

Foreword

Welcome to the **Third Issue 2013** of the Journal of Social Sciences and Humanities (JSSH)!

JSSH is an open access journal for the social sciences & humanities published by Universiti Putra Malaysia Press. It is independently owned and managed by the university and run on a non-profit basis for the benefit of the world-wide social science community.

In this issue, there are **25 articles** published; out of which **18** are regular articles and **7** are from an international conference, "Teaching English as Performing Art" ICELT 2011. The authors of these articles vary in country of origin (**Malaysia, Iran, China, Indonesia and Oman**).

The regular articles cover a wide range of topics, from an analysis of the political thought of Nadwī, Mawdudī and Qutb (*Razaleigh bin Muhamat@ Kawangit*), a study on collecting and contextualizing *Sundait* (Riddles) among the Rungus People of Sabah (*Low Kok On*), a study intended to show that Chopin's first novel, *At Fault*, and the tale, of "Lilacs", exhibit the same genius and modern forms and features of her later fiction (*Ali Khoshnood, Rosli Talif and Pedram Lalbakhsh*), a study of the impacts of microfinance bank loan on beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries aquaculturists in Ogun state, Nigeria (*Olaoye, Olalekan Jacob and Odebiyi, Oluwaseun Christianah*), to research on Islamic finance on issues and challenges facing Islamic financial institutions in Malaysia (*Mohd. Shuhaimi Ishak, Osman Chuah Abdullah and Dzuljastri Abdul Razak*).

The research studies include topics related to language and linguistics, education and management; a paper on the analysis of the relationship between 'alternative music scene' involvement and English language learning, as described by 5 non-native English speakers (*Marco Ferrarese*), a study on how apologies are used in relation to gender (*Syamimi Turiman, Amelia Leong and Fauziah Hassan*), a research on what tasks of English writing and speaking skills are actually needed by EFL international students in order to improve their ability of English (*Reza Gholami, Noreen Noordin and Ghazali Mustapha*), an exploration study of the impact of Chinese vernacular medium of instruction on unity in multi-ethnic Malaysia (*Saran Kaur Gill, Yuen Chee Keong, Christina Ong Sook Beng and Hao Yan*), an article analyses the *wh*-question words, *naken* and *luk ai*, in Mendriq language using the Minimalist framework (*Fazal Mohamed Mohamed Sultan*), a correlation study conducted to determine the relationship between the performance of educational administrators and organisational health in high schools in Tehran, Iran (*Masoumeh Pour Rajab, Ramli Bin Basri and Shaffe Mohd Daud*), a study on the knowledge sharing amongst lecturers in an educational institution in Malaysia (*Abdul Hamid, J., and Sulaiman, S.*), a study conducted to paint a picture of Malaysian parents' practices and perspectives towards school homework (*Parmjit, S., Sidhu, G. K and Chan, Y. F.*), a study reported on the acquisition of Basic and Integrated Science Process Skills amongst Form 2 Students in Sarawak: Interaction effects of gender, ethnicity, and school location (*Ong, E.T., Wong, Y.T., Sophia, M.Y., Sadiyah B., and Asmayati, Y.*), a study of the

characteristics of effective mathematics lessons as valued by teachers and pupils in three different types of primary schools in Malaysia (*Lim, C. S., Tang, K. N., and Tan, S. F.*), a study of the students' satisfaction towards blended learning in a tertiary course in Malaysia (*Roslina binti Ahmed Tajuddin, Nur Shaminah binti Mustafa Kamalu and Teoh Sian Hoon*), a study of the products attributes as attraction and as pull factor towards sustaining visitation to Putrajaya Botanical Garden (*Asmah Yahaya, Abdullah Mohd*) and a paper on an evasion game model for duopoly competition (*H. Eslaminosratabadi, M. Salimi, G. I. Ibragimov and M. Amini*).

I conclude this issue with 7 articles arising from the ICELT 2011 conference; a study of the factors affecting language performance: A comparison of three measurement approaches (*Kadeessa Abdul Kadir*), the viability of six-step method in teaching academic writing in EFL (*Berrington Xolani Siphosakhe Ntombela*), an article reported the findings of a reading comprehension test (pre-test) consisting of the tri-component skills namely literal, re-organisation and inferential, conducted among students of a public secondary school in the central state of Malaysia (*Abdul Rashid Mohamed, Lin Siew Eng and Shaik Abdul Malik Mohamed Ismail*), a study on how teachers conceptualize their "professionalism" as English language teacher educators, particularly within the context of Indonesia (*Christine Manara*), the effect of teacher-directed Internet-based extensive reading materials on intermediate students' reading self-efficacy in an Institute in Boukan, West Azerbaijan, Iran (*Ahour Touran and Ghaderi Vafa*), an article on the integration of reading and writing skills in a number of commercial English language teaching (ELT) materials (*Saleh Al-Busaidi*) and a study of the connection between teachers' incidental focus on form, namely, corrective feedback and learners' uptake and immediate repair of errors in communicative English as a Foreign Language classrooms for adults (*Yassamin Pouriran and Jayakaran Mukundan*).

I anticipate that you will find the evidence presented in this issue to be intriguing, thought provoking, and hopefully useful in setting up new milestones. Please recommend the journal to your colleagues and students to make this endeavour meaningful.

I would also like to express my gratitude to all the contributors; namely the authors, reviewers and editors for their professional contributions who have made this issue feasible. Last but not the least, the editorial assistance of the journal division staff is fully appreciated.

JSSH is currently accepting manuscripts for upcoming issues based on original qualitative or quantitative research that opens new areas of inquiry and investigation.

Chief Executive Editor

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