Contents

The Rise of the Rest: Reimagining Southeast Asia
The Principle of Responsibility to Protect: The Case of Rohingya in Myanmar
   Hartati Ibrahim and Rohaida Nordin

Migration and Statelessness: Turning the Spotlight on Malaysia
   Rodziana Mohamed Razali, Rohaida Nordin and Tamara Joan Duraisingham

Identifying Genuine Whistleblowers from Chicken Little in Government Agencies
   Aizatul Marsitah Ibrahim, Azila Ayob, Nurulaini Zamhury and Rugayah Hashim

The Non-Admissibility of the Principle of Therapeutic Privilege in Clinical Trials
   Yuhani, Y., Anisah, C. N. and Md Rejab, M. D.

Perception of Undergraduates on Their Language Competence Based on English Language National Examination Results
   Muhammad Ridhuan Tony Lim Abdullah, Saedah Siraj and Lim Li Yean

Internationalisation of Higher Education: Proposed Framework on International Students’ Satisfaction
   Pui-Yee, Chong

The Islamic Epistemological Element of Al-Yaqin in Critical Thinking
   Mohd Nuri Al-Amin Endut and Nur Arfaah A. S.

A Preliminary Case Study on Improving Engineering Students’ Competency through Industrial Training in a Private University
   Chong Foon Yee and Yeap Kim Ho

Research Article Writing: A Review of a Complete Rhetorical Organisation
   Nurul Farahin Musa and Noorli Khamis

What Do Students and Engineers Have to Say about Communicative Competence in Technical Oral Presentations?
   Bhattacharyya, E. and Zainal, A. Z.
Perception of Undergraduates on Their Language Competence Based on English Language National Examination Results

Muhammad Ridhuan Tony Lim Abdullah, Saedah Siraj and Lim Li Year

Department of Management and Humanities, Universiti Teknologi PETRONAS, 31750 Tronoh, Perak
Department of Curriculum and Instructional Technology, Faculty of Education, University of Malaya,
50603 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

ABSTRACT

This study aims to investigate the perception of undergraduate students on their language competence in meeting the requirement to take English for Specific purpose course at tertiary level. The investigation was conducted using survey questionnaire on 250 undergraduate students to obtain their perception on their actual language competence based on the national language examination results as preparatory to register for Professional & Communication skills course (English for Specific Purpose subject). The findings indicated that despite obtaining excellent grade in English Language, a majority of them perceived lack in language competence to sit for the university language course. About 42.3% (n=92) of the respondents perceived that their results over rated their actual oral skills, while 48.2% (n=105) of the respondents perceived that their results matched their actual writing skills. The findings could impact the reliability of the national examination to be used as benchmarking criteria in accepting students in universities. The findings could also motivate the Ministry of Education in improving the method of language assessment to give equivalent weightage to all language skills to not heavily focusing on reading or writing skills.

Keywords: Language competence, undergraduate perceptions, English for Specific purposes

INTRODUCTION

The lack of English Language proficiency has been identified as a major factor in graduate unemployment (Menon & Patel, 2012). Various studies have been conducted on whether English Language competency among graduates meets the