

# KOMPETENSI BAHASA

A QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER THAT STAYS RELEVANT AMID THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

ISSUE 8 : OCT–DEC 2020



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## –Stepping Into Leadership–

AN EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW WITH PROF. DR. ARSHAD ABD. SAMAD

Many people know Prof Dr. Arshad Abd. Samad as the Director of CALC and an expert in the field of Teaching English as a Second Language (TESL), especially in grammar instruction, language acquisition and testing, but I believe not many know what makes him tick. However, thanks to the *Kompetensi Bahasa* Newsletter, I now have the opportunity to interview Prof. Dr. Arshad to learn more of this enigmatic man. What follows is a condensed transcript of his remarks, lightly edited for clarity.

**Hi Prof. Thank you for giving me an opportunity to interview you. How are you?**

Thank you, Sangeetha for wanting to do this interview. I am okay.

**Prof, where are you from?**

I was born in Kota Bharu, Kelantan although I consider Muar Johor, where my parents are from as my hometown or kampung. But at the same time, I was raised in PJ so that makes me a Selangorian as well.

**Could you tell me a little bit about your background?**

I am the eighth and youngest child in a family of ten, including my parents. My primary school education was in PJ and my secondary school education was at a boarding school in Perak. I did my first degree and my master's

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## **(CON'T) AN EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW**

WITH PROF. DR. ARSHAD ABD. SAMAD

for 5 years, joined UPM and did my PhD in Arizona in the US again. I am married and have 4 children.

### **So how long have you served UPM?**

Since 1990 so that makes it 30 years.

### **If you could sum up your experience in UPM in 3 words, what would that be?**

Students, Exhausting and Invigorating. It's all about the students and working at UPM has always been exhausting for me as there is always so much to do, but I always felt that getting things done was satisfying and invigorating.

### **In your opinion, what are the characteristics of a good leader?**

I think that good leaders need to have vision because it gives direction to where you are headed. They also need to understand that it is not about them but about the people they lead.

### **You have come a long way in your career. What are the keys to your success?**

Be level headed always. At the same time, think of what you can contribute as an individual and not just follow the crowd. Provide a different perspective even if it seems unfamiliar and odd. People may not like your ideas but at least you put them out in the open to be considered.

### **Is there anything that you wished you had done differently while working in UPM?**

I would often just take things at work as they come, including appointments etc. and not go out trying to look for posts. But when given responsibilities, I think I tried my best to carry them out in ways

I thought would be best for everyone concerned. I guess sometimes I am a little laid back and perhaps more things could have been accomplished more quickly if I were much more of an autocrat and give out orders to everyone around me. But again, I never insisted on getting people to do things I would not have been able to do myself. But if they can do them, I would be very appreciative and impressed, although I may not show it.

### **What are the two things that you will miss about CALC?**

I love thinking about things to do and trying to implement them. There is always excitement when thinking about what CALC can achieve. I will miss that. I will also miss the people, especially the younger ones - because of their energy and drive. And I will also miss my room which is big and bright.

### **How would you like to be remembered amongst the CALC staff?**

Just as a good person who maybe had some positive characteristics or attributes that can be emulated. I would really prefer what we tried to do at CALC be remembered and hopefully be continued and improved on.

### **What are your plans for the future?**

My wife wants to travel. Difficult to do now, though. Maybe transition slowly from work to doing other things in 2021. I have a small piece of kampung land so maybe work on that land from 2022 onwards, God willing.

### **Any advice for CALC staff?**

Decide quickly on what your strengths are and how you can contribute.

(con't) an exclusive interview

WITH PROF. DR. ARSHAD ABD. SAMAD

I think you become more satisfied when you think about others rather than just about yourself.

**I believe everyone in CALC wants to get to know you better, so could I also ask some personal questions? Would that be alright?**

Yes.

**Which do you prefer, Nasi Lemak or Roti Canai?**

Nasi lemak although not too spicy. The stomach can't take that anymore.

**What is the most adventurous thing that you have done in your life?**

Cycling in Hanoi traffic- it is really death defying.

**What are your two most favorite movie genres?**

A good thought-provoking drama when I am up to it. Horror when I just want to watch for fun.

**Which do you prefer, being a Language Instructor in CALC or a School Teacher?**

Probably a schoolteacher because I was one before I joined UPM but I don't know how teaching in schools is like now.

**What is your favorite holiday- road trip, cruise, camping or tour?**

Road trip. I did so many of them especially when I was in the US. Did one recently to Johor and that was interesting as well.

**Your two most favorite actors are?**

Keanu Reeves and Morgan Freeman.

**Is it better to dream or be realistic?**

To be realistic but have dreams as well. The thing about dreams is that you have to be asleep to dream.

**What makes you happy, Prof?**

I am happy when there is a prevailing sense of fairness, when things are done well, catching up with old friends, when the family is happy, seeing smiling faces and the sound of purring cats.

**Any bucket list that you would like to share?**

Maybe to watch the Northern lights and visit historical sites like Petra and the Mayan/Aztec ruins. The list is actually quite long.

**Looks like time is running out.**

**Thank you, Prof, for the very candid interview, and I wish you the best in your future endeavors. I'm quite sure, everybody in CALC is looking forward to reading this interview.**

You're welcome.

Prof Dr. Arshad retired as the 2nd Director of CALC effective from 16 January 2021. He is replaced by Prof. Dr. Abdul Mua'ti @ Zamri Ahmad





## 2020 BFSU ONLINE SUMMER CAMP

The 2020 Beijing Foreign Studies University (BFSU) Online Summer Camp was established to offer campers from BFSU Confucius Institutes around the world to better understand the Chinese culture and today's China, enabling in-depth cultural communication and interaction.

This event, particularly, was organised by the Office of Confucius Institutes, BFSU. The 2020 BFSU Online Summer Camp involved 10 themed talks in English scheduled from 10 to 19 August 2020 and was conducted live-stream on ZOOM.

Three UPM students, Dynna Ayun Donny (197400), Muhammad Asyraaf Bin Haja Maideen (198396) and Sufia (199045) joined the 2020 BFSU Online Summer Camp. They are learners of LPC 2102 Basic Chinese Language II (2nd Semester of 2019/2020)

## Quote

**“Live as if you were to die tomorrow. Learn as if you were to live forever”**  
**- Mahatma Gandhi**

I enjoyed the online summer camp a lot. My favourite talks are Chinese Calligraphy & Painting and E-commerce with Chinese Characteristics. Basically, I learned so many new things and had gained a lot of knowledge about China. Now one of my bucket lists is to travel to China and experience the beauty of China by myself.

**(Dynna Ayun Donny-197400)**

I would say that the camp is very nice. I learned a lot of new things about China and the Chinese. For instance, I never knew that China resembled the shape of a Rooster on a map! During the painting session, I was astonished that the paintings were so elaborate. Every painting appeared to have a deep meaning and I have to analyse it properly to find out the meaning and story of the painting. The talk on e-commerce in China is also interesting. Technology seems to grow much faster in China! Even the session about poetry is wonderful. Overall, I would say that learning about China is fascinating!

**(Sufia-199045)**



## SOALAN

1. Dari kecil baju hijau, sudah besar baju merah.
2. Berpayung bukannya raja, hendak berjalan tiada kaki.
3. Kura-kura panjat dinding.
4. Anak raja berjambul emas.
5. Badan di atas, nyawa di bawah.
6. Tarik akar gunung berlari.
7. Ditutup sebesar kuku, dibuka sebesar alam.
8. Bibir ada gigi tidak.
9. Malam berani, siang penakut.
10. Ular besar menuju rumah.

*Di adaptasi dari Dussek, O.T (1918). Long – Chair Malay. Maktab Perguruan Sultan Idris.*

Jawapan:  
1. Cili 2. Cendawan 3. Kual 4. Pelita 5. Layang-layang  
6. Perahu 7. Mata 8. Tempayan 9. Pintu

## A NOTE ON ENGLISH

### Enquiry vs Inquiry

Both enquire and inquire originated from the Old French word 'enquerre' and from the Medieval Latin 'inquerere', which means 'ask'.



Historically, the word enquire simply meant 'ask' and was used for informal situations.

#### Example:

The children enquired about the toy shop's opening times.

Inquire, on the other hand, was used for formal investigations or formal queries.

#### Example:

I am writing to inquire about a job vacancy.

In today's usage, enquire and enquiry are more common in British English, while inquire and inquiry are more common in US English, for both formal and informal use.

But if you wish to use it in the traditional way, one way to remember is this:

Enquire – Everyday use (informal)

Inquire – Investigate (formal)

Adapted from <https://www.grammarly.com/blog/inquire-enquire/>



## ANECDOTE

# To Be Professional or Not to Be Professional that is the Question

As a teacher, there is one issue that has always bothered me—professionalism or empathy in assessment. We evaluate our students based on a set of criteria which will then be translated as either a Fail or a Pass.

Unfortunately, sometimes we forget the implications of the grades that we award. What would happen if we pass or fail students? How will this affect their future? When I first started my teaching career, a final semester student scored so poorly that I failed him. Some of my colleagues advised me to just close one eye and give him a 'D'. "He will not get his diploma if he fails," they said. I refused and was adamant with my decision. However, until today, this still bothers me. I still wonder about his life. For instance, what is he doing now? Does he have a good life? Was I being too 'professional' or cruel for failing him?

I still do not have the answer. But now I do know one thing. I should have come up with an intervention before the final examination, so he could get the minimum score to pass. But alas...I was just a young teacher with little experience back then.



English is a rather peculiar language when it comes to pronunciation. There are no set of rules on how to pronounce words correctly. As an English teacher, I have come across many words being mispronounced in my years of teaching the language. Some are too risqué to be put into writing, so I shall only recall incidents that will not get me into trouble. There was once an incident in my class where I asked a student to tell me something about

# HOW WRONG I WAS



He replied, “I have /**sik**/ sisters.” Then he went on and on about his sisters. At the end of his speech, I got curious, so I asked how many sisters he had. He said, “/**sik**/”. So, I responded, “Okay. All of your sisters are **sick**?” “No! My sisters are not /**sik**/.” “But you said they are **sick**.” “No no...one, two, three, four, five and /**sik**/,” “Oooo **six** /**siks**/ okay not **sick** /**sik**/,” I finally understood what he said. So, I explained to him, “/**sik**/ means you are unwell.” In that moment, I thought only of my pronunciation. How wrong I was.

A month later I literally cringed when I heard the word /**swab**/ being pronounced as /**swep**/ by a professional. Now if the word **swab** is something that is rarely mentioned, I can understand if one cannot pronounce it correctly. However, that is one of the most popular words these days!



Sudah lima bulan berlalu, Alhamdulillah program latihan dalaman guru bahasa telah berjaya dijalankan mengikut segala perancangan yang telah diatur. Walaupun ada ranjau dan onak duri yang perlu dilalui namun itulah lumrah dalam menempuh sesuatu kejayaan. Penganjuran program ini bermula dengan cetusan buah fikiran Pengarah CALC yang ingin melihat aspek latihan pengajaran dan pembelajaran di-pertanggungjawabkan di bawah satu jawatankuasa. Ya itulah terbentuknya jawatankuasa latihan pengajaran dan pembelajaran di CALC demi meningkatkan keserjanaan guru bahasa dalam pengajaran dan pembelajaran bahasa.

Saya sebagai penyelaras ditugaskan untuk mengetuai program ini buat julung kalinya yang menggabungkan rakan seperjuangan dari CALC, ASPER dan UPM Kampus Bintulu, Sarawak. Dari saat itu, bermulalah episod saya membentuk regu yang diperlukan bagi merealisasikan hasrat tersebut dan memastikan program ini berjalan dengan lancar dan kemas. Maka, terbentuklah jawatankuasa program yang diselia oleh Pn Nur Aimie, jawatankuasa pendaftaran dijalankan oleh Cik Nor Hafizah dan Cik Nur Fazwin, jawatankuasa protokol dikawal oleh Pn Jamilah Hamzah dan jawatankuasa logistik, pendaftaran, jurufoto dikendalikan oleh En. Noor Farrid dan En Muhammad Azizi. Manakala, jawatankuasa bendahari dan makanan diuruskan oleh Cik Syaakiratul Hasanah. Saya bertanggungjawab menghubungi para penceramah yang pakar dalam topik prinsip pengajaran bahasa, perancangan serta pembangunan silibus, pembinaan bahan pengajaran, penilaian bahasa, pengajaran bahasa berasaskan teknologi dan kemahiran pengajaran bahasa.

Rupa-rupanya, seramai 14 orang penceramah telah dihubungi dan lima daripadanya menolak jemputan kerana sudah mempunyai komitmen yang lain. Menanti persetujuan mereka umpama duduk dengan penuh debaran menunggu pengumuman hari raya. Sudah sedia maklum, pandemik Covid-19 menyelubungi dunia dan kini Malaysia berada di peringkat perintah kawalan pergerakan pemulihan. Oleh itu, sebarang aktiviti yang ingin dijalankan perlu mendapat kelulusan dari pejabat Pengurusan Keselamatan dan Kesihatan Perkerjaan UPM. Sehari sebelum program membuka tirai, tepat jam 9.00 pagi sehingga 1.00 tengahari, saya berserta regu berkumpul memulakan kerja-kerja pengaturan meja, kerusi, alat bantuan mengajar, pengujian audio dan visual serta tetapan video konferensi bersama UPM Kampus Bintulu di dalam Dewan Persidangan, Dewan Serbaguna dan Bilik Anjung Kirana mengikut SOP yang ditetapkan oleh MKN. Kerja tersebut tampak remeh tetapi pada hakikatnya memerlukan bantuan ramai tenaga badang.

Alhamdulillah, pada hari kejadian iaitu 22 September jam 8.15 pagi bermula dengan bacaan doa, perasmian ringkas oleh Pengarah CALC diikuti dengan syarahan dan aktiviti yang padat oleh sembilan orang pakar dari UPM, UM, UKM dan UiTM selama 3 hari dan diakhiri dengan penutupan ringkas oleh Timbalan Pengarah CALC, berlangsung dengan gemilangnya. Terima kasih diucapkan kepada Pengarah di atas kepercayaan yang diberikan kepada pasukan saya. Tidak ketinggalan kepada rakan-rakan yang sudi menyumbang tenaga dan masa tanpa sedikit rungutan dan balasan. Sesungguhnya yang baik itu datangnyanya dari Allah dan yang buruk itu datangnyanya dari saya.

**DI  
SEBALIK  
TABIR  
PEMBIKINAN  
LATIHAN  
DALAMAN  
GURU  
BAHASA  
CALC KALI  
PERTAMA**



# KESALAHAN PENGGUNAAN ISTILAH DALAM BAHASA MELAYU

Kesalahan istilah membawa maksud kesalahan penggunaan kata yang tidak sesuai dengan kehendak ayat dan situasi. Berikut merupakan contoh-contoh kesalahan penggunaan istilah yang sering kali berlaku dalam Bahasa Melayu.



Sobek		
Betul	:	Pinggan itu <u>sobek</u> .
Salah	:	Pinggan itu <u>sumbing</u> .

Mentua		
Betul	:	Ibu <u>mentua</u> saya berumur 90 tahun.
Salah	:	Ibu <u>mertua</u> saya berumur 90 tahun.

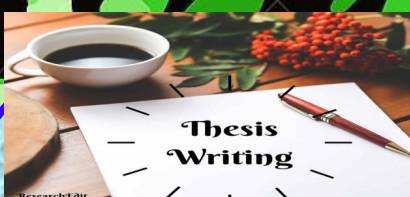
Colok mata		
Betul	:	Julia suka memakai pakaian yang <u>mencolok</u> mata.
Salah	:	Julia suka memakai pakaian yang <u>menjolok</u> mata.

Keriting		
Betul	:	Amy mempunyai rambut <u>keriting</u> .
Salah	:	Amy mempunyai rambut <u>kerinting</u> .

Nanas		
Betul	:	Buah <u>nanas</u> rasanya sangat manis.
Salah	:	Buah <u>nenas</u> rasanya sangat manis..

Gores		
Betul	:	Badrul selalu mengeluarkan kata-kata yang <u>menggores</u> hati orang lain.
Salah	:	Badrul selalu mengeluarkan kata-kata yang <u>mengguris</u> hati orang lain.





## THE CHALLENGES OF WRITING A THESIS

Writing a thesis is considered the most significant written work of one's academic journey. In order to ace this process, it is vital to comprehend and prepare for possible challenges. These challenges encompass:

### Thesis Statements

A thesis statement is the nucleus of one's thesis. It is defined as a comprehensive statement which enfolded one's thesis statement in several sentences. A key challenge faced in writing an effective thesis is the ability to deliver the idea of one's thesis while stressing its unique potential and presenting an argument.

### Formulating Research Questions and Objectives

Another challenge in developing one's thesis is generating research questions that are tangible and have the flexibility in moulding and developing the notions of the thesis. Thesis objectives that spring limitation to one's study makes it difficult to develop. Therefore, evading ambiguity in the research aims and objectives or in research questions is vital yet tough.

### Finding Relevant Research/Data

Finding research or data that is coherent and is aligned with the idea of one's research is vital. Sources of data that are relevant should be categorised based on the type of research being conducted. Primarily qualitative data entails the use of interviews, questionnaires, surveys and the data ought to be supported by the use of different secondary sources or peer articles in coherence with the research.

### Compiling Peer Review Journals

Writing a literature review is a challenge as it requires accurate sources which in turn entails a connection with various peer reviewed journals. Writing extensively by quoting directly from the journal and not linking its essence with the research's key argument should be avoided.

### Research Gap

The ability to identify the research gap from the review of literature is a common challenge. One must spend time reading and developing a hypothesis which has yet to be studied on and is unique.

### Time Management

Finally, managing one's time as a student writing a thesis is a major challenge. Despite the fact that an adequate time period is provided to complete one's thesis, students are often unsuccessful at completing it within the given time frame. This is usually a result of poor time management in outlining the thesis writing process. It is essential for students to carefully plan and take into consideration these persisting challenges in order to produce an effective and quality thesis.

*Adapted from <https://academichelponline.com/blog/what-are-the-common-problems-for-writing-a-thesis/>*

The Virtual Language Pentathlon 2020 (VLP2020) was a competition organised by the English Division of CALC. Participants were required to complete 5 different language games to stand a chance of winning amazing cash prizes. It was held from 14 to 23 December 2020.

The competition was held to give the students a break, by playing amazing games prepared by the committee. At the same time, the students could improve their language competency as each game contained a language element. For example, the participants had to complete a crossword puzzle with phrasal verbs as the theme.

## THE VIRTUAL LANGUAGE PENTATHLON 2020 (VLP2020)



Due to the movement restriction order, and the fact that most of the students were not on campus, the VLP2020 was a fully virtual event. The poster for the event was shared through social media and to register the participants had to fill in a google form. Meanwhile, the participants were required to answer and submit the games through Edmodo, during the competition. Thus, the event wholly complied with the social distancing SOPs set by the University.

88 students had joined the competition and after 4 different rounds of eliminations, 20 students had managed to get into the final round. The top three winners will receive RM100, RM70, and RM50 respectively, while 17 other finalists will receive consolation prizes. The winners were announced at the closing ceremony which was held virtually via zoom on the 8th of January 2021.

The winners were Avril Lim (1st Place), Ong Yu Qi (2nd Place) and Nuramirah Bt. Mohd Azib (3rd Place)



# AKTIVITI PERTANDINGAN PIDATO ANTARABANGSA BAHASA MELAYU TAHUN 2020

Pertandingan Pidato Antarabangsa Bahasa Melayu ini merupakan anjuran bersama Bahagian Hal Ehwal Pelajar dan Pusat Pemajuan Kompetensi Bahasa. Pertandingan ini telah pun menerima sebanyak 9 penyertaan iaitu 5 penyertaan daripada Kategori Pelajar Antarabangsa, dan 4 penyertaan daripada Kategori Pelajar Alam Melayu.

Pada 13 November 2020, Majlis Pengumuman Pemenang Pertandingan Pidato Antarabangsa Bahasa Melayu telah berlangsung secara dalam talian. Pemenang-pemenang memperoleh sijil penghargaan, trofi, dan hadiah wang tunai sebanyak RM300.00 untuk tempat pertama dan RM150.00 untuk tempat kedua.

Pemenang-pemenang mengikut kategori adalah seperti berikut:

## Kategori Pelajar Alam Melayu



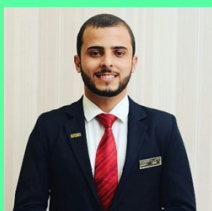
**TEMPAT PERTAMA**  
*Ana Nadhirah binti  
Zulkifle*



**TEMPAT KEDUA**  
*Aiezat bin Sulaiman*

**TAHNIAH!**

## Kategori Pelajar Antarabangsa



**TEMPAT PERTAMA**  
*Ali Mohammed Ali  
Al-Nadish (Yeman)*



**TEMPAT KEDUA**  
*Ali Cagri Ilvan (Turki)*

# DIARI CALC

## SENARAI AKTIVITI BULAN OKTOBER-DISEMBER 2020

### Oktober

<b>1 Oktober</b>	Echo Seminar
<b>2 Oktober</b>	Temuduga Jawatan Guru Bahasa Korea dan Jerman
<b>2 Oktober</b>	Mesyuarat Kompetensi Bahasa
<b>2 Oktober</b>	Perjumpaan bersama Pengajar Sambilan PIE
<b>5 &amp; 6 Oktober</b>	Bengkel Persediaan Pengajaran LPE dan CEL
<b>7 Oktober</b>	LAX Briefing
<b>8 Oktober</b>	Perjumpaan bersama AP Mercado
<b>8 Oktober</b>	Bengkel Semakan Dokumentasi Sokongan dan Operasi Perkhidmatan Sokongan ISO
<b>9 Oktober</b>	Sesi Perkongsian: Pengenalan kepada EKSA
<b>12-13 Oktober</b>	Taklimat Pengajaran kursus kemahiran Bahasa Inggeris Semester Pertama 2020/2021 kepada STEP dan Pengajar Sambilan
<b>16 Oktober</b>	Ceramah "Uniknya Penyelidikan Bahasa"
<b>23 Oktober</b>	PIE Briefing
<b>30 Oktober</b>	Mesyuarat Pengurusan CALC yang ke-117



### November

<b>2 November–7 Disember</b>	Pertandingan Hayati Bahasa Selami Budaya 2020 (Pertandingan Nyanyian, Pertandingan Mencipta E-Poster dan Pertandingan Tik Tok Bahasa)
<b>12-13 November</b>	Pertandingan Akhir Pidato Antarabangsa Bahasa Melayu
<b>25 November</b>	Sesi Libatsama TNC (Akademik & Antarabangsa) bersama Guru Bahasa
<b>27 November</b>	Mesyuarat Pengurusan



### Disember

<b>9 Disember</b>	Audit SIRIM Sistem Pengurusan Kualiti (QMS) ISO 9001:2015
<b>1 – 10 Disember</b>	Higher Education English Language Carnival (HE ELCA) anjuran KPT
<b>14, 16, 18, 21 &amp; 23 Disember</b>	Virtual Language Pentathlon 2020
<b>18 Disember</b>	Mesyuarat Pengurusan CALC Yang Ke -119
<b>18 Disember</b>	Virtual Aerobic anjuran WeCALC bersama Zin Shida





# LANGUAGE IN FOCUS: ENGLISH

## Business English Expressions You Cannot Live Without and How to Use Them

Are you looking to take your career to the top level if your answer is yes, then you need business English and here is why. It is the most essential tool that you can utilise in corporate world, so it will open many doors and bring new career opportunities. Below are some expressions that you are very likely to hear in the business world.

### Heads up

If you give someone a heads up, you inform or warn someone in advance of something so that they can prepare themselves.

**Example> “Heads up Bob! The VP of Finance is coming from NY today and he’ll expect to see the office in perfect state”**

### Get the ball rolling

Get the ball rolling means to begin or start something so that some progress can be made.

**Example> “What can I do to get the ball rolling on the Japan project?”**

### Pull it off

Pull it off means to succeed in doing something difficult or unexpected.

**Example> “He wasn’t prepared on the subject, but he pulled it off thanks to his broad knowledge of the sector and quick thinking.”**

*Adapted from <https://www.englishdigitalacademy.com/22-essential-business-expressions-you-cant-live-without-and-how-to-use-them-in-both-business-and-social-contexts/>*

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