

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS' PERCEPTION TOWARDS THEIR NATIVE AND
NON-NATIVE ENGLISH TEACHERS IN MALAYSIA

LIM CHIA JUI

A RESEARCH PAPER SUBMITTED IN FULFILMENT
OF THE REQUIREMENTS
FOR THE DEGREE OF B.A. (HONS)
ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND COMMUNICATION

FACULTY OF MUSIC, SOCIAL SCIENCES AND DESIGN
ENGLISH DEPARTMENT
UCSI UNIVERSITY
KUALA LUMPUR

APRIL 2010

ABSTRACT

Learning English nowadays has become essential to many countries in order to compete globally in the workforce. Thus students in many parts of the world try to learn English before completing their degrees. Consequently, the demand for English teachers, native (NS) or non-native (NNS) speakers of English, has increased. In Malaysia, the need for English teachers continually increases and it is evident that there are some Colleges and Universities that prefer to employ native speakers rather than the non-native speakers of English. It is therefore the focus of this paper to explore the student perception towards their language teachers who are native (NS) and non-native (NNS) speakers of English. It specifically examines how international and local students perceive the various skills such as reading, writing, speaking, listening skills, teaching strategies and articulation skills of both native and non-native English teachers. The participants of this research consist of 105 students from Iran, China, Saudi Arabia, Africa, Indonesia, Korea and Malaysia. The results of the survey show a slight to no difference on the perception of international students between the native and non-native English teachers in terms of teaching reading, writing, listening, speaking, articulation skills and their teaching strategies. The average difference on students' perception from 2.6 to 3.2 between the native and non-native English teachers shows that international students perceive both the native and non-native English teachers similarly. This means that the notion of native English teachers' preference of the second and foreign English language learners has not been supported by the findings of this research. The findings further show a similar perception of English language learners to both native and non-native English teachers which may perhaps prove that English is truly an international language and is no longer owned by a few groups of speakers.