

**RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN READING ATTITUDES AND  
READING COMPREHENSION PERFORMANCE OF EFL  
LIBYAN SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS IN  
MALAYSIA**

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**By**

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of Arts in Teaching of English to Speakers of Other Languages  
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Communication and Education**

**IUKL**

**2016**

## **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 Infrastructure University Kuala Lumpur or at any other institution.

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**ABSTRACT**

This study investigates the relationship between reading attitudes and reading comprehension performance of EFL Libyan secondary school students in Malaysia. It examines reading attitudes of EFL Libyan secondary school students and identifies the challenges that these students encounter while trying to comprehend a reading text. This study used mixed method design, both quantitative (questionnaire) and qualitative (interview) methods. Questionnaires containing 22 items were handed out to 100 EFL Libyan secondary school students in two schools in Malaysia to measure their reading attitudes and to explore the relationship between reading attitudes and their reading comprehension performance based on their latest score in the reading comprehension test. Interviews were conducted with six students to get more information about the challenges that these students encounter while trying to comprehend a reading text. Data analysis was done using SPSS version 21.0 for quantitative data and Nvivo version 10 for qualitative data. The results showed that there is a positive significant relationship between reading attitudes and reading comprehension performance of EFL Libyan secondary school students in Malaysia. The study also found that the participants have neutral attitude towards reading and their attitude influences their performance in reading comprehension. They face challenges while trying to comprehend a reading text. The study suggests that teachers should put in extra efforts to improve students' attitudes towards reading in order to enhance their interest and excitement towards reading. This will then be reflected in their reading comprehension performance.

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## APPROVAL

We have examined this manuscript and verify that it meets the programme and university requirement for the degree of Master of Arts in Teaching of English to Speakers of Other Languages.

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## LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

<b>EFL</b>	English as Foreign Language
<b>CLT</b>	Communicative Language Teaching
<b>L1</b>	First Language
<b>L2</b>	Second Language
<b>RAQ</b>	Reading Attitudes Questionnaire
<b>SPSS</b>	Statistical Package for Social Sciences
<b>Q</b>	Question
<b>M</b>	Mean
<b>N</b>	Number
<b>SD</b>	Standard Deviation
<b>Sig</b>	Significant
<b>H</b>	Hypothesis
<b>P</b>	Pearson Correlation
<b>Refs</b>	Reference

## **CHAPTER 1**

### **INTRODUCTION**

#### **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

Language is learnt with the application of four basic language skills i.e. listening, speaking, writing and reading. Reading is the ability to understand words which are in a document and use to the knowledge to help them grow and develop (Dadzie, 2008). This means making meaning out of recorded information either in printed or non-printed format. People read for different purposes and reasons namely relaxation, pleasure, leisure, gaining information and knowledge (Bhan & Gupta, 2010). Reading is identification of symbols and relating the symbols to their appropriate meaning. Therefore, reading involves identification and comprehension. The comprehension skills will help the learners to understand meaning of words in context and in isolation (Palani, 2012).

Wallace (2010) mentioned the significance of reading in language learning and its role in improving a learner's proficiency when the learner reads more. Reading is an important tool for knowledge transfer as it enables the learners to understand academic subjects and pass examination. The ability to read is an important skill for students because information is presented in the form of text in books, magazines, newspaper, website etc. It is important to note that the current global economy requires an individual to acquire reading skills effectively to enable them cope with the world and contribute to the society's development.

Reading is regarded as an exercise to the mind since it requires an academic and mental activity, waking up the imagination, instantaneously calming and motivating the mind

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