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## STUDENT PERSPECTIVE ON MLFL FOR LIFELONG VOYAGE

*PANDANGAN PELAJAR TERHADAP BAHASA MELAYU SEBAGAI  
BAHASA ASING (MLFL) DALAM MENJALANI KEHIDUPAN  
SEPANJANG HAYAT*

## Introduction

- This study are base on author teaching experience as a guest lecturer as Hankuk University of Foreign Studies (HUFS) started March this year, 2013 till end of February 2014.
- There are very limited time to planned this study but yet very urgent to understand some situation happen for Malay language future.

## Background

- This study is about the Department of Malay-Indonesia Translation and Interpretation (DMIT) student's perspective on the role of the Malay as a foreign language in their future plans.
- According to Chung Young-Rhim's report in 1998, Malay language became less attractive to student compared to 1964-1991 because its position as a communication medium in a private company is decreasing (Siti Khairiah, 2012).

- Malay language is among more than 40 languages has been offered as a major or minor course under the Faculty of Translation and Interpretation, HUFS, Global Campus, Yongin.
- Malay and Indonesian language under the same parents, but it teaches separately because of differences in some aspects.

- But for their second semester, they could choose the courses they preferred most.
- For this semester there are 39 students compared to previous semesters, 64 students, who register with 3 courses of Malay language courses.

- Malay language considers new at HUFS when it started its courses about ten years back compare to Indonesian has teach since 1964 .
- For the first semester of new intake student of DMIT, all students must register for both basic courses of Malay and Indonesian language.

- Compared to Japan, Korea are far behind than that country in terms of economic affairs when we refer to the brand, such as Kodak, Nikon, Honda, Mitsubishi, Toyota etc., which is well established among Malaysian, especially.
- Therefore, the Korean Government is encouraging their citizen to learn about others languages through a few high educational institutions which is specifically to study about foreign countries.

- Foreign language programme are mention in Second National Lifelong Learning: Promotion Plan (2008–2012)
- It is also for Korean economy expanded, where they started to set up their market target on Southeast Asia, where Malay are spoken widely.

- When its' become important to Korea but Malay language in the opposite situation among DMIT student, they must have their own reason, experience and perception.
- The reason and opinion from this student may help the survival of the Malay language as a foreign language at this university in the future.

## Methodology

- For data collection:
  - Survey by questionnaire
  - Interview
- Questionnaire for this study produced according to the university, foreign language, student and parent roles keyword of Second National Lifelong Learning: Promotion Plan (2008–2012), produced by the Ministry of Education, Science & Technology, Republic of Korea (SNLL).

- At the end of the two months collecting data period, this study managed to have a 52 return survey forms or respondents.
- Research data were process using Excel Processor for simple statistic figure and the analysis is based on SNLL and these study objectives.

- This study aims to identify the student's perspective on Malay language roles for their future and lifelong.
- The study also wants to know the strength and weakness of the language according to their knowledge and learning experience.

## Finding and Discussion: Respondents' Profile

- Respondents of this study are categorized in SNLL as a young adult with their age are between 20 to 24 year old whose completion of regular school education, preparing for entrance into the labour market and preparing for family composition.
- This study manages to get 52 respondents who return the questionnaire via email and by hand. The range of respondents' age in this study is wider compared to SNLL range.
- This is because of a few situations that required student to extend their duration of studies.

- Male student has a long year of study because they have to attend a two year military training which is compulsory for 20-22 years old Korean male citizen.
- HUFs students also have a right to take a leave from their study for one or two semesters if they insist.
- One of the reasons for this situation is students have to work to support their study beside financial from parents and scholarship.
- This is the answer to the finding for item 'Years of Registration at HUFs' showed a range between 2007 till recently, 2013.

- If we refer to the Table 1, there are 'Blank' rows for each item which means it has left empty. The item 'Sex' is hitting 13.5% which is the higher from other items.
- Previous study (Author, 2013) found out that they did not sure about word 'jantina,' a Malay word for sex.
- The word is new for them because they are more familiar with Indonesian's word, 'kelamin' for the same meaning.
- There is small index but could lead about the situation because the closest 'competition' to Malay language become stronger at this University is Indonesian language which have more than 90% similarity in linguistic aspects.

Table 1: Respondent Profiles

Respondent	Total	Percentage
<b>Age</b>		
≤ 19	0	0.00%
20 - 24	42	80.8%
≥ 25	7	13.5%
Blank	3	5.8%
<b>Sex</b>		
Female	23	44.2%
Male	22	42.3%
Blank	7	13.5%
<b>Years of Registration at HUFs</b>		
2007 - 2010	21	40.9%
2011 - 2012	11	21.2%
2013	16	30.8%
Blank	4	7.7%
<b>Major</b>		
Economic	1	1.9%
MAIN	48	92.3%
Mathematic	1	1.9%
Blank	1	1.9%
<b>Minor</b>		

continue from previous

	No	22	42.3%
	Administration/ Politics and Diplomatic	3	5.8%
	Advertising/ Community Content/ Journalism	4	7.7%
	Business/ International Business/ Economics	5	9.6%
	English/ France /Thai	6	11.5%
	Management /International Management/ Management Information	9	17.3%
	MAIN	3	5.8%
	Blank	1	1.9%
<b>Working Experience(s)</b>			
	No	45	86.5%
	Yes	6	11.5%
	Blank	1	1.9%
	RESPONDENTS	52	100%

## Student Perception

- Discussion/survey will divide into 3 main parts:
  - Malay language as a course/major/minor,
  - General knowledge about the language, and
  - Malay language and career.

Table 2: Factor of choosing a Malay language as a course (a)

Attractiveness	Percentage (figure)				
	Strongly Agree	Agree	Less Agree	Disagree	Blank
1. Interest	11.5% (6)	21.2% (10)	11.5% (6)	5.8% (3)	0% (0)
6. Interested compared to other languages	15.4% (8)	22.6% (11)	17.3% (9)	7.7% (4)	0% (0)
7. More important compared to other languages	7.7% (4)	23.3% (12)	34.6% (18)	3.9% (2)	0% (0)
8. Want to work in Malaysia	9.6% (5)	28.3% (13)	34.6% (18)	5.8% (3)	1.9% (1)
9. Want to working within linguistic area	9.6% (5)	20.8% (10)	32.7% (17)	7.7% (4)	0% (0)

Table 2: Factor of choosing a Malay language as a course (b)

Parents	Percentage (figure)			
	Strongly Agree	Agree	Less Agree	Disagree
2. Discussions	9.6% (5)	51.0% (27)	26.9% (14)	11.5% (6)
3. Encourage	7.7% (4)	62.3% (32)	23.1% (12)	26.9% (14)
4. Working in Malaysia	3.9% (2)	3.9% (2)	1.9% (1)	90.4% (47)
5. Own business in Malaysia	0% (0)	5.8% (3)	5.8% (3)	88.4% (46)

Chart 1 Source for Information of Malay Language

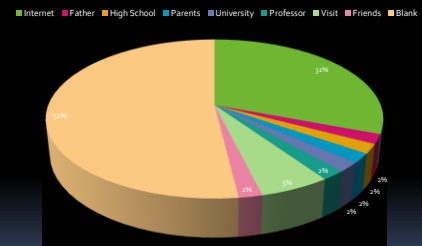


Table 3 Malay Language as a Course (a)

Position and role	PERCENTAGE (FIGURE)				
	Strongly Agree	Agree	Less Agree	Disagree	Blank
20. Useful to myself	28.8% (15)	48.1% (25)	21.2% (11)	1.9% (1)	0% (0)
21. Useful to my country	15.4% (8)	55.8% (29)	23.1% (12)	3.8% (2)	1.9% (1)
22. Good to offer as a course	21.2% (11)	61.5% (32)	13.5% (7)	1.9% (1)	1.9% (1)
23. No differences whether offer or not	1.9% (1)	46.2% (24)	40.4% (21)	7.7% (4)	3.8% (2)

Table 3 Malay Language as a Course (b)

	PERCENTAGE (FIGURE)				
	Very Proud	Proud	Less Proud	Not Proud	Blank
19. Learn the language	30.8% (16)	53.8% (28)	13.5% (7)	1.9% (1)	0% (0)

- Second part of this survey is focus directly to the Malay language roles in student or respondents career path.
- This part divided to the two aspects: 'Advantage' and 'Value.' Advantage in this case means the prospect of the language itself to lead its user in good condition for job hunting.
- In other words, the language has an economic value, create an attractive profile and broad in the job specification

Table 4: Malay language and career (a)

Advantage	PERCENTAGE (FIGURE)				
	Strongly Agree	Agree	Less Agree	Disagree	Blank
10. Potential	38.4% (20)	51.9% (27)	9.6% (5)	0% (0)	0% (0)
11. Future career	17.3% (9)	61.3% (32)	11.5% (6)	9.8% (2)	5.8% (3)
12. More job opportunity	19.2% (10)	52.4% (28)	11.5% (6)	1.9% (1)	0% (0)
16. Expand job specification	23.1% (12)	61.4% (32)	13.5% (7)	0% (0)	1.9% (1)
17. Opportunity for preferred job	38.4% (20)	46.2% (24)	9.6% (5)	3.8% (2)	1.9% (1)
18. Easier to involved in target area	13.5% (7)	61.4% (32)	21.2% (11)	1.9% (1)	1.9% (1)

Table 4: Malay language and Career (b)

Value	PERCENTAGE (FIGURE)				
	Strongly Agree	Agree	Less Agree	Disagree	Blank
13. Team Work	3.8% (2)	63.5% (33)	28.8% (15)	3.8% (2)	0% (0)
14. Expose to work etiquette	11.5% (6)	51.9% (27)	32.7% (17)	1.9% (1)	1.9% (1)
15. Increase leadership ability	1.9% (1)	48.1% (25)	44.2% (23)	3.8% (2)	1.9% (1)

## Conclusion

- There are few conclusions:
- Student found put on trust on Malay language in build their future especially according to responses to statement about advantage of Malay language.
- Competition with Indonesia language should be a very good reason for Malay language teacher to introduce its identity, and the similarity and the differences between two languages.

- Malaysian need to working harder to attract more Korean entrepreneur or others, to invest in Malaysia as this could be a very good reason for them to learn Malay language.
- University and college in Malaysia should aggressively introduce and promote a package of basic Malay language learning, training or cultural language experience to attract and introduce foreigners to the national language.
- Malaysian should increase or correct about perception that Malay language are not speak widely in its country.

- HUFS is a higher learning institution that government looking forward to their big contribution towards lifelong learning education. So far, HUFS has a very strong partnership with Samsung (one of them), the company put in trust for University give his staff and officer, at 10 weeks Malay language learning before they're sent to Malaysia to advanced level.

TERIMA KASIH|THANKYOU  
*Thanks for your attention.*