

THE USE OF STANDARD MALAY LANGUAGE IN WRITING BY THE FIRST YEAR STUDENTS OF YALA RAJABHAT UNIVERSITY

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Abstract

This paper explores the use of standard Malay language in Writing by Yala Rajabhat University Students First year. It focuses on the problems commonly appear on students' written text, spelling, diction, and affixation. The design of the study is descriptive qualitative. Forty students majoring in Malay participated in this study. Written assignments and interviews were conducted to obtain the data. The results of this study indicated that there were various mistakes in the use of standard Malay language in writing by Yala Rajabhat University Students First year Major of Malay including spelling, diction, and affixation and these all were associated with students' language background, in that Malay is used as the mother tongue of three provinces (i.e. Pattani, Yala, and Narathiwat) in South Thailand .

Keywords: Malay language, writing, conceptual learning

INTRODUCTION

This paper deals with the use of standard Malay language for the correct use of spelling, diction, and affix. The focus of this research is whether the use of any standard Malay language vocabulary on an essay by students in the first-year majoring in Malay at the Rajabhat Yala University, Thailand has paid attention to enhanced spelling (Ejaan yang disempurnakan, hereinafter EYD). This study aims to: (a) obtain the description of non-fiction writing skills for students majoring in Malay in the first-year at Yala Rajabhat University in Thailand; (b) get an idea of the appropriateness of using standard Malay vocabulary with EYD, diction and affixation rules and description of the types of errors appeared in the essay of Malay-major students at Yala Rajabhat University, Thailand, (c) obtain the description of the practical use of direct method.

This is descriptive research. The population of this study is the first-year students majoring in Malay language at Yala Rajabhat University, Thailand. The total participants participated in the study were 40 students. Data collection techniques employed in this study were assigning tasks and interviews.

The results showed that the use of standard Malay language in nonfiction writing varies in terms of EYD, affix and diction. The results of this study suggest that the teachers teaching standard Malay language to students majoring in Malay to know which parts of the target language (standard Malay language) is difficult to understand by the students, and how to overcome them, so that the students can use the standard Malay language accurately.

The willingness and the urge to use one of the languages is sort of human need –to make contact with other human beings. Language ability itself is clearly not just an instinct. Indeed, it is a natural to every human being language to possess language and this nature may be regarded as ordinary practice, so that there is no need to pay special attention to that language to be used correctly in accordance with its function in society.

Language cannot be separated from human activity. Starting from waking up in the morning until the night when he rests. Humans do not get out of the language. Even when they sleep they use language. When one speaks, he is essentially using a language because language is a tool used to express idea and feelings as well as the desires and actions.

Language is also a tool used to influence others or to be influenced by others. Language is the foundation to value the norms.

Through the writings of Malay-major students, the researcher hopes to measure the extent to which their Malay language are written. After knowing the background / history of learning process / learning of standard Malay language of the participants, the writer expects to find out the causes of problems in writing by Malay –major students. This is especially in terms of spelling, affix and diction. It is also to elaborate concept of process model in learning and teaching standard Malay at schools. Thus, through this study the researcher expects to know what is necessary.

Research problems

Based on the background of the research mentioned above, the researcher analyzes the linguistic error of Malay as written by Malay-major students in the first year based on the following aspect.

- a. How the student mastery is with nonfiction writing?
- b. Do Malay –major students use standard Malay language vocabulary, diction and affix on their essay and what language errors do they often make?
- c. How the conceptual learning model is employed to learning writing for Malay-major students?

Research purposes

In accordance with the research problems mentioned above, then this goal is to

- a. Obtain a picture of student mastery in writing non fiction.
- b. Gain a picture of the appropriateness of using standard Malay vocabulary with EYD, diction and affix and illustration of the types of mistakes appeared in Malay-major students.
- c. Gain a picture of practical use of theory on direct method.

The scope of research

This research is a study on the use of Malay language standard in writing. This research was conducted by analyzing the use of standard Malay language seen from the mastery of spelling, diction and affixation. The things done in this study are:

- a. Collecting data of writing test results in the form of essay by students in semester one.
- b. Conducting interviews with Malay-major students in semester one.
- c. Analyzing standard Malay errors against their essays based on spelling errors, word selection (diction, affixation).

Delimitations of the research

The data analyzed in this research are nonfiction essay and interview data made by Malay-major student in year one. Data were analyzed in the form of spelling mistake, word selection (diction, affixation). The dominance of standard Malay errors in the essay possibly because they do not control the vocabulary and other linguistic elements, avoid its use in making the essay. Nonfiction essay used as the data in this study was written Malay-major students in the first semester.

The following formulation of terminology that will appear in this study. In order to obtain the unity of research, some of the terms are used in this research.

- a. Use of standard Malay

- The use of standard Malay language intended in this study refers to the writing of spelling, word selection and affixation and the dominance of misuse of standard Malay vocabulary.
- b. Writing style
Writing style in this study refers to languages use in writing media, not bound by space and time so that required completeness of the structure to the target visually (KBBI, 2001: 920).
 - c. Nonfiction articles
The definition of nonfiction in this study is an essay that is not imaginary, not a real invention by actual silent work (KBBI, 2001: 506).
 - d. The teaching model is a pattern of what will be created or produced (KBBI, 2001: 751) in this case it covers the problem of teaching, both teachers and students desperately want or expect that in the acquisition of standard Malay language can run properly and successfully.
 - e. The conceptual learning model of writing is a pattern of things to be created or produced, in this case covering the problem of teaching and learning to write comprehensively.
 - f. Students majoring in Malay are students studying in the first semester of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Science of Yala Rajabhat University, Thailand, in total 40 students.

METHOD

In this study the researcher uses qualitative descriptive method that aims to describe the things that become the focus of research, the approach used in this research is phenomenological approach. Phenomenological is about the phenomenon or that seems to explore the essence of the meaning contained the five qualitative research features, they are:

1. The researcher himself as the main instrument comes directly to the data source.
2. The data collected in this study is more likely in the form of words than the numbers
3. Explain that the results of research more emphasis on the process is not solely on the results
4. Through inductive analysis the researcher reveals the meaning of the observed state.
5. Expressing meaning as essential from a qualitative approach

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

In addition to providing writing test to the students, interviewing Malay-major students were conducted by the researcher to provide data. The data obtained were then analyzed based on the standard Malay on the errors appeared in students' writing. The errors that occurred were classified into three categories: spelling errors, word selection errors (diction) and affixation errors. All preliminary findings were then tabulated so as to facilitate the researcher to describe the problem of the standard Malay errors made by Malay-major students in writing essays.

Based on the data analysis, it appears that the standard Malay errors occurred are dominated by spelling error. This is due to the influence of Language Acquisition Device (LAD) of Malay-major students who are familiar with the spelling based on the first language. Thus, there are many writing of phoneme / a / were transcribed into / e / or vice versa. To support these findings, the researcher consulted the results of interviews. The result of interview indicated that spelling errors occur due to students' difficulty to check out the original Malay speech as there are many dialects used in the region.

The second most common errors were affixation. It is because students' native language has no affixation, unlike Malay. The error of diction is due to the difficulty of the students in choosing which word is appropriate for use in the sentences. Therefore, a special

method is needed for the students to learn standard Malay language. The researcher hopes that through this study, the Malay teachers understand what points needed to improve the teaching of standard Malay to Malay-major students in Thailand. The results of this study indicate that one of the essays made by the students majoring in Malay includes nonfiction essay and used standard Malay language writing. There were nine argumentative essays, six descriptive essays, five expository essays, three narrative essays, and four persuasive essays.

Based on the research results, students majoring in Malay Yala Rajabhat University, Thailand is estimated 73% have been able to make nonfiction essay.

CONCLUSIONS AND SUGGESTIONS

The result of data analysis 40 students majoring in Malay language, 24 students did not understand the vocabulary well and 16 students understood the vocabulary well. Therefore, 83% of students majoring in the Malay language did understand Malay vocabulary well.

The results of this study implies that the appropriate learning model for students majoring in Malay at Yala Rajabhat University, Thailand is a direct learning method. In this study the researcher used a qualitative approach with descriptive qualitative methods. Data collection technique in this study is the researcher herself. Based on data analysis, standard Malay errors that occurred are dominated by spelling errors, this is due to the influence of their first language namely Thai and Pattani Malay dialect.

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