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A Study On The English Proficiency Amongst The Students Of Naval Architecture Diploma Program At Politeknik Bagan Datuk For Session 2 Of 2022/2023 During Industrial Training

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INTRODUCTION

English proficiency is a critical skill for naval architecture students, particularly during industrial training periods. The maritime industry operates on a global scale, with English serving as the primary language for communication, technical documentation, and regulatory compliance.

Purpose

The purpose of the study is aimed to achieve the following:

- Assess Language Proficiency

- Identify Learning Gaps

- Enhance Curriculum Design

Study Objectives

By the end of the study, we aimed to get clear data and understanding related to the students proficiency during their internship. The objectives are to:

- Evaluate the Current English Proficiency Levels

- Examine Students' Ability to Use Technical English

- Provide Recommendations for Curriculum Enhancement

Respondents

Gender:

- 65.2 % (male)   34.8% (female)

Age:

- Between 20 – 24 years old

Race:

- 82.6 (Malay)   17.4% (Indian)

Respondents

Industrial Sector –

- Ship Building and Ship Repair (SBSR)

- Maintenance, Repair and Overhaul (MRO)

- Naval Architecture

- Sales and Marketing

- Surveying

- Electronics and Electrical Instrument

- Others

Methodology

The research instrument featured answer choices based on a Likert scale ranging from 1 to 5 where 1 (strongly disagree), 2 (disagree), 3 (moderately agree), 4 (agree), and 5 (strongly agree). The Likert scale was selected for its enhanced reliability, validity, and organizational structure.

A reliability test was conducted using the Statistical Package for Social Science (SPSS) version 22.0 software, revealing a Cronbach's Alpha The results revealed that the Students English Proficiency Level scale with fourteen (14) instrument items (α = 0.921) and the Influence of English Proficiency During Industrial Training scale with ten (10) instrument items (α = 0.896) were found with strong reliability. The Cronbach's Alpha coefficient value of more than 0.7 indicate the strong correlation between all the questionnaire items and shows the high consistency of the respondents' response (Hair et al., 2013).

7

Methodology

The data was gathered among 50 students from Diploma in Naval Architecture from Politeknik Bagan Datuk, Perak. The data was gathered using questionnaires via Google Form.

This research questionnaire consists of 2 categories namely:

A.   Student English Proficiency Level

B.   The Influence of English Proficiency During Industrial Training

Results

For the analysis of the respondent's feedback, the mean score interpretation based on (Landell, 1997) is used to interpret the level of tendency of the respondent's decision as in Table 1 below:

Results

Table 1. Interpretation of Mean Score (Landell, 1997)

Group Code	Mean range	Aptitude Level
1	1.00 - 2.40	Low
2	2.41 - 3.80	Moderate
3	3.81 - 5.00	High

Results

Table 2. English Proficiency Level Score

Item No.	Determining Students English Proficiency Level When Undergoing Industrial Training	Mean Score	Standard Deviation
1	Does your internship place communicate using English?	3.25	0.851
2	Fluent in English?	3.55	0.605
3	Meetings held in English?	3.35	0.988
4	Understand discussions in meetings held in English?	3.95	0.686
5	Able to communicate in English with clients?	3.75	0.639
6	Able to communicate in English with supervisors/superiors?	3.75	0.716
7	My English proficiency improved after the industrial training.	3.8	0.768

Results

Category A	8	Does the company require students to be proficient in English during the industrial training?	3.6	0.754
	9	Have confidence in using English while working at the internship place?	3.65	0.671
	10	Able to adapt to using English at the internship place? (e.g., communication, socializing, etc.)	3.85	0.813
	11	English is important for communication and working at the internship place related to maritime.	4.15	0.671
	12	Able to make a good presentations in English?	3.8	0.616
	13	My technical work field during the internship DOES NOT require English proficiency.	2.85	0.745
	14	Good English proficiency can help me get job offers more easily in the maritime field?	4.15	0.671

Results

Table 3. Influent of English Proficiency Amongst Student

	Item No.	Determining The Influent of English Proficiency During Industrial Training	Mean Score	Standard Deviation
Category B	1	The use of English facilitates discussions and the execution of technical work in the maritime field.	4.05	0.686
	2	The industry requires technical workers who can communicate in English.	3.95	0.759
	3	Students need to master maritime terminology in English such as bow, stern, keel, plate, hull, etc., well.	4.45	0.759
	4	The English course studied at PBD can help improve my English communication skills at the internship place.	4.25	0.639
	5	The English course studied at PBD can assist in the preparation of English reports at the internship place.	4.15	0.671
	6	The English course at PBD does NOT have an impact on my use of English at the internship place.	2.25	0.639

Results

7	The English course syllabus needs improvement (e.g., the syllabus should focus more on the use of English in the maritime workplace).	4	0.795
8	I ONLY use maritime English terminology when performing technical work at the internship place and do NOT fully communicate in English.	3.75	0.786
9	After studying the English course at PBD, I am still ready to use English at the internship place (e.g., communication, report writing, presentations, etc.).	2.25	0.826
10	I am very interested in learning the English course at PBD.	4.35	0.745

14

Discussion

Limitations when conducting the questionnaire:

- Small Sample Size

- Variability in English Background

- Focus on General vs Technical English

- External Factors Influencing Proficiency

Discussion

Based on the results of the questionnaire, it can be determined that the level of proficiency among the students are between moderate to advance.

The English syllabi in Politeknik Bagan Datuk should cater more towards technical English with the focus more on the glossary in maritime English.

16

Recommendations

These are the suggestions on how to improve the proficiency among the students to prepare them for their internship.

- Integrate Language Practice into Daily Tasks

- Mock Interviews and Simulated Industry Scenarios

- Mentorship and Feedback

- Language Workshops and Seminars

Collaboration as a Basis for the Development
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Q & A
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Conclusion

English proficiency is crucial for naval architecture students due to the global nature of the maritime industry.

The results indicated that the Student English Proficiency Level is moderate with average mean score of 3.75, and the influence of English Proficiency during Industrial Training average mean score is at high level with the value of 4.15.

This can conclude that students need to improve their confident level by using more English at training workplace and expose themselves to use English frequently since the English proficiency has the significant influence during industrial training.

19

Thank You

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