

# ***ISSUES IN THE USE OF THE FIRST LANGUAGE IN THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE CLASSROOM***

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The use of the students' first language (L1) to teach English is a phenomenon that has been observed in many Malaysian classrooms. Teachers often give various reasons for this use. The reasons include "helping the learners", "hastening the process of communication" and "requests from the students for teachers to use the first language". English language teachers are often concerned that the "excessive" use of the first language will disadvantage the language learner. This course is designed to help teachers examine the role of the L1 as an effective support for the teaching of English.

## ***Objectives***

By the end of this course, participants will have:

- explored teachers' beliefs and practices related to the use of the first language / Bahasa Melayu in teaching English
- examined issues related to the use of the first language / Bahasa Melayu in the teaching of English
- appraised alternative strategies to limit the use of the first language / Bahasa Melayu in the teaching of English
- developed an action plan to "minimize" the use of the first language / Bahasa Melayu in the teaching of English

## ***Content***

Topics covered include:

- The learning context
- Uncovering teachers' beliefs about the use of the L1 in the classroom
- Why teachers use the L1
- Maximising the use of English
- The role of the L1 in the reading and writing lesson

## ***Duration***

3 days (18 hours)

## ***Modes of Delivery***

This course utilizes the Reflective Model for professional educational development (Wallace, 1991). During the course, participants will be given opportunities to use the model to reflect on their practice in order to relate their own experiences to new knowledge. The training mode will comprise lectures, workshops, oral presentations, discussions and directed reading.

## ***Participants***

This course is designed for trained English language teachers and those interested in issues related to the use of the L1 in the ESL classroom.