

AN INVESTIGATION OF ESL LEARNERS'  
PERCEPTIONS TOWARDS THE USE OF AN ONLINE  
DISCUSSION BOARD IN ENHANCING STUDENTS'  
ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNING

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## ABSTRACT

*The purpose of this study was to investigate students' perceptions towards an online discussion board to enhance English language learning. The methodology used is case study. One case (an online discussion board) was studied. Students engage in online discussion activity for a period of six weeks. A total of 48 students participated in the online discussion. Whereas 25 students returned the self administered open-ended questionnaire. A content analysis was used to analyse the data on the online discussion board and the unit of analysis is the message posted by the students on the board. Frequency analysis was used to process the data for each question. The question of whether students were encouraged to read and write in English language, the result was inconclusive. Based on the questionnaire administered, it was found that students showed a positive response towards the online discussion. Further studies should be done in Malaysia with a larger sample size and teachers who wish to use this mode of teaching MUET should consider using a module as a guideline to teach and as a guideline for students on what and how to learn using an online discussion board.*



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