

Malaysian French Foreign language learners' perception on their Speaking Ability at Tertiary level

Abstract

Malaysian government has attached great importance to proficiency in a third language in the Malaysian education system, especially at the tertiary level. The aim is to develop human capital that can compete in the international arena and contribute significantly in the socio-economic development of the country. Large resources have been poured into foreign language (FL) teaching in the Malaysian universities. Unfortunately, students continue to graduate with unsatisfactory proficiency in the third language. A case in point is the French as Foreign Language (FFL) undergraduates. Students are generally not able to communicate in the target language (TL). This study was conducted to find out, FFL learner's perceptions on their speaking proficiency. The study also intended to find out the changes that might contribute, based on their perceptions, to develop their speaking proficiency in French. A survey questionnaire was used to collect data from 100 tertiary education students from Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS). The finding of the study indicated that FFL learners are not able to communicate in the TL due to the limited exposure to the French language in and outside the classroom, the FFL learners' attitude towards French as a foreign language, the FFL teachers behaviour and the French foreign language curriculum and textbook.