

KOMPETENSI BAHASA

A Quarterly Newsletter of the Centre for the Advancement of
Language Competence (CALC) , Universiti Putra Malaysia

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PUTRA ELEX at UPM

The acronym **ELEX** stands for *English Language Experience*. Why is it an experience? Because **PUTRA ELEX** takes undergraduate students on a chartered language learning experience throughout the entire duration of their study in UPM.

PUTRA ELEX is designed to equip students with English language skills to handle academic studies in the university and to meet industry and professional needs upon graduation. It comprises three components: **LPE courses**, **CEL courses** and **LAX activities**.

Compulsory English Language Proficiency (LPE) Courses

These are three-credit courses within the curriculum providing structured classroom-based instruction focused on developing language forms and skills. The aim is to equip students to handle academic studies.

Certificate in English Language (CEL) Courses

These are non-credit courses outside the curriculum but must be completed for graduation. They are semi-structured with flipped classroom and workshop style learning and online self-directed learning (SDL). No grades are given but certificates are awarded. The aim is to strengthen language forms and skills for academic and professional purposes.

Language Activities without Credit (LAX)

This is considered to be the signature component of **PUTRA ELEX**. It provides beyond-classroom language activities aimed at building students' confidence and fluency in speaking in English in a flexible, fun and stress-reduced environment without teachers' presence. Students must accumulate stipulated number of LAX points to graduate.

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Immerse and Learn

The new semester is here!

We were busy during the semester break reviewing and



updating courses and activities to ensure our students get quality language learning. Language learning in CALC takes on another level when students are given the opportunities to go abroad for language and cultural engagements. Recently, a group of students spent a fortnight in Spain, and currently, another is in England, and soon, another group will be in Myanmar. CALC believes that learning through immersion, even briefly, enriches students' language learning experience; thus, aiding greater proficiency.

Norlida Abu Bakar

**Head of English Language
Proficiency Division**

MOBILITI BAHASA

Valladolid, Spain

Program Jelajah Bahasa Sepanyol UPM-Valladolid telah Berjaya dijalankan di *Fundacion de la Lengua y Cultura Espanola*, Valladolid, Sepanyol dari 15 Ogos hingga 1



September. Lawatan ke bandar bandar utama dan bersejarah seperti Madrid, Salamanca dan Cordoba turut dilaksanakan. Diakhir program, 2 pelajar menerima sijil CEFR tahap A2 dan 2 lagi tahap A1.

Liverpool, England

Seramai 10 pelajar UPM telah menyertai program mobiliti *Language Enrichment and Cultural Engagement Programme* ke Univer-



sity of Liverpool dari 21 September hingga 6 Oktober 2019. Program ini terbuka kepada semua pelajar yang mengambil kemahiran Bahasa Inggeris di UPM.

Beijing & Shanghai, Cina

Lima pelajar UPM telah mengikuti kursus Bahasa Cina di Cina dari 14 Julai hingga 23 Ogos. Dua pelajar ditempatkan di Shanghai University (4 minggu), seorang di Shanghai Normal University (seminggu), dan 2 di Beijing Foreign Studies University (4 minggu). Penyertaan kesemua pelajar adalah melalui kerjasama CALC dengan Institut Kong Zi di Universiti Malaya dan ditaja oleh agensi kerajaan tempatan di Cina.

DIARI CALC

JULAI

10hb: Penerangan ELEX kepada Majlis Dekan Bahasa Malaysia di UiTM

19hb: Kursus Pengurusan Imej Profesional oleh En Ludinata Misnun dan Sesi Perkongsian Integriti oleh Pn. Haslida Hassan

20hb: Sesi Perkongsian bersama Penerbit UPM

23hb: PELCA Support

OGOS

1hb Program Khidmat Masyarakat di Rumah Bakti Al-Kausar

6hb: Lawatan daripada pelajar Buri-ram Rajabhat University, Thailand

8hb: CELIK - Osaka Prefectural Nose Senior High School, Japan

19hb: Bengkel *The Six Principles of Exemplary Language Teaching* oleh Dr. Linda New Levine

21hb: CELIK - 6 sekolah dari Jepun



21hb: Kursus PULSE: Converse with Confidence

28hb: Kursus PULSE: Effective Communication Skills at Work

28hb: Gotong Royong CALC

29hb: Audit 5S

SEPTEMBER

1hb: CELIK - Okayama University, Japan

4hb: Kathie Hagy, English Language Fellow dari Amerika Syarikat memulakan tempoh kerja selama 10 bulan atas anjuran Kedutaan Amerika

4-5hb: Lawatan ke Universitas Muhammadiyah, Pontianak, Indonesia untuk mengukuhkan MoU dan merancang aktiviti seterusnya



23hb: Lawatan Alice Murray, US Embassy Regional English Language Officer, dan Katherine Diop, US Cultural Affairs Officer di Malaysia.

28hb: Kursus Pengajaran Bahasa Thai dianjurkan dengan kerjasama Kasersart University, Thailand dan Kedutaan Thailand di Malaysia.

Individualised Tutoring (ELIT 100)

Bermula tahun Akademik 2019/2020, CALC akan menawarkan program *English Language Individualised Tutoring 100* atau ELIT 100 kepada pelajar UPM. Program ini bertujuan memberi bimbingan Bahasa Inggeris secara individu dan bersemuka kepada 100 pelajar UPM yang mendapat keputusan MUET antara 1 hingga 4. Pelajar yang berminat digalakkan mendaftar untuk program ini di pejabat utama CALC dengan segera kerana ia terhad kepada 100 pelajar pertama yang layak yang mendaftar. Kukuhanlah Bahasa Inggeris anda!

MANTAPKAN POTENSI ANDA!

ELIT 100 English Language Individualised Tutoring

TERHAD KEPADA 100 PELAJAR PRA-SEKOLAH YANG TERAKSI

TINGKATKAN KEMAHIRAN BAHASA INGGERIS ANDA

KEMAHIRAN BAHASA INGGERIS ANDA BERTAMBAH BERMINAT?

Mendapat bimbingan dan latihan khusus

BERMINAT?

A Piece of the PIE: Formulating Research Questions

Research questions are interrogative sentences that highlight the research problem to be studied and indicate what the researcher wishes to explore in a research study.

Being able to articulate questions that capture the research topic and purpose is critical to research. Research questions underpin the research design of a study, and the design allows the researchers to find answers to the questions posed which in turn contribute to the body of knowledge. Good research questions do not magically appear, and therefore researchers need to carefully formulate them to achieve their research purposes.

In writing a postgraduate thesis, it is expected of the students to have at least one main research question and sub-research questions or multiple research questions. However, new postgraduate students often find writing good research questions a challenge.

While there are no universal criteria in formulating research questions, there are some useful considerations for postgraduate students. In general, a good research question must be:

- **Clear, concise and precise**

You must specify clearly what you intend to study. The question should not be too broad or too narrow and should have an appropriate scope.

- **Answerable**

You must be able to address the research question within the given time frame, resources, and word limit. The chosen question should not have a straightforward, easy “yes” or “no” answer. Likewise, it should not be too difficult or too complex to deal with.

- **Research-worthy**

Your choice of research question must be meaningful. You should think about questions that would contribute to knowledge, practice, and/or policy.

Writing good research questions is not easy and deserves careful attention. Postgraduate students should consider not only whether they can answer the research questions but also whether they should.

Teaching Fellows and Interns at CALC

CALC offers the opportunity for Teaching Fellows and Interns to teach in one of the best public universities in Malaysia.

Since 2017, CALC has had several teaching fellows and interns at CALC. Collaboration and agreements with several institutions and agencies such as Yunus Emre Institute, the US Embassy and Beijing Foreign Studies University have allowed a Turkish, English and Chinese Language instructor respectively to teach at CALC either as fellows or interns. CALC has also employed recent BED TESL graduates, especially from UPM, on a special one-year scheme and accepted interns such as from the UPM MEd TESL program and from Shubei University, Japan. We look forward to having even more Teaching Fellows and Interns from across the globe at CALC in the future!



MALAY LANGUAGE AND CULTURE: *BAJU MELAYU*

Baju Melayu is the traditional attire worn by Malay men. There are two designs of *Baju Melayu*.

Baju Melayu Cekak Musang has a collared neck with five buttons which reflect the five pillars of Islam; *Syhadah* (declaration of faith), fasting, zakat alms and Hajj pilgrimage. *Baju Melayu Teluk Belanga* has a round neck, closed using a gold or silver button which represents the Almighty.

Baju Melayu has three pockets which represents *Iman* (faith), *Ihsan* (courtesy) and Islam. *Baju Melayu* is worn with pants and *Kain Sampin Dagang*, a cloth wrapped around the waist.

Kain sampin worn over the *Baju Melayu* is called *Kain Sampin Dagang Luar*. When it is worn under the *Baju Melayu*, it is called *Kain Sampin Dagang Dalam*.

A NOTE ON ENGLISH

When we use the phrase *One of the*, then the noun used after the article *the* should be in the plural. Therefore, we would say *One of the reasons* and NOT *One of the reason*. Using the singular form is a common mistake among English language learners in Malaysia. Remember: One out of many, and so the “many” will have to be in the plural form. This is also true when an adjective is used. We should say *One of the main reasons* and NOT *One of the main reason*.

Proofreading, Editing and Translation Services at CALC

Do you need to proofread, edit or translate your documents?

CALC offers proofreading, editing and translation services under the extension unit. We offer timely, affordable and reliable services on abstracts, literary texts, resumes and cover letters, journal articles, dissertations, theses, questionnaires, research instruments, official documents etc. We offer very competitive rates compared to other places. Our editing and translation services are for the following languages; Arabic, French, Korean, Myanmar, Turkish, Malay, English, Chinese, Japanese, Thai, and Tamil. Our clients range from students to corporate bodies. Our editors are experienced language instructors and our translators are native or near native speakers of the language.

Please e-mail us at etunit.calc@gmail.com to get a free quotation on services needed.



SAYING / UNDERSTAND IN ELEVEN LANGUAGES

Arabic	Ana afham
Chinese	Wǒ míngbai le
German	Ich verstehe
French	Je comprends
Tamil	Enakku puriyuthu
Myanmar	Na: le ba de
Japanese	Wakarimashita
Malay	Saya faham
Spanish	Yo entiendo
Thai	Phom khaw jai (male) Chan khaw jai (female)
Turkish	Anlıyorum

CALC Activities in Pictures



Clockwise from left:

1. Visit from Buriram Rajabhat University, Thailand;
2. Churros and Spanish language learning in Valladolid, Spain;
3. Opening ceremony of the Thai Language Teachers' seminar co-organised with Kasertsart University and sponsored by the Royal Thai Embassy in Malaysia

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