggunakan persampelan kemudahan. Data dikumpul dengan menggunakan borang soal selidik dan temubual semi-struktur. Borang soal selidik tersebut digunakan untuk menilai persepsi pelajar dalam WTC, SPCC dan Motivasi. Temubual semi-struktur pula digunakan untuk membuat pengesahan data kuantitatif. Data dianalisis menggunakan analisis deskriptif, Koefisien Korelasi Pearson, Regresi Linier Berganda, dan Regresi Hirarkis Berganda. Temubual semistruktur pula dianalisis untuk mencari tema dan kategori. Keputusan kajian menunjukkan bahawa terdapat korelasi yang tinggi, positif dan signifikan antara WTC dan SPCC; dan korelasi signifikan yang tidak langsung di antara WTC dan Motivasi. Secara kesimpulannya, kedua-dua pembolehubah prediktor telah menyumbang kepada WTC. Antara dua pembolehubah yang telah dikaji, SPCC didapati telah menjadi pembolehubah yang telah menyumbang lebih kepada WTC apabila dibandingkan dengan Motivasi. Keputusan telah dikaitkan dengan implikasi pedagogis.

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I certify that a Thesis Examination Committee has met on 8 February 2012 to conduct the final examination of Evelyn Yeap Ewe Lin on her thesis entitled "**Malaysian Secondary School Students' Willingness to Communicate in English**" 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 in Teaching English as a Second Language.

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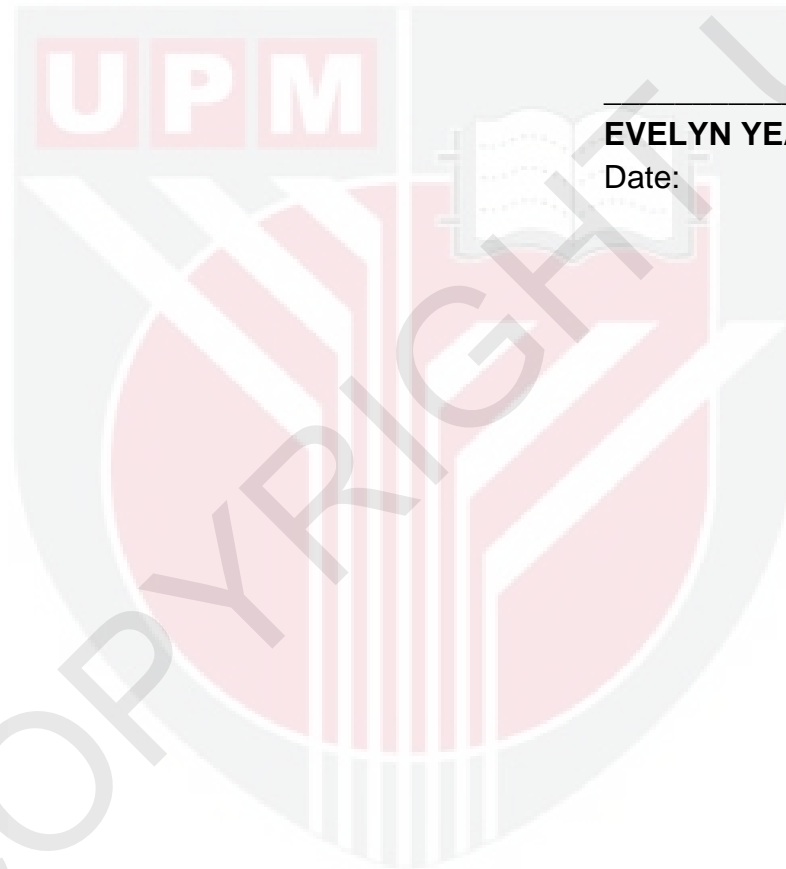
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DECLARATION

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.



EVELYN YEAP EWE LIN

Date:

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