

NIE20261- Readability Level of Malay Children Storybooks

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Objective



To investigate the **readability level** of Malay children storybooks and its relation to **reading ability** and **motivation** according to age group.

Background

Readability research has its origin a long way back in classical rhetoric and the first readability study was conducted in 1921 (Dahlia, 2012). The main aim of readability research in the early years was to devise procedures and instruments that reliably distinguished easier from more difficult texts. Dahlia researched on models of reading process to develop a model for Malay language, taking reference from readability formula developed by Khadijah (1987). In Singapore, teaching and learning of Malay Language includes reading comprehension component. However, very few studies were conducted on the readability level of children's story books, where the lack of knowledge may lead to unsuitable selection of storybooks for children.

Methodology

Readability Level

- Readability levels of selected storybooks were calculated using the Readability Formula by Khadijah and lexical diversity of storybooks was analysed

Interview

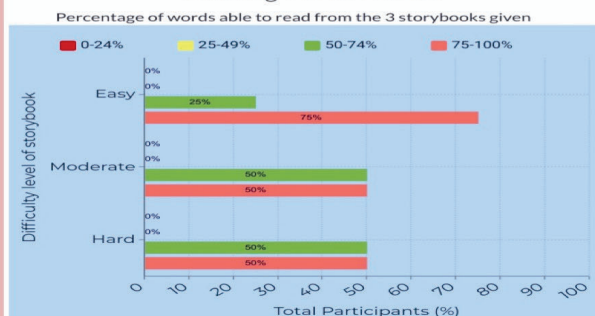
- Children between 7-8 years were sought to participate in research interview conducted via Zoom

Process

- Participants were asked to read aloud 3 Malay children storybooks of increasing difficulty levels and were asked questions to test their understanding of story

- FINDINGS -

Reading Performance



- Overall, at least half of the participants are able to read at least 75% of the total words in all 3 storybooks
- However, half of total participants are unable to read at least 75% of the 'moderate' storybook that is theoretically suitable for their age group.

Conclusions

- A child's ability to read is not always dependent on the readability level of the storybook. Other factors such as readiness level and lexical diversity of a storybook contribute to a child's reading ability and performance.
- Readability level of a storybook identified using the Readability Formula serves as a general guide to the age range the storybook might be suitable for, but is not a 'one-size-fits-all' indicator of the suitability of a storybook for every child of that particular age.



Nur Diana is currently a final year student in NIE majoring in Malay Language and Literature. Her areas of interest in research include topics surrounding teaching pedagogies, student's motivation to learn and child development. During her free time, she loves to read, travel, and do volunteer work.

Nur Diana merupakan siswa tahun keempat di Institut Pendidikan Nasional (NIE) dengan pengkhususan dalam subjek Bahasa dan Kesusasteraan Melayu. Beliau berminat dalam topik-topik kajian yang berkenaan dengan pengajaran dan pembelajaran Bahasa Melayu, seperti meneroka pedagogi guru dan tahap motivasi pelajar serta pembangunan kanak-kanak secara am. Pada masa lapang, beliau suka membaca buku, melancong ke luar negeri dan juga melibatkan diri dalam aktiviti-aktiviti kemasyarakatan.