



UNIVERSITI PUTRA MALAYSIA

***FACTORS AFFECTING SUCCESSFUL BIG DATA ANALYTICS
IMPLEMENTATION IN PUBLIC SECTOR OF MALAYSIA***

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**FACTORS AFFECTING SUCCESSFUL BIG DATA ANALYTICS
IMPLEMENTATION IN PUBLIC SECTOR OF MALAYSIA**

By

CECILIA ADRIAN

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

October 2019

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Abstract of thesis presented to the Senate of Universiti Putra Malaysia in fulfilment
of the requirement for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy

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October 2019

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Decision based big data analytics (BDA) has created countless opportunities and challenges for the Malaysian Public Sector. In order to be innovative, the government organizations need to adopt effective ways of decision-making. One such strategy is by understanding and recognizing the enabling factors that contribute to the success of BDA implementation. In this regard, this study explores the effects of organizational, talent and technology resources as the factors affecting successful BDA implementation. This study was developed based on Resource-Based View (RBV) and DeLone & McLean Information Systems Success Model (ISSM) theories. Systematic literature review was conducted to identify the factors affecting successful BDA implementation and to find the research gaps. In this study, a BDA implementation model named BDI model, is proposed. Existing literatures were synthesized and critically analysed which were then became the basis of the model development. A panel of experts was selected to verify the research model and questionnaire design. Data from the expert opinions was analysed by using I-CVI and Kappa analysis. To gain the reliability and validity of items from the revised questionnaires, a pilot study was conducted. Data collected from pilot study was analysed by using Rasch Measurement Model. An empirical study was then performed by administering the instrument to 140 big data practitioners in selected Malaysian Public Sectors through a drop-off survey method. SPSS software was used for descriptive analysis, while PLS-SEM was used for statistical analysis in which eleven hypothesis were tested empirically. The results indicate that resource commitment, analytics skills and managerial skills factors are not significant on BDA implementation, while the rest of the influencing factors such as big data strategy, analytics culture, top management support, data infrastructures, information processing and information quality are statistically significant. In addition, the relationship between analytics culture and BDA implementation is improved by introducing the moderating role of top management support. The revised BDI model was then validated further by the experts using a developed prototype. A usability test

with big data users was conducted to assess the feasibility and applicability of the prototype in the field. Based on the expert evaluation and usability testing, the prototype is believed to be able to assist decision-makers understand the key determinants and address the issue on the lack of resources that must be considered during BDA implementation. It is also believed that organizational decision making and future strategic planning can be improved by providing significant information on the strength and shortcomings of the affecting factors on successful BDA implementation.



Abstrak tesis yang dikemukakan kepada Senat Universiti Putra Malaysia sebagai memenuhi keperluan untuk ijazah Doktor Falsafah

**FAKTOR-FAKTOR YANG MEMPENGARUHI KEJAYAAN BAGI
PELAKSANAAN ANALITIS DATA RAYA DI SEKTOR AWAM MALAYSIA**

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Keputusan berdasarkan analitis data raya (BDA) telah mewujudkan banyak peluang dan cabaran kepada Sektor Awam Malaysia. Untuk sentiasa inovatif, organisasi kerajaan perlu mengamalkan cara membuat keputusan yang berkesan. Salah satu strategi adalah memahami dan mengenal pasti faktor-faktor yang dapat menyumbang kepada kejayaan pelaksanaan BDA. Dalam hal ini, kajian ini menyiasat kesan sumber organisasi, bakat dan teknologi sebagai faktor-faktor yang mempengaruhi kepada kejayaan pelaksanaan BDA. Kajian ini menggunakan teori RBV dan ISSM. Kajian kesusasteraan secara sistematik dilakukan untuk mengenalpasti faktor-faktor yang mempengaruhi pelaksanaan BDA dan menyiasat jurang kajian. Kajian ini mencadangkan satu model pelaksanaan analitis data raya yang dinamakan model BDI. Soal selidik dibangunkan melalui sintesis dan analisa kajian lepas. Model kajian dan rekabentuk soal selidik disah oleh pakar. Data berkaitan pendapat pakar dianalisis menggunakan kaedah analisis I-CVI dan Kappa. Kajian rintis dilaksana menggunakan soal selidik bagi mengukur kebolehpercayaan dan kesahan item-item. Data kajian rintis dianalisis menggunakan *Rasch Measurement Model*. Seterusnya, tinjauan sebenar dilaksana melalui kaedah kaji selidik dengan mentadbir instrumen kepada 140 pengamal data raya dari agensi terpilih Sektor Awam Malaysia. Perisian SPSS digunakan untuk analisis deskriptif, manakala PLS-SEM digunakan untuk analisis statistik bagi menguji sebelas hipotesis secara empirikal. Hasil analisis mendapati bahawa faktor 'komitmen sumber', 'kemahiran analitis' dan 'kemahiran pengurusan' tidak signifikan pada pelaksanaan BDA, manakala faktor-faktor lain yang mempengaruhi seperti 'strategi data raya', 'budaya analitis', 'infrastruktur data', 'pemprosesan maklumat' dan 'kualiti maklumat' adalah signifikan secara statistik. Kesan penyederhanaan 'sokongan pengurusan atasan' ke atas hubungan antara budaya analitis dan pelaksanaan BDA juga didapati lebih kuat bagi 'sokongan pengurusan atasan' pada tahap rendah. Pakar mengesah model akhir BDI menggunakan perisian prototaip. Ujian kebolegunaan oleh pengguna data raya dijalankan untuk menilai kebolehlaksanaan dan kebolegunaan prototaip di lapangan. Berdasarkan penilaian

pakar dan pengujian kebolegunaan, prototaip ini dapat membantu pembuat keputusan memahami penentu utama dan menangani masalah kekurangan sumber yang perlu dipertimbangkan semasa pelaksanaan BDA. Ia juga dipercayai bahawa pembuatan keputusan organisasi dan perancangan strategik dapat ditingkatkan pada masa depan dengan adanya maklumat berkaitan faktor-faktor kekuatan dan kekurangan sumber yang mempengaruhi kejayaan pelaksanaan BDA.



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

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

		Page
ABSTRACT		i
ABSTRAK		iii
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS		v
APPROVAL		vi
DECLARATION		viii
LIST OF TABLES		xiv
LIST OF FIGURES		xvi
LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS		xviii
CHAPTER		
1	INTRODUCTION	1
	1.1 Research Background	1
	1.2 Problem Statement	3
	1.3 Research Questions	4
	1.4 Research Objectives	4
	1.5 Scope of Research	4
	1.6 Significance of Research	5
	1.6.1 Theoretical Contribution	5
	1.6.2 Practical Contribution	5
	1.7 Thesis Organization	5
2	LITERATURE REVIEW	8
	2.1 Introduction	8
	2.2 Big Data Analytics	8
	2.3 Big Data Analytics Implementation	9
	2.4 Big Data Analytics Implementation in Malaysian Public Sector	10
	2.5 The Evaluation of Successful BDA Implementation	13
	2.6 Organizational Decision-Making	14
	2.7 Related Big Data Analytics Implementation Theories and Models	14
	2.7.1 Resourced-Based View Theory	15
	2.7.1.1 Big Data Analytics Resources	16
	2.7.1.2 Big Data Analytics Capabilities	18
	2.7.2 Information Systems Success Model	19
	2.7.2.1 Big Data Analytics Quality	21
	2.7.3 Technology-Organization-Environment Framework	21
	2.7.4 Grounded Theory	23
	2.8 Prior Studies on the Implementation of Big Data Analytics	24
	2.9 Related Studies on Determinants of the Big Data Analytics Implementation	31
	2.9.1 Big Data Strategy	33
	2.9.2 Resource Commitment	33
	2.9.3 Analytics Culture	34
	2.9.4 Top Management Support	35

2.9.5	Analytics Skills	35
2.9.6	Managerial Skills	36
2.9.7	Data Infrastructures	36
2.9.8	Information Processing	37
2.9.9	Information Quality	38
2.9.10	Moderating Analysis	39
2.10	Gap Analysis	39
2.11	Summary	40
3	RESEARCH METHODOLOGY	41
3.1	Introduction	41
3.2	Research Philosophy	41
3.3	Operational Research Framework	42
3.4	Phase 1 – Literature Review	44
3.5	Phase 2 – Model Development	45
3.5.1	Determine the Constructs and Design Model	45
3.5.2	Develop the Constructs Definition	46
3.5.3	Develop Items to Represent the Construct	46
3.5.4	Measurement Scale Decision	47
3.5.5	Conduct Expert Review	48
3.5.6	Selection of Experts	48
3.5.6.1	Expert Demographic	49
3.5.7	Validity	49
3.5.7.1	Face Validity	49
3.5.7.2	Content Validity	50
3.5.7.3	Content Validity Index	50
3.5.7.4	Kappa Analysis	51
3.6	Phase 3 – Data Collection	55
3.6.1	Population	55
3.6.2	Unit of Analysis	55
3.6.3	Sample Size	56
3.6.4	Sampling Technique	56
3.6.5	Data Collection for Pilot Study	57
3.6.5.1	Descriptive Statistic of Demographic Background in Pilot Study	58
3.7	Phase 4 – Analysis	60
3.7.1	Data Analysis for Pilot Study	60
3.7.1.1	Person and Item Reliability	61
3.7.1.2	Person-Item Distribution Map	62
3.7.1.3	Item Fit	63
3.7.1.4	Unidimensionality	69
3.7.1.5	Scale Calibration	69
3.7.1.6	Discussion for Rasch Analysis	71
3.7.1.7	Summary	74
3.7.1.8	Data Analysis for Empirical Study using Structural Equation Modeling	82
3.7.1.9	Measurement Model Analysis using PLS- SEM	83
3.7.1.10	Structural Model Analysis using PLS-SEM	85

3.8	Phase 5 – Prototype Development	86
3.8.1	Prototype Development Process	87
3.8.2	Prototype Execution	87
3.8.3	Prototype Evaluation	88
3.9	Phase 6 – Report Writing	88
3.10	Summary	89
4	MODEL DEVELOPMENT	90
4.1	Introduction	90
4.2	Initial Model Development	90
4.3	Hypotheses Development	93
4.3.1	Big Data Strategy	93
4.3.2	Resource Commitment	94
4.3.3	Analytics Culture	95
4.3.4	Top Management Support	95
4.3.5	Analytics Skills	96
4.3.6	Managerial Skills	97
4.3.7	Data Infrastructures	98
4.3.8	Information Processing	98
4.3.9	Information Quality	99
4.3.10	Big Data Analytics Implementation and Organizational Decision-Making	100
4.4	Summary	101
5	EMPIRICAL STUDY	102
5.1	Introduction	102
5.2	Empirical Study	102
5.2.1	Initial Preparation	103
5.2.1.1	Response Rate Analysis	103
5.2.1.2	Non-Response Bias Test	104
5.2.1.3	Consideration for Common Method Bias	104
5.2.1.4	Normality Test	105
5.2.2	Descriptive Statistic of Demographic Background in Actual Study	105
5.3	Model Evaluation	108
5.3.1	Assessment of Measurement Model	109
5.3.1.1	Internal Consistency Reliability	109
5.3.1.2	Convergent Validity	111
5.3.1.3	Discriminant Validity	111
5.3.2	Assessment of Structural Model	115
5.3.2.1	Collinearity Assessment	115
5.3.2.2	Path Coefficient Analysis	116
5.3.2.3	Coefficient of Determination (R^2)	118
5.3.2.4	Assessment of Effect Size (f^2)	119
5.3.2.5	Assessment of Predictive (Q^2) Relevance	120
5.3.3	Moderator Analysis	120
5.3.4	Hypothesized Model	124
5.4	Summary	125

6	PROTOTYPE DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROPOSED MODEL	127
6.1	Introduction	127
6.2	Prototype Design	127
6.2.1	Prototype Process Flow	127
6.2.2	Use Case Diagram	128
6.2.3	User Roles	129
6.3	System Architecture	130
6.3.1	External Interface	130
6.3.1.1	Screen Layout for BDA Manager	131
6.3.1.2	Screen Layout for Team Member	132
6.3.1.3	Screen Layout for Decision Maker	132
6.3.1.4	Screen Layout for System Administrator	133
6.4	Module Development	133
6.4.1	Input Modules	133
6.4.2	Repositories	134
6.4.3	Application Modules	134
6.4.4	Output Modules	137
6.5	Requirement	137
6.6	Prototype User Interfaces	138
6.7	Implementation Framework for Model Validation	142
6.7.1	BDA Implementation Model	143
6.7.2	BDA Implementation Evaluation Processes	143
6.7.3	Expert Review Validation	149
6.8	Summary	149
7	RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS	150
7.1	Introduction	150
7.2	Model Validation using Prototype Tools	150
7.2.1	Validation on the BDI Model	150
7.2.2	Test Instrument by Respondents	151
7.2.3	Usability Test Survey	152
7.3	Discussion	156
7.4	Summary	160
8	CONCLUSIONS AND FUTURE WORK	161
8.1	Introduction	161
8.2	Research Summary	161
8.3	Research Contributions	162
8.3.1	Theoretical Contribution	162
8.3.2	Practical Contribution	163
8.4	Research Limitation	163
8.5	Recommendations for Future Work	164
8.6	Summary	164
	REFERENCES	165
	APPENDICES	177
	BIODATA OF STUDENT	211
	LIST OF PUBLICATIONS	212

LIST OF TABLES

Table	Page
2.1 Tangible Resources, Intangible Resources and Talent Resources	17
2.2 Factors and Variables of Big Data Analytics Capabilities	18
2.3 Factors and Variables of Big Data Analytics Quality	21
2.4 Summary of Big Data Analytics Implementation Factors from Previous Studies	32
3.1 The Structure of Questionnaire	47
3.2 Expert Reviewers Profile	49
3.3 I-CVI and Kappa Threshold Values	51
3.4 Item Content Validity Index (I-CVI), Kappa (K) and Interpretations for Expert Review	53
3.5 G*Power Analysis for Sample Size	57
3.6 Demographic Profiles of the Respondents in Pilot Study (n=32)	59
3.7 Person Reliability of 32 Respondents	61
3.8 Item Reliability of 59 Items	62
3.9 Item Fit	64
3.10 Standardized Residual Variance (in Eigenvalue Units)	69
3.11 Scaling Categories	70
3.12 Number of Items Remains and Removed After Data Analysis	73
3.13 The Reliability of Each Item in the Pilot Study (n=32)	75
3.14 Revised Questionnaires Based on Expert Reviewed and Pilot Study	77
3.15 Summary of Indices for Measurement Model Assessment using PLS-SEM	83
3.16 Summary of Indices for Structural Model Assessment using PLS-SEM	85
3.17 Usability Testing Questionnaire Items using PSSUQ	88
4.1 Operational Definitions of Constructs	92
5.1 Harman's Single-factor Test Result	104

5.2	Demographic Profiles of the Respondents in Actual Study (n=140)	107
5.3	Cronbach's Alpha for Constructs	108
5.4	Internal Consistency and Convergent Validity of Research Model	110
5.5	Cross Loading of Constructs for Discriminant Validity Assessment	112
5.6	Fornell-Larcker Criterion for Discriminant Validity Assessment	114
5.7	Heterotrait Monotrait (HTMT) Criteria for Discriminant Validity Assessment	115
5.8	Inner Variance Inflation Factor (VIF) Values	116
5.9	Path Coefficient	117
5.10	R Square Values of Endogenous Constructs	118
5.11	F Square Assessment Results	119
5.12	Result of Predictive Relevance (Q^2)	120
5.13	Analysis of Direct Path Coefficient and Significant Value Before Interaction Effect of the Moderator	120
5.14	Analysis of Effect Size (f^2) for BDI construct	121
5.15	Result of the Interaction Effect Analysis	121
5.16	The Summary of Path Coefficient	122
5.17	Hypotheses Testing Results	123
6.1	User Roles for e-BiGIS Application	129
6.2	Definition of AHP Variable Names	136
6.3	Random Consistency Indices	137
6.4	Software Requirements	137
6.5	Menu and Sub-Menu	138
6.6	Summary of Risk Level for Assessment Result	144
7.1	Demographic of Participants (n=10)	152
7.2	Summary of Agreement Level for Post-Survey Usability Testing	153

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure		Page
2.1	The Malaysian Big Data Analytics Framework at National Level	11
2.2	The Malaysian Public Sector of Big Data Analytics Framework	12
2.3	NAHRIM Big Data Framework	12
2.4	D&M IS Success Model	19
2.5	Update D&M IS Success Model	20
2.6	The Technology-Organization-Environment Framework	22
2.7	Big Data Theory Model	24
3.1	The Research ‘Onion’	42
3.2	Operational Research Framework	43
3.3	The Systematic Review Stages and Processes	44
3.4	Survey Instrument Development Process	45
3.5	Wright Map for Pilot Study	63
3.6	The Probability of Curve of Rating Categories	71
4.1	Proposed Big Data Analytics Implementation (BDI) Model	91
4.2	Proposed BDI Model with Hypotheses	100
5.1	Actual Study Analysis Process	103
5.2	Result of Skewness and Kurtosis of Survey Data	105
5.3	Measurement Model	109
5.4	Results of the Structural Model for Direct Path Coefficient Testing	118
5.5	Moderating and Direct Links of AC and BDI	122
5.6	Plotting Graph of Interaction Term of AC*TS	122
5.7	Structural Model Testing Results	124
5.8	Revised BDI Model	125
6.1	Prototype Process Flow	128

6.2	Use Case Diagram for Users Interaction	129
6.3	3-Tier System Architecture of e-BiGIS	130
6.4	External Interface Requirement	131
6.5	BDA Manager Screen Layout	131
6.6	Team Member Screen Layout	132
6.7	Decision Maker Screen Layout	132
6.8	System Administrator Screen Layout	133
6.9	Schematic Diagram of Modules Components	134
6.10	Four Steps of AHP Analysis Process	135
6.11	Hierarchical Structure of BDA Implementation	135
6.12	Introduction Page	139
6.13	List of Assessment	139
6.14	Create New Assessment	140
6.15	Criteria and Items Selection for Assessment	140
6.16	Member's Selection List	141
6.17	New Assignment List for Team Member Introduction Page	141
6.18	Assessment in Progress	142
6.19	Implementation Framework for Validation	143
6.20	Sub-Criteria Dashboard	145
6.21	Overall Calculation Dashboard	146
6.22	The Rank and Graph Dashboard	147
6.23	Printable Evaluation Report	148
7.1	Results of Participants' Feedback on Prototype	156

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

AC	Analytics Culture
aDRSA	Malaysian Public Sector Big Data Analytics Framework
AHP	Analytical Hierarchical Process
AIS	Association of Information Systems
AS	Analytics Skills
AVE	Average Variance Extracted
BDA	Big Data Analytics
BI	Big Data Analytics Implementation
BDI	Big Data Analytics Implementation
BS	Big Data Strategy
BV	Business Value
CEO	Chief Executive Officer
CFO	Chief Financial Officer
CI	Consistency Index
CIO	Chief Information Officer
CM	Consistency Measure
COO	Chief Operating Officer
CR	Composite Reliability
CVI	Content Validity Index
DF	Data Infrastructures
DI	Data Infrastructures
DE	Organizational Decision-Making
D&M	DeLone and McLean
e-BiGIS	Online Big Data Implementation Assessment System

GLCs	Government Linked Companies
ICT	Information and Communication Technology
I-CVI	Item Level Content Validity Index
IF	Implementation Framework
IP	Information Processing
IQ	Information Quality
IS	Information System
ISSM	Information Systems Success Model
IT	Information Technology
K	Kappa or Modified Kappa
MAMPU	Malaysian Administrative Modernisation and Management Planning Unit
MDeC	Malaysia Digital Economy Corporation
MS	Managerial Skills
MNSQ	Outfit Mean Square
NAHRIM	National Hydraulic Research Institute of Malaysia
NC	No Changes
OLS	Ordinary Least Squares
PIDM	Person-Item Distribution Map
PODC	Process-Oriented Dynamic Capabilities
PSSUQ	Post-Study System Usability Questionnaire
PLS	Partial least squares
PLS-SEM	Partial Least Squares-Structural Equation Modelling
PTMCorr	Point-Measure Correlation
RBV	Resourced-based View Theory
RC	Resource Commitment

RI	Random Consistency Index
SEM	Structural Equation Modelling
SME	Subject Matter Expert
SPSS	Statistical Package for Social Science
UK	United Kingdom
USA	United States of America
TS	Top Management Support
TOE	Technology-Organization-Environment Framework
VRI	Value, Rarity and Inimitability
VRIN	Valuable, Rare, Imperfectly inimitable and Non-substitutability
ZSTD	Outfit Standardized Mean Square

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Research Background

Big data analytics (BDA) has a pivotal role in organizations to support accurate decision-making and to boost economic performance (Cao & Duan, 2014; Kamioka & Tapanainen, 2014). At present, BDA has been broadly implemented in organizations to support several activities, such as data visualisation analysis, managerial decision making, and organizational performance measurement. These BDA applications facilitate organizations to acquire, store, process, transform and analyse massive amounts and various types of data, which eventually deliver meaningful information that allows them to discover new insights for decision-making, apart from gaining competitive advantage of the firm (Thirathon et al., 2017).

The BDA implementation refers to the process of managing BDA resources, inclusive of technologies, people, and analytic processes (Koronios et al., 2014). The goal is to transform big data into valuable and meaningful information (Watson, 2014) through the use of analytic applications in gaining insights for effective decision-making and enhancing organizational performance (Aker et al., 2016a; Wamba et al., 2015). The analytic outcomes, which have been applied by business leaders and decision makers, have improved the quality of decision-making and captured business opportunities that facilitate better planning in management and operational activities (Wang et al., 2017). The BDA implementation contributes to strategic long-term planning to support business growth and value creation, which can enhance organizational performance (Popovič et al., 2016; Wang et al., 2017).

To date, organizations have invested in BDA to accomplish many analytical tasks, wherein BDA can be classified into various domains-specific, including supply chain management (Chen et al., 2015; Waller & Fawcett, 2013), manufacturing (Cao & Duan, 2014; Dutta & Bose, 2015; Popovič et al., 2016), retail (Wamba et al., 2017), financial (Huang et al., 2018), and healthcare (Wang & Byrd, 2017; Zainudin & Shamsuddin, 2016). As the application of big data has been successfully implemented across industrial organizations, the public sectors also seek the implementation of big data to effectively improve service delivery (Gamage, 2016).

Upon reckoning the impact of BDA applications, governments worldwide have begun investing heavily in big data initiatives, as big data have been applied effectively by a range of public sector entities in developed nations, including the USA, Australia, Japan, France, and Mexico, as well as developing nations, such as India, Malaysia, Bahrain, Chile, Brazil, and Kenya (Gamage, 2016). Gartner carried out a survey and revealed that analytics was ranked second in technologies that is crucial for investment to meet the mission of the public sector (Gamage, 2016). Meanwhile, heavy investment in BDA increases the impact of information technology (IT) on the

competitive capability of organizations, which has shifted the focus and attention on the need for effective big data implementation (Garmaki et al., 2016).

Big data is a new frontier for the public sector in the context of Malaysia. Daily operations in the public sector accumulate massive, rapid, and various types of datasets from a range of database sources. The advent of information in digital format has created vast opportunities, advantages, and potential value to public sector entities, as well as several governmental bodies, in terms of functional areas, such as health, defence, public safety, social services, transportation, disaster management, and tax (Gamage, 2016). Unlike the private domain, the implementation of big data across public sector entities mainly addresses several major national challenges associated with citizens, economy, employment opportunities, natural disasters, and terrorism (Anna & Nikolay, 2015). In this regard, many organizations, particularly the public sectors, have benefited from BDA implementation in a number of ways, such as cost reduction, enhanced service delivery, increased transparency, and improved decision making (Anna & Nikolay, 2015). With the status as a developing nation, Malaysia upholds that BDA initiatives can transform the delivery of public sector services. In steering the direction and strategic planning of successful BDA implementation, a BDA framework was built in light of the national and public sectors (Abdullah et al., 2017a).

Despite successful BDA implementation, there are few challenges that organizations have faced in relation to unfit capabilities, resources, and commitment of BDA technologies, such as insufficient analytics infrastructures (Janssen et al., 2017). These challenges have resulted in extended time for analyses, poor data quality, and lack of complete information (Kwon et al., 2014; Ji-fan Ren et al., 2016), which eventually affects the output presentation and incomplete analytic reports (LaValle et al., 2011). Poor data quality has led to low data utilisation efficiency and has even caused grave decision-making errors (Halaweh & El Massry, 2015; Cai & Zhu, 2015). Hence, big data users have been disappointed with the outcomes of the analytics due to incomplete analytic reports that somewhat affect the organizational decision and performance in an adverse manner (Abbas & Aggarwal, 2010). Furthermore, big data users have become concerned regarding the incompetent skills to critically analyse complex and unstructured data (Gamage, 2016; Gupta & George, 2016). Due to lack of analytical skills and experiences, they have failed to provide relevant analytic presentations and prepared incomplete reports for decision making (Kwon et al., 2014; Ji-fan Ren et al., 2016; Wamba et al., 2017). These issues exert a negative impact on corporate image and reputation, thus affecting the quality of decision-making and future business prospects. As a result, a number of organizations have begun to realise that the deployment of BDA does not entirely bring positive impact in decision-making for both private and public domains (Abbas & Aggarwal, 2010).

There is also a concern in relation to the increasing of operational budgets for future planning and financial investment in maximising the value of BDA implementation, which has drawn great challenges to decision makers. In ensuring the success of BDA implementation, McAfee and his colleague (McAfee & Brynjolfsson, 2012) have put

forward five management challenges and capabilities that are critical in big data environment, namely, leadership, talent management, technology infrastructure, decision-making, and company culture. Indeed, it is useful for the organization to further investigate the factors affecting successful BDA implementation in addressing new issues and uprising challenges (LaValle et al., 2011).

1.2 Problem Statement

In the Malaysian Public Sector, although earlier BDA initiatives have been successfully implemented in 2015, the successful rate by the government organizations has been growing very slow even after almost five years operations (Gamage, 2016). A number of issues have been highlighted in BDA implementation especially in the Malaysian organizations: the understanding of big data definition related to its V's characteristic, the role of information technology in BDA implementation, and the dispersion of data and the relevancy of BDA (Abdullah et al., 2017a). Even though the government organizations are keen to implement BDA, the various constraints of government as compared to private sector in terms of expert, financial and technological resources, could lead to complex and expensive BDA project that might affect their operations (Gupta & George, 2016; Halaweh & El Massry, 2015). Generally, the implementation of big data is not merely a technical issue, but linked with people and organizational resources issues (Huang et al., 2018), as some public sector entities have failed to succeed in BDA implementation. In fact, there were a few disaster stories in BDA implementation projects including insufficient resources in term of technology, employees, operational and financial, due to the lack of solid management tools for monitoring and evaluation on the success of BDA implementation process (Abbasi et al., 2016). This highlights the importance for big data users to know the pre-requisite factors since the implementation of BDA projects involves high level of implementation risks and investment to the organizations. Understanding the strengths and shortcomings of BDA affecting factors enhance the ability of the organizations to plan and develop their application strategy.

BDA implementation success has evolved, and the contributing factors are still under discussion. Several conceptual models derived from prior studies, which investigated the influence of big data capabilities on organizational performance, have been developed in light of the industrial stance (Akter et al., 2016). Current practical big data models have been largely based on the experience of income based companies which are rather different from that in public sectors (Akter et al., 2016; Huang et al., 2018; Jeble et al., 2018). Gupta and colleague (Gupta & George, 2016) determined the BDA capabilities for organizational performance: a cluster of data, basic resources and technology, managerial skills, technical skills, data-driven culture and the intensity of organizations learning. Their model, however, lacks of important factors such as organizational resources, information procession and information quality. Ji-fan et al. (2016) determined that information and data quality were among the few factors for achieving a great firm performance. In a similar study conducted in the United Kingdom (Cao & Duan, 2014), it was found out that information processing capability was among the important factors in achieving competitive advantage. On the contrary, Joshi and his colleague (Joshi & Biswas, 2018) recently determined that

the top management support and organizational commitment were among the important factors for achieving the success of big data adoption. Therefore, the prior studies, which were grouped with specific themes, did not measure the overall resources relationship between factors affecting successful BDA implementation. BDA organization requires multidimensional factors to ensure success in its implementation. Thus, a specific BDA implementation model focusing on government organization is essential to establish the solution for this theoretical bridge.

Based on the above reasons, a pressing need presently is to conduct studies on BDA implementation in the Malaysian Public Sector, on the affecting factors that contribute to the successful of BDA implementation so that the findings can improve the success rate of BDA implementation in the government organizations, as well as to address the uprising issues.

1.3 Research Questions

The research questions of this study are designed to guide the operational of this research, which include the following:

- (i) What are the factors affecting the success of BDA implementation?
- (ii) How does the integration of factors from organizational resources, technology resources and human resources able to affect successful BDA implementation?
- (iii) How does the BDA implementation model be functional and suitable for big data organizations in Malaysian Public Sector?

1.4 Research Objectives

The objectives of this present study are described as the following:

- (i) To investigate the factors affecting successful BDA implementation in the Malaysian Public Sector.
- (ii) To propose and evaluate a new approach of the BDA implementation model for Malaysian Public Sector.
- (iii) To validate the BDA implementation model using a prototype tool.

1.5 Scope of Research

The study focuses on investigating the factors that affect the successful of BDA implementation in the Malaysian Public Sector. This study analyses the primary data gathered from the government organizations that have involved in the First and Second Phases of the Malaysian Public Sector Big Data Analytics pilot studies listed

and monitored by Malaysian Administrative Modernisation and Management Planning Unit (MAMPU). The multi-group level of BDA team members in the government organizations in Klang Valley and Putrajaya, Malaysia, have been set as the respondents for the data collection. In the end, this study managed to gather data from a sample of 140 respondents. As the foundation to this study, resource-based view (RBV) and the updated DeLone & McLean Information Systems Success Model (ISSM) theories have been used as the supporting theories to support the research model.

1.6 Significance of Research

This section deliberates the significance of the study from theoretical and practical perspectives.

1.6.1 Theoretical Contribution

The main contribution of the study is that it provides a conceptual model for the big data analytics implementation by identifying the big data resource factors that affect the successfulness of BDA implementation in the Malaysian Public Sector. The relationships between the determinants, i.e. from organizational, talent and technology resources, contribute to the body of knowledge in big data environment.

1.6.2 Practical Contribution

The findings of this study will benefit both scholars and big data practitioners. The study also provides insights for organizational management, particularly top management, to maximise the BDA value for the organizational decision-making by evaluating the strengths and weaknesses of BDA resources that affecting its implementation. The findings from this study are useful in addressing the uprising BDA implementation issues and beneficial for future strategic investment decisions.

1.7 Thesis Organization

This thesis comprises of eight (8) chapters namely introduction, literature review, research methodology, model development, empirical study, prototype development and implementation of the proposed model, results and discussions, and finally, conclusions and future work. A brief description of each chapter is presented as follows:

Chapter 1: Introduction

The first chapter presents the overview and background of the research including the problem statement, research objectives, research scope and significance of the study. Thesis organization of the study is the end of chapter one.

Chapter 2: Literature Review

This chapter details out the literature review undertaken for the purpose of the research. Discussions regarding determinants in BDA implementation followed by the theory of the study are included. Past literatures are reviewed and discussed together with the variables related to the BDA implementation model, and consequently, the research gaps are highlighted.

Chapter 3: Research Methodology

This chapter explains the research methodology and statistical techniques adopted and used in the study. This chapter established the positivism research approach, quantitative method and survey design that includes research design, the procedure of the sample, data collection methods and research instrument. This section presents in-depth analysis of the expert opinion and the empirical evaluation of theoretical model. The research activity continues with a pilot study. Based on the data collected in the pilot study, the chapter discusses the validity and reliability of the survey instrument used before it can be used in the actual study. The research then continues with the development of the prototype, the implementation of the proposed model and the validation of the model by experts and BDA users.

Chapter 4: Model Development

This section discusses the development of the hypothesized model and the eleven research hypothesis.

Chapter 5: Empirical Study

This section presents the assessment of measurement and structural model using the Partial Least Square of Structural Equation Modelling (PLS-SEM) approach. This chapter presents detailed discussion on the findings of this study that include the significance of the relationship among the proposed constructs.

Chapter 6: Prototype Development and Implementation of the Proposed Model

This chapter illustrates the prototype design of the detailed steps involved in the development process, which include the prototype design, system architecture, module development, software requirement, and the prototype user interface design. It also presents the findings of the implementation framework for validating the

proposed model alongside evaluating the BDA implementation in the field of study. The implementation framework consists of the integration of the determinant from the revised model in Chapter 5, and then it continues with the evaluation process of the factors affecting the successful BDA implementation, which encompasses task assignment, assessment, AHP analysis, and finally the presentation of the assessment results.

Chapter 7: Results and Discussions

This chapter describes the results and findings of the implementation framework based on the verification and validation of the proposed model by the experts, followed by the evaluation involved during the testing of the prototype using the system usability scaling. This chapter concludes the discussion of the overall research.

Chapter 8: Conclusions and Future Work

This chapter presents the conclusion, theoretical and practical contribution of this research. It also presents the limitations and future directions of the study.

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