TEACHING MATHEMATICS AND SCIENCE IN ENGLISH: IN TWO SECONDARY SCHOOLS IN GOMBAK, KUALA LUMPUR

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RESEARCH PAPER SUBMITTED IN PARTIAL FULLFILMENT OF THE REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEGREE B.A (HONS) ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND COMMUNICATION

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AUGUST 2008

ABSTRACT

This research examines the teaching of Mathematics and Science in English language as a medium of instruction in secondary schools which has been implemented in the year 2003 in order to keep abreast with scientific and technological development. Students use language to communicate and to understand Science and Mathematics concept. This may create problems in learning these two subjects. In order to understand how the current changes of teaching and learning Mathematics and Science in English language took place in Malaysian classroom, a study was conducted to examine and analysis from Form One, Two, Four and Six from two secondary schools in Kuala Lumpur to get a clearer picture on what have happened regarding the learning and teaching of Mathematics and Science subjects in secondary schools.

The research instrument was a set of self made questionnaire with eighteen questions for students and a set of questionnaire with thirteen questions for teachers. These questionnaires were designed to identify students' and teachers' perception on learning and teaching these two subjects. The respondents consist of 130 students and 10 teachers from two different secondary schools in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

The researcher found out that the respondents agreed to the importance of English language in their everyday lives as well as in their career opportunities. However, the students felt that learning these two subjects in English are very difficult to comprehend due to the lack of ability to understand the subject matters in English language. The result showed that learning Mathematics and Science in English language is more difficult than in Malay language. The findings revealed that there are challenges for the students and teachers to work together to overcome students' difficulties in learning these two subjects in English language and to promote effective learning to students.