MALAYSIAN SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS’ WILLINGNESS TO COMMUNICATE IN ENGLISH

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MASTER OF SCIENCE
UNIVERSITI PUTRA MALAYSIA
2012
MALAYSIAN SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS’ WILLINGNESS TO COMMUNICATE IN ENGLISH

By

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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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February 2012

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

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

First and foremost, praise and thanks to my saviour Jesus Christ for the many blessings undeservingly bestowed upon me throughout this journey. Without HIM, I would not be able to have so much wisdom and understanding. All glory and honour be to God the Father, Amen.

I would like to express my personal and heartfelt gratitude to my supervisors, Dr. Fauziah Hassan and Cik Sharifah Zainab Syed Abdul Rahman for their consistent and valuable guidance, encouragement, and motivation. Even though I have done a lot of mistakes, they never give up on me and keep on pushing me to the end of this journey. I sincerely thank both of them for all their support.

I would also like to thank Prof. Dr. Jegak Uli for the quantative part of my data. Thanks for all the clarifications. Without his help, I will be lost in statistic.

My utmost gratitude is also extended to my beloved family members for their constant prayers every day and night, especially to my grandma, my mom, dad and aunty Ellen. I love all of them the most. I am so grateful to have all of them as my family members.
To Irene, Anwar and all my friends out there who have been my backbone throughout this journey, I am truly thankful to have friends like them who never fail to give words of encouragement. I sincerely thank them and appreciate everything that they have done for me. God will surely bless them with all their kindness.

My sincere thanks to Pn. Zuraidah, and Pn. Zurryana for editing my thesis. I truly appreciate that. Thanks a lot to Pn. Faridah who found me both of them. This is very important to me.

Last but not least, I would like to thank my boss, Mr. Mohd Ariff Ahmad Tarmizi and colleagues in UNITEN who have never given up on me especially to Pn. Husni, Pn. Faridah and Pn. Hawanum who have been my sources of inspiration. A very big thanks to all of them, and may God bless all of them abundantly.
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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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:
# TABLE OF CONTENT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chapter</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ABSTRACT</td>
<td></td>
<td>i</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ABSTRAK</td>
<td></td>
<td>iii</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACKNOWLEDGEMENT</td>
<td></td>
<td>v</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>APPROVAL</td>
<td></td>
<td>vii</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DECLARATION</td>
<td></td>
<td>ix</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LIST OF TABLES</td>
<td></td>
<td>xiv</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LIST OF FIGURES</td>
<td></td>
<td>xvi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS</td>
<td></td>
<td>xviii</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## CHAPTER 1

### 1. INTRODUCTION
1.1 Background of the study 1
1.2 Statement of the Problem 5
1.3 Purpose of the Study 9
  1.3.1 Research Questions 10
  1.3.2 Research Hypotheses 11
1.4 Significance of the study 11
1.5 Limitation of the study 13
1.6 Operational Definition of terms 14

## CHAPTER 2

### 2. THEORY AND LITERATURE REVIEW
2.1 Introduction 18
2.2 Historical foundation of Willingness to Communicate Models 19
2.3 The Path Model 23
2.4 The Heuristic Model 25
  2.4.1 Layer I: Communication Behaviour 27
  2.4.2 Layer II: Behavioural Intention 27
  2.4.3 Layer III: Situated Antecedents of Communicate
    2.4.3.1 Box 3. Desire to Communicate 29
    2.4.3.2 Box 4. State Communicative Self-Confidence 30
  2.4.4 Layer IV: Motivational Propensities 31
    2.4.4.1 Box 5. Interpersonal Motivation 32
    2.4.4.2 Box 6. Intergroup Motivation 33
    2.4.4.3 Box 7. Self-Confidence 34
2.4.5  Layer V: The Affective and Cognitive Context

2.4.5.1  Box 8. Intergroup Attitudes

2.4.5.2  Box 9. Social Situation

2.4.5.3  Box 10. Communicative Competence

2.4.6  Layer VI: The Social and Individual Context

2.4.6.1  Box 11. Intergroup Climate

2.4.6.2  Box 12. Personality

2.5  Chinese Conceptualisation of the Heuristic Model

2.6  Gardner’s Theory of Motivation

2.7  Empirical Studies on WTC in Second Language Context

2.8  Empirical Studies on WTC in Foreign Language Context

2.9  Theoretical Framework

3  METHODOLOGY

3.1  Introduction

3.2  Research Design

3.3  Research Framework

3.4  Location of the Study

3.5  Population and Sampling

3.6  Instruments of the Study

3.7  Interview questionnaires

3.8  Reliability of the Questionnaire

3.8.1  Pilot Study

3.8.2  Real Study

3.9  Validity of the Questionnaires

3.10  Data Collection Procedures

3.10.1  Questionnaires Data Collection Procedures

3.10.2  Semi-Structured Interview Data Collection Procedures

3.11  Data Analyzing Procedures

3.11.1  Questionnaires Data Analysis

3.11.2  Semi-structured Interview Data Analysis

3.12  Summary

4  RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

4.1  Introduction

4.2  Description of the Respondents

4.3  Respondent’s Demographic Data
4.3.1 Demographic Characteristics
4.4 Quantitative Results and Interview Data Analysis
  4.4.1 Quantitative Results
  4.4.2 Interview analysis on Students’ Willingness to Communicate
  4.4.3 Interview analysis on Students’ Self-Perceived Communication Competence
  4.4.4 Interview analysis on Motivation to Learn English
  4.4.5 Pearson product-moment Correlation Coefficients
  4.4.6 Relationship between Motivation to Learn ESL and WTC
    4.4.6.1 Direct Relationship between Motivation to Learn ESL, SPCC and WTC
    4.4.6.2 Indirect Relationship between Motivation to Learn ESL and WTC Mediated by SPCC
4.5 Discussion

5 SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATION FOR FUTURE RESEARCH
  5.1 Introduction
  5.2 Students’ Perceptions of Their Willingness to Communicate
  5.3 Students’ Perceptions of Their Communication Competence
  5.4 Students’ perceptions of their motivation to learn ESL
  5.5 Correlation, Multiple Linear Regression and Hierarchical Multiple Regression between students’ WTC in ESL and SPCC in ESL; WTC in ESL and Motivation to Learn ESL
  5.6 Recommendation For Future Research

REFERENCES
APPENDICES
  Appendix 1 - Permission Letters
  Appendix 2 – Questionnaires
  Appendix 3 - SPSS data analysis