

## **The Resistance Faced by Teachers and Students during a Change in the Education System**

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**ABSTRACT:** *The aims of the study are to identify the resistance and reaction of teachers and pupils of SMK Raja Perempuan Kelsom during the change of subject mathematics and science language change to Bahasa English from Bahasa Malaysia. This study analyses the changes of Malaysian education systems give important to Bahasa English. It was how important to the future generation. The objectives of the study were to investigate the reaction of the mathematics and science teacher to using English as the language to communicate, the problem address by these teachers in using English in classroom and the availability of language support systems. The resistance and the problem faced by the teachers and students to adapt the changes. This study involved the teachers and students from SMK Raja Perempuan Kelsom. The study emerged that teachers of mathematics and science are generally perspective of the change in the language but needing some sustainable measure to not only improve their language ability and delivery. Thus, it is hope that certain measure will address on teachers and pupils struggle and resistance to ensure the changes.*

**KEYWORDS:** *Mathematics, Science, English, Teaching, resistance, resistance of change.*

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### **I. INTRODUCTION**

Malaysia one of the developing countries and changed to developed countries based on information technology. Malaysia has made various changes to the direction of information and communication technology advancement encompassing learning in similar institutions of higher rank or schools. Education is a key role in developing a country, so the teaching and learning process in the classroom is the first step in the future of a country. In today world science and mathematics are most important subject that helps to grow up and make changes in human society. Every day, every month and every year new knowledge updated all the time, introduced by scientists and researchers to the world community. Our Prime Minister was aware of this Malaysian lack of behind in understanding of English education. At the same time Malaysia faced unemployment problem. When our Prime Minister take a look in this problem, he identified that all freshers were faced up unemployment problem occur because of they not good in speaking or writing in English. So Prime Minister Dr. Mahathir Mohamad take decision to bring improvement the standard of English among Malaysian student by change teaching and learning system of Mathematics And science into Bahasa English. Our Prime Minister execute this idea and make changes in Malaysian Education Systems with helps of Education Minister in 2003.

So, our government decide that changes should bring from the students. At primary school they made the changes only in year one student only but at secondary they involved Form one student and lower six student on that year. Main aim of government is to standardize of English among Malaysian student. The developments that occur in attractive degrees depend on the teachers to make changes. To bring up changes in student first of all the teacher should change itself. The government is responsible for producing innovative, effective and creative teachers, creative thinking and producing quality teachers such as the opening of teachers' day 2012 by YAB Tan Sri Muhyiddin Bin Haji Mohd Yassin:

#### **Guru Inovatif Melonjakkan Transformasi Pendidikan Negara**

“In changes of globalization that is increasingly colored by the economics of science and innovation, so in my opinion, good teachers are innovating teachers. Let me give you some hints about what is meant by innovating teachers. In my observation, the innovation is a teacher who has the ability to equip the skills of new such as critical thinking skills, problem-solving intelligence and high creativity. In this context, before stepping into the classroom, a teacher is innovating in the curriculum and assessing what success is to achieve. When in the classroom, innovative teachers will not be bound by a way of teaching and learning, always thinking outside of the ordinary thinking box to find new methods and new approaches. Importantly, the objective of the learners is achieved.

Innovative teachers are teachers who are always thinking about the challenges the pupils will face after they step out of the school environment, and whether the knowledge learned at schools can give them the edge to compete in the real world. For that, innovating teachers will always use a variety of methods and ways to sharpen the thinking, creativity and resilience of the students, and subsequently make them competitive and noble. All our teachers in our country are innovative teachers, I am confident that our goal to produce human capital that is knowledgeable, creative, innovative and competent will be achieved....". (speech by Menteri Pendidikan YAB Tan Sri Muhyiddin Bin Haji Mohd Yassin).

This proves that the teacher responsibility and the relationship between students will more conflict. All changes in educational policy in our country also influence and focus on teachers' assignments in order to implement changing needs at school. This brings challenges to school leaders in the effort to mobilize school organizational education towards strengthening new practices in education development. therefore, the education ministry of Malaysia (KPM) needs to be patient with the willingness of teachers in implementing any changes brought by schools to be enhanced by influencing factors.

A theoretical on the implementation of policy of teaching science and mathematics in English it highlighting its strengths and weaknesses. All around of Malaysia all secondary or primary school will faced up the resistance of the changes in this both subject. In our study we going to study the resistance of change faced and impact of by the one of the secondary schools, SMK Raja Perempuan Kelsom.

SMK Raja Perempuan Kelsom one of the famous government school. It was fully girls' school and the first medium of communicate is was Bahasa Malaysia. The percentage of school student's 98 percent Malay girls and 2 percent from Indian girls. This school more to cultured and discipline. Every year the produced a high achievement in all government exam and graph will show increasing level in every year report.

While in January 2003, the government decided to bring a prejudice to the education system. math's and science subjects need to be taught in English. This brings many tents from the teachers, parents and parents. then many discussions of this change are practiced in the Malaysian system. This brings a variety of challenges to teachers and students of SMK Raja Perempuan Kelsom who are ordinary to speak and learn in Malaysia.

They faced so many resistances of sudden changes. The causes of resistance can be cause dislike of change, lo tolerance of uncertainty, perceived negative tort, culture, lack of clarity and be more causes. All the cause combine come out as problems that need to face by teacher, student, parent and our society. The reaction of teacher to student, student to teacher and reaction of school management to parents, parents to school management are complicated to achieve their goal. Resistance is a natural response by human being when face a new change. Resistance stimulates strong emotion and strong language.

Change is necessary, every change will bring up a new lesson to the world. Every new change start with arguments, will proceed explore the cause of resistance, will found the sign or symptoms of lastly come out with result. Same like what happen at SMK Raja Perempuan Kelsom. When government bring the change in learning and teaching in mathematics and science into English, they show the negative reaction by teachers and students. Not only teachers and students, but parents and a handful of people to feel difficult to adapt their self to this new change in education systems. The people will show symptoms of resistance in a way of finding fault and blaming each other, arguing, appealing to fear and more.

### **Why government make changes in teaching and learning of mathematics and science in English**

This is the age of science and mathematics to improve the stage of development and community development. There is so many terms and method of mathematics and science that can't be translated into Malay translators as fast as possible and we lack the science and mathematics translator in the Malay language. On the other hand, if we learn by our own self mathematics and science in English, we will be able to directly access all the sciences that are explored and recorded. Our government identify how important learn English to now generation and that it would be helps in future to bring up their self in stage of education people and to reduce the unemployment. Increasing of number of unemployed by the fresher. Fresher is who just finish their diploma and degree and enter to the real-life world. When in student life they no need worried about anything everything will prepare by others. Once finished it they need to stand own leg not to depend to other. When they come out to and find out work there was, they realized how important English. These graduates had difficulties findings job because they lacked proficiency in English. There are other factors contributing to graduate unemployment, the lack of proficiency in English is certainty one major factor that affects their chance in securing employment, especially in the private sector. This business world looking for person who can well speak and good in English. That's why our Prime Minister take the big decision of change Mathematics and Science teach and learn in English. The government is able to master the language skills of hearing, speaking, reading and writing with this change. our government expect that all society wants to learn to and adapt to English. English language is not only giving importance to mathematics and science subjects it will also bring about the business era. Our business era changed from the system barter to the money transaction. Now it developed online transaction. You can access everything from the place you sit and can buy by online

transaction. Developed of technology can buy all items online. online transaction all in English. The business world is now all using the English language as a medium of communicate. So, our government decide that changes should bring from the students. At primary school they made the changes only in year one student only but at secondary they involved Form one student and first year of lower six student start from the year. Main aim of government is to standardize of English among Malaysian student.

#### **Reaction teacher and student at classroom**

Main problem that faced by teacher and students of SMK Raja Perempuan Kelsom in classroom is using English as a medium of communication. They felt problem in adjusting their self to in English words and pronounce correctly it. The teacher well trained in Bahasa Malaysia in teaching the terms and method of mathematics and science at least 5 to ten years. They felt difficult in express themselves in English. The teacher had sent to training of 'teaching and learning in English' special course and programming provide by government to all mathematics and science teacher for first two years to make the teacher comfortable with these new changes. After the few years later also, teacher still have some problem that not using correct grammar when they teach. The teacher also improves their self along help student to improve and can't able to understand their lesson run by the teachers.

The teacher found that the main problem when they explaining concept in English the student cannot understand and the teacher still need to use Bahasa Malaysia to explain it. The students show reaction make absentees to class, sleeping and never give concentration during class time. The teacher not meet language problem only also discipline problem to. SMK Raja Perempuan Kelsom teacher can't produce the batter result because of the student can't perform well in school or public exam. Other problem that faced by students is textbook and multimedia courseware provided by government. They said the textbook to be too brief example and description and thus was not very useful especially to low level of students. The multimedia course ware was also said to be unsuitable for teaching skill method because they not to able to understand the language used deliver the content.

#### **Reaction of parents and society to change of**

The parent and society showing a big resistance to the change of mathematics and science in English from the starting point of discussion in year2002. They felt how the second language of school can give this much important due mother tongue. Parents and our society never accept this type of changes. Malay or non – Malay advocate of mother tongue should be first language in education. Society tort why government never extended the time of study English period rather than teach mathematics and science in English. They fight for place of mother tongue do not take by other language. They too worried about the children achievement is dropped slowly. At the same times Parents also show hand to teacher that they not yet believe himself that they can taught in English. SMK Raja Perempuan Kelsom parent's association mention that teacher use both language to student so there is no systematic in daily lesson. when student learn from both language the felt that they can't be master it in any other lessons. Parent have to arrange extra classes to help their children to improve their self in other side the parents and society are also worried about if the children well in English language they will forget their own culture and followed to the western culture. They also feel the consequences of learning mathematics and science in English language in the long run their children will master the English language and lag behind Bahasa Malaysian. Our society afraid of to the future generation will follow the other culture and will be a big gab between own culture and as soon it would be disappeared in long term. Our Malaysian people stand with many cultures but they all stand together to fight for their mother tongue.

#### **Problem of proficiency in the Language Medium**

Main concern arising out of the implementation of the policy of teaching science and mathematics in English is the ability of SMK Raja Perempuan Kelsom students to use English as an effective tool to acquire knowledge. The lack proficiency in English among SMK Raja Perempuan Kelsom students has been clearly illustrated in the foregoing. SMK Raja Perempuan Kelsom students do not have the linguistic capacity to engage in English instruction. This problem more acute in teaching of science and mathematics as the language used in these two subjects it often reduced involve of cognitive -academic language proficiency (CALP). CALP is ability to engage in abstract highly demanding circumstances (Ovando&Collier,1985). SMK Raja Perempuan Kelsom students attend extra classes and teacher give extra work for them to learn science and mathematics effectively. Teacher also give group discussion, slide presentation, debating, talk about a topic and more to interpersonal communicative skill ( BICS) in English. BICS involves face- to- face communicate skills which, includes the ability to complex a conversation using contextual feedback from another speaker. Policy of teaching science and mathematics in English is also hampered by inability SMK Raja Perempuan Kelsom teachers to teach in English as they lack the required level of competency in English. Teachers were also sent for in- service courses to equip them with the necessary skills to handle ICT as well as to improve their

competency in English. ICT- assisted pedagogy can never replace the need for interactive communication between teachers and student, which forms the core of classroom teaching. Teacher were competent in English, the training of teachers to teach more and be more comfortable with second language. It was reported by SMK Raja Perempuan Kelsom teachers that they had not picked up the required competency in English. They attempt to ensure that teachers have required competency in English. Government has underrated the magnitude of the problem that it faced in implementing the policy of teaching science and mathematics.

### **Negative perception by management**

SMK Raja Perempuan Kelsom management feel those who want to implement this say that this action is not against the National Education Policy and will not affect the full extent of the Malay language as its position is guaranteed because it has been enacted in the constitution. They feel this decision narrow nationalist language and fanatical language. That is the fate of the national language fighters from the first to today. The government promote to make the decision? It is said that this action was taken to enhance Malay language proficiency in Malay students. It is said that their English proficiency is very weak and needs to be improved so that they can gain knowledge, especially in the field of science and technology in English. This is a necessity that needs to be addressed and sought after to overcome it. School management mention that if Malay students are weak in English. Malay students are weak in math. Malay students are weak in science. If using the language itself is difficult how to use a foreign language can solve the problem. In 2003, only two primary schools were taught in English. When it comes to high school then the whole science and commerce department will be taught in English. What will happen when it comes to IPT rankings? Who will use Bahasa Melayu as an introduction only the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences and Islamic Studies only. In the faculty of social science, many subjects such as mathematics, statistics, geology and others will be taught in English. The management mentioned it that use of English as the medium of instruction for science and mathematics is an act of killing Malay language smoothly.

### **Health concern**

SMK Raja Perempuan Kelsom teachers and parents are worry about student health concern. Health concern is on off the resistance of change. Depression, fear, nervousness and worry that can generate or induce nervousness automatically. Nervousness is a symbol of worries it will build toxic substances. Whenever a person feels anxiety, they uncontrolled itself. Anxiety bring up differences between beliefs, feelings and behaviors in relation to the use of a second language in their class room. Teaching and learning system Bahasa English as a second language in class room make causing due to trauma to the teacher and students. Teaching effectively and innovative make student and teacher depressed and feel worries about it. Some of them may be feel emotional stress cause of don't have any experience or less trained to use the language. Not much, researcher conduct about health concern and stress that they faced up due to the changes still new Malaysian study. So that don't have much point to discuss about it. Stress will bring or will make the situation to more complexity to the teacher.

## **II. CONCLUSION**

The implementation of English being medium of teaching and learning science and mathematics in SMK Raja Perempuan Kelsom. English being a second language of SMK Raja Perempuan Kelsom that was first issues. Second issues is reaction of teacher and student continue to third issues parent and society reaction of changes mathematics and science in English. Fourth issues discussing is problem of proficiency in the Language Medium and last issues is health concern. These inter- related issues form the underlying concerns of this paper.

The mother tongue is most suitable language to communicate and as primary education, use of second language in teaching and learning mathematics and science. Second language is weaker language of most student, it follows that they do not possess the required level CALP. Mother tongue is strongly advocated as the communicate. The lack of CALP in the second language will definitely retard the learning processes. Although the use of multimedia teaching will reduce to a certain extent the language barrier faced by student and teachers, it is replacement for linguistic skills needed for interactive teaching and learning. Implementation of the policy of teaching science and mathematics in English in SMK Raja Perempuan Kelsom. It is evident to student and teacher in long term planning the student will be well proficiency in English and all the effort by teacher will give positive result.

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