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MIND My LANGUAGE
BY CHE AN ABDUL GHANI

Language and brain are two entities that are intricately dependent on one another. Language is a tool for expressing thoughts, emotions, interactions, and a host of other human activities. Without a good functioning brain, human cannot operate the above activities. Scientists have conducted many experiments on brain and language development in children, adults and chimpanzees. This branch of science that studies brain and language is known as neurolinguistics.

The last decade has seen large number of studies on language acquisition in young children and foreign language learning and their impacts on the health of the brain. Studies show that learners of foreign language or bilingual speakers have healthier brain and enjoy lifelong health benefits such as increased creativity, sharper cognitive skills, reduced risk of developing dementia and Alzheimer's. People who acquire several languages experience delayed onset of ageing brain and has better attention span.

In this exhibition, three neurolinguistic-related artefacts are presented namely "Visual Text Arranger", "Text Detector", and "Word Illumination" to reflect on roles of brain in language development. "Visual Text Arranger" is an example of how learning language can be turned into a fun game and that vocabulary acquisition is not a stressful task. As language researchers are now looking at using perceptual skill to teach language many activities related to the use of images in teaching younger children and adults have been developed.

Subsequently, language use in writing is no less complex than the spoken form. Perception skill when blended with language competency will help learners decipher the message

embedded in their reading text. The agility of visual skill and speedy brain processing is required when reading academic and dense text. As such, the concept of "Text Decoder" will be useful to not only t postgraduate students when they are doing literature review, but also to the general reader.

While brain and vision are important elements in comprehension of spoken and written texts, however, in some people this process does not happen smoothly. To be able to read, our brains have to translate symbols we see on the page into sounds. Then, those sounds have to be combined into meaningful words. In some people, the brain and vision works incoherently. Their perception of alphabets (symbols) is distorted thus, causing them difficulty in making sense of the words they see. It has nothing to do with poor vision but instead it is nonsynchronous brain processing in perceiving written form. This condition is known as dyslexia. "Word Illumination" gives us an insight into the mind of dyslexics and the difficulty they face when they read. Nevertheless, this condition is manageable as there are many reading strategies for dyslexics.

Animal language is expressed through their specific behaviours and the sounds they make. This can be seen in the video of the mangrove crab.

The significant role of the brain in enhancing the quality of life of mankind is infinite. Its contribution in enabling us to communicate through language, which in turn makes us expressive, allows us to have a meaningful life. In a nutshell, the brain is a vital lifelong factor in our life.