



# CHALK AND TALK

## CENTRE FOR EDUCATION AND LANGUAGE



VOLUME 3 / JULY -  
SEPT/2019

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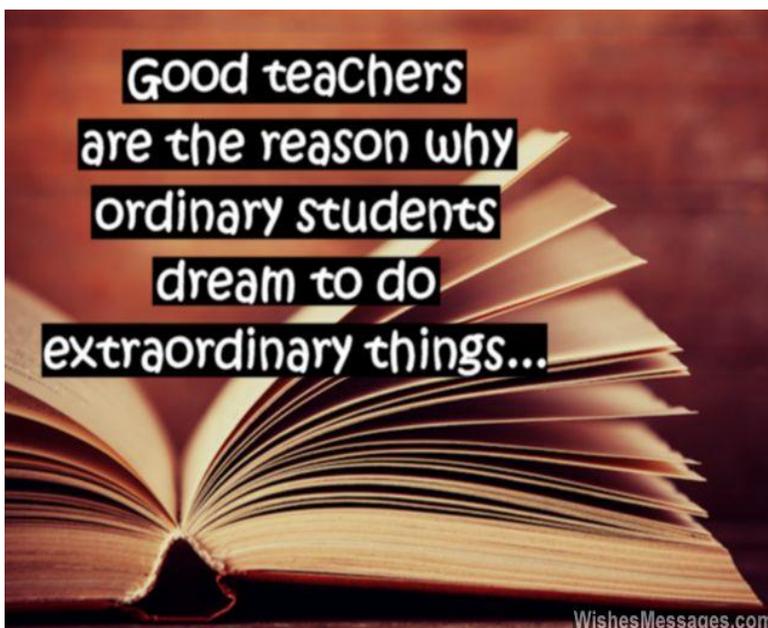
### In this Issue:

Director's Address... (2-3)

CEL Undertakings... (4-11)

Time to Write... (12-18)

Language Games ... (19-  
21)



# DIRECTOR'S ADDRESS



Welcome to Volume 3 of Chalk and Talk! It is a great pleasure to be given the opportunity to pen this message for our third newsletter of the year. Thank you for all your support and contribution which enable the success of the production of this newsletter.

Lately, we have been through several audits and a review: Faculty Audit, ISO, Setara Audit and Faculty Review. Each audit and review is good and beneficial to enhance teaching and learning and the attainment of our key performance index. Audits denote our strengths and weaknesses. We know what to strengthen and what to improve. The outcome of the audits/review is positively contributing to the updating of our records and documentation. It is the responsibility of all of us to be familiar with all the SOPs, current educational requirements and innovations.

As to the outcome of the Faculty review, I can only quote an overused cliché yet a very meaningful one: Failure is the stepping stones to success. Make every failure and weakness as the foundation on which to build a deeper initiative towards achieving success.

On another note, being motivated at work is crucial for anyone's good performance. This is especially needed when we have a looming deadline or an important meeting to attend. There were times when we would feel generally unmotivated. But always without fail, we will climb out of that feeling. Sometimes all it takes is a good night's sleep or beholding the fruits of our labour to fire us up. Better still we can look to our students and see their achievements and this would surely brighten up our spirits. Still at other times, you might listen to someone say something that resonates with you -- that alters the way you've been looking at a particular task or problem. Most often we only need a kind word or two to boost our inner strength and spirit to carry on doing all that is required of us. Or just a smile to ease a down-trodden spirit...



# *CEL UNDERTAKINGS*

## **POSTER PRESENTATION EVENT**

**8<sup>th</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2019**

Two Poster Presentation events were scheduled on 8th July 2019 and 23rd July 2019 from 2 pm to 6 pm for the Pre-University (FIS) students. These two events were held at The Spine, Level 2, Humanity Block. The April and May 2019 batch FIS students were involved and participated in this two-day event. 186 students were formed into 19 groups and it took two days to complete this assessment.

The principal objective of this event was to complete part of student assessment which contributes 20 marks to their final examination. These events also enhance students' knowledge together with their creative skills and express their ideas using the colours of imagination. These assessments also kept the students engaged and offer them a platform to showcase their skills by making public presentations. Students were allowed to select any topic which is related to their area of study. They were given 3 weeks for the preparation.

Students were assessed through their design of posters and their speaking skills using rubrics such as relevance to theme, design, organization, content, creativity and delivery. Students were dressed up according to their themes and they entertained the audience very well. Students prepared for Q&A sessions and interesting activities for the audience during the presentation. Many MAHSA students from different faculties joined and participated in the activities. Also, participants received goodies and door gifts from each booth.

The artistic endeavour of the students was highly praised and encouraged by the assessors, lecturers and students who came as the audience on the said days. It was a good experience for the student presenters and they had successfully and artistically presented their ideas which captured the audience's attention.



# CEL UNDERTAKINGS

## POSTER PRESENTATION EVENT

17th July 2019

A poster presentation was scheduled on 17th July 2019 from 9.00am to 12.00pm for the Bachelor's Degree (BMS, PYSIO, MI, EH&IT) students. It was held at The Spine, Level 2, Humanity Block. Degree students from the April Intake 2019 Batch were involved and they fully participated in the event. 80 students were formed into 12 groups and it was quite challenging for them to finish preparing the posters within the time frame given. This event aimed to accomplish part of their assessment which contributes 20 % to their final examination. Furthermore, this poster presentation intensified the students' creative and thinking skills. This assessment also encouraged students to engage in public speaking and presentation skills.



For this poster presentation, students were allowed to choose any topic which was related to their field of knowledge. The students were given 3 weeks to prepare the posters and present them at the end of the third week. Students' were assessed on their creativity in producing the posters and on their presentation skills. They were given rubrics as guidelines in terms of grooming, content, organization, language and delivery.

We provided 12 poster boards for each group together with all the equipments required for the presentation. The students' presented their topics very well according to the specified themes and they impressed the evaluators by their talents and communication skills. Evaluators were from CEL, Assoc.Prof. Azian bt Abdul Kadir Mdm. Nurul Najwa and Mr.Badrul Adzham participated in the activities and made the event more meaningful and merrier by their presence.



# CEL - UNDERTAKINGS

**SINGING COMPETITION – LOVE MALAYSIA MONTH**

**14th of August 2019**



In conjunction with Love Malaysia Month hosted by the Faculty of Nursing last August, CEL organized a Singing Competition event on the 14th of August 2019. The event was held at The Auditorium, Level 9, Empathy Building from 2 to 4 pm and it was open to everyone in MAHSA University.

There were 5 contestants from various Faculties who joined the event, including staff and students. The students were; Nur Nadiah Bt Abd Majid from the Faculty of Nursing, Muhammad Ameer Asyraf Bin Zayuki from the Faculty of Business and Hospitality, and

Rashitha Maryam Bt Syed Zakir Hussain from the Pre-University Studies and the staff were: Norazlinda bt Azman from the Faculty of Medicine, and Nur Rashidah Ahmad Rashidi from the Faculty of Engineering.

The theme of the singing competition was patriotism and the songs that they chose were related to our Independence Day. Some of the songs that were chosen for the competition were Perwira by Saloma, Pahlawanku by Sanisah Huri, Setia by Francissa Peter, Warisan by Sudirman and 1 Malaysia which was composed by the University of Lim Kok Wing.



The event was hosted by Bhavitraisaan from the Faculty of Business and Hospitality. Even though it was a tough decision to make, there will always be winners in a competition. The first place was won by Norazlinda bt Azman from the Faculty of Medicine who sang

Pahlawanku. She was by far the best contestant and she had such an angelic voice.

The second place was won by Nur Rashidah Ahmad Rashidi from the Faculty of Engineering with the song titled Setia and the third place was won by Rashitha Maryam Bt Syed Zakir Hussain from the Pre-University Studies with the song titled 1 Malaysia.

The decision was made by a group of judges from CEL, Ms. Munees Priya Venkiteraman, Ms. Najwa B Mazlan and Ms. Yogamalar Raja. The singers were assessed in terms of theme, voice projection, language and props. Thanks to them for being wonderful judges for the competition!

The competition ended with a performance by the first winner. The audience was also showed their support by switching on the lights of their smartphones while she was performing. It was indeed a memorable moment for everyone who was at the event. I really hope that we could organize this kind of competition again in the near future to discover MAHSA family members' hidden talents!

# TIME TO WRITE

## *The Malaysia's Merdeka*

*by Miss Najwa Mazlan*

*CEL Lecturer*



When you ask any Malaysian whether they know the significance of Merdeka Day, the usual response would be that it's about Malaysia gaining its independence on the 31st of August. In addition to this, most of us celebrate the independence of the country with parades, parties, a short vacation and not to forget the shopaholics who go crazy over the sales. Why is it that while Merdeka Day is celebrated widely across the country, Malaysia Day is merely a footnote in our history books?

It is very often forgotten that Malaysia was only formed on the 16th of September 1963 when Sabah, Sarawak and Singapore joined together with the existing States of the Federation of Malaya, to establish the new federation of Malaysia. They did not join Malaysia before 1957 as is commonly thought. In other words, the 16th of September, Malaysia Day is Malaysia's birthday. This recently created holiday, since 2010, has much significance for East Malaysia as recognition is given to the fact that they are part of Malaysia.



I feel that Malaysia Day should be celebrated with more pride. Yes, there may be a few things we can improve on such as the political, racial, religious and social undercurrents. However, we should put these things aside as we should be thankful for the many blessings we've had over the past decades. We live in a diverse country filled with people whom we call family despite our different cultures and races, a country rich in resources and free from natural disasters.

Many stories from the man in the street will confirm that most Malaysians are blind to each others' skin colour. It is so common to see different races sitting together, over a cup of teh tarik whilst discussing common things like how the country fared in the badminton competition or the impact of inflation on their lives. The incident faced by Malaysia Airlines brought the people together. Everyone grieved, irrespective of the colour, race or religion of the victims.

Malaysia Day is a day to remind us that we're really fortunate to have the different races from various backgrounds living together in harmony. Malaysia Day, let's give it the recognition it so richly deserves.

# **Authentic Materials in the EAP Classroom**

by *Mr. Bukhari bin Shafie*

*EAP Lecturer*

The world has seen a tremendous change in the way second language learners learn and acquire new knowledge. Traditional activities used in an ESL classroom might work out well for serious learners, but for those whose motivation is at a superficial level opt to avoid this method of learning at all cost.

Due to this phenomenon, English instructors have brainstormed for multiple ways to help second language learners feel motivated and encouraged to master the four skills of English: listening, reading, writing and speaking. One of the best ways to ensure that the motivation level is sustained at an optimum rate is to incorporate the use of authentic materials in the classroom. Authentic materials are defined as realistic materials the learners encounter in their daily lives that provide instant connection and gratification when they are used correctly.

Students who are enrolled in English for Academic Purposes (EAP) are given substantial exposure to authentic materials. The teaching and learning process is shaped around the very notion that learning is made easier and more interesting when the materials used are entertaining and realistic. Having this in mind, the English lecturers for the EAP programme have strategised and formulated new activities in class to bring the learners towards this realisation.

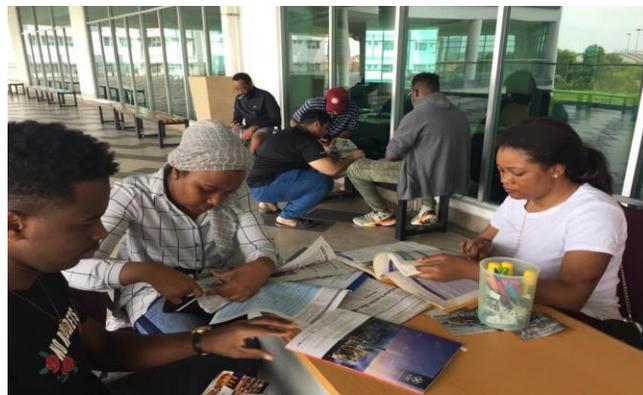
Daily classes are conducted in a way that the learners feel at home; hence, they are more motivated to participate in the discussion process. More and more authentic materials, such as, film reviews, short notices and messages, lyrics, music videos, newspaper articles and social media content are embedded in the daily lesson planning. The students have demonstrated great enthusiasm and are drawn to each and every class as they get the opportunity to share their ideas and perspectives on matters that they experience on a daily basis. “My teacher made us listen to a song by Ed Sheeran last week and we were quite excited as it’s a famous pop song. She also gave us a worksheet to do while listening to it by underlining the Simple Present phrases in the lyrics,” said Felipe from Upper Intermediate level. This is a classic example of how a simple activity can have a positive impact on the students. They get the opportunity to apply their knowledge to something that they favour over the textbook exercises which have gained the reputation of being mundane and predictable.

It also complies with the philosophy of the 21<sup>st</sup> century teaching and learning which ensures that lessons should give students immediate satisfaction. A student- centric activity should involve students and allow

them to take charge of their own learning. Many think that a 21<sup>st</sup> century classroom should utilise all sorts of technological tools to make students learn effectively, however; this concept is completely misunderstood. A teacher should be given the liberty to use any materials and turn them into a creative one. Creativity begins when authentic materials which exist in abundance are not used in isolation. It is hoped that teachers would incorporate authenticity in the lessons; only then students would be able to learn effectively and succeed in their academic lives.



Watching a film on Racism (The Help 2011)



Exploring authentic content in newspaper

# History of Memes and their origin

by Mr. Jezreel Immanuel

EAP Lecturer



The internet in the 21<sup>st</sup> century is incomplete without a meme. They have become an essential part of modern online life. Many do not know when the concept of meme got started and how it evolves. Many assume that the word “meme” is a new word created in the modern era, but many do not know that the word “meme” is derived from Greek which means “that which is imitated”. This word was first used in 1976. Yes. Not 2019, 2010 or anywhere close to 2000’s. It was used in a book by the title “The Selfish Gene” by Richard Dawkins. The word was actually referred to as “Mimeme” which was then abbreviated to just “meme” due to its similarity to the word “gene”.

According to Dawkins (1976), a meme is to an idea as gene is to a physical trait. This came about when he was trying to figure out whether there was a measurable unit in describing how ideas spread or propagated through generations. In other words, much like how genes and physical trait evolve through natural selection, so does a meme or an idea.

## *The First Internet Meme and the use of Meme in this modern era.*



The first ever meme used in the internet was in the year 1996 when graphic designer Michael Girard created a software of a baby demonstrating the Cha-Cha-Cha movement. (According to Borzsei, 2013), the video of the baby’s movement was sent into a widespread viral sensation. Later on, the video was converted into a GIF to enable easier sharing of the video to others. Since then, with the wide use of social media in the current century, memes are much easier to be shared and to be viewed. In this modern era, memes are not only used for jokes but also used in cultural topics as it can show its longevity in terms of its long lasting popularity.

*Example of meme used in Malaysia.*



#### Reference

- 1) Borzsei, L. K. (2013). *Makes a Meme Instead: A Concise History of Internet Memes*. (1), pg 1-29.
- 2) Dawkins, R. (1976). *The Selfish Gene* by Richard Dawkins. Oxford University Press. ISBN 0192860925.

# *True meaning of friendship*

*by Ms. Nik Mazleen*

*EAP Lecturer*

Friends bind people in a bond of love, mutual trust, understanding and loyalty. The definition of friendship is easy to understand, yet is too difficult to be applied. Friendship involves mutual self-respect, trust, loyalty and affection. Good friends enjoy each other's company, share the same interests and are loyal to each other.

A friend is someone who stands by us, through thick and thin. It requires honesty and mutual understanding and has to be nurtured with devotion and patience. Just as it takes patience in growing a garden, in friendship, too, it needs a lot of patience. First a seed is planted and then it has to be taken care of, nourished and watered, daily. One has to tend it with love and care.

Friendship is man's emotional and psychological necessity. You can share your feelings, frustrations and happiness with your friend. You can also depend upon your friend for keeping your trust. A true friend never lets you down even under most threatening circumstances. He or she will never let you down even under pressure.

The importance of friendship cannot be undermined because we cannot survive without good friends. It is a very important relationship in the emotional life of every human being. A friend, who supports you only when it is convenient, is called a "Fair-weather-Friend".

The one, who supports his friends, through emotional difficulties, is a "True Friend". He is ready to make sacrifices in order to help his friend. A true friend is someone whom you know will be there for you, whenever you need him.

Friendship is a necessary part of every human life as none of us is self-sufficient. A friend is a trust-worthy companion who cherishes special moments and memories of life with another person.

A good friend plays an active part in his friend's life. He is happy when his friend is happy. He feels achieved with his friend's accomplishments. They share affection, which fills them with positive energy, they spend time thinking of their friends, who is important for them and how to find ways to help them.

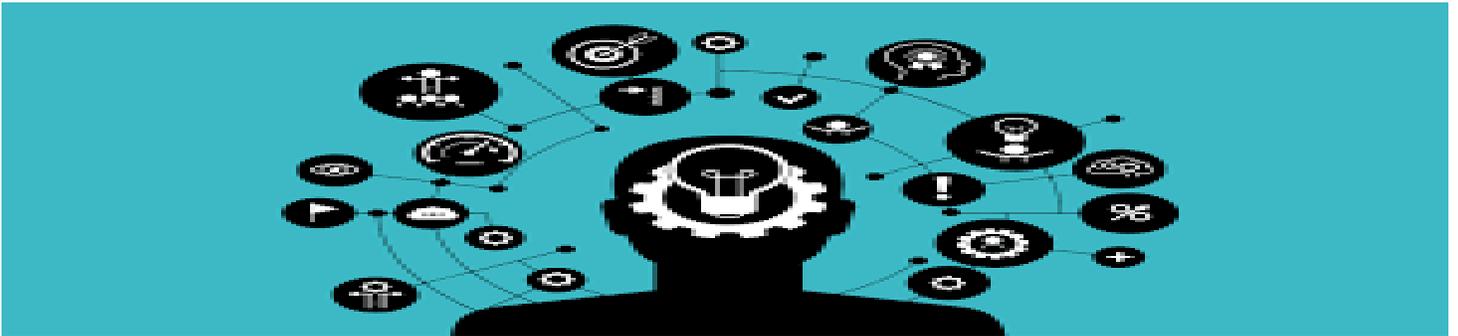
Friendship requires devoting time and patience. There can be disagreements and quarrels also, which is natural, but one must have patience to deal with such frustrations and being reasonable with a forgiving nature! Willingness to compromise when one can and persistence to rebuild friendships are needed for a true and lasting relationship.

True friendship cannot flourish without a give and take attitude. The more efforts are put into it, the more it will lead towards everlasting happiness and trust. Friendship also helps in molding the kind of person you are.

Never rush to make friends because friendship needs a good foundation. We must accept our friend as he is. The essence of friendship is sincerity and giving one's self to your friend without thinking of getting anything in return. At times, when we meet new and interesting people, our loyalty changes and old friends are forgotten. A lesson to be learnt, "Do not forget old friends while making new ones."

# LANGUAGE GAMES

## Test Your Knowledge!



Circle the most suitable answer.

1. All students who speak a language other than English at home are considered English Learners. True      False
2. English Learners have to take a proficiency test every year to measure annual growth in English. True      False
3. It is common to take anywhere from 5-10 years to learn a Second Language at an academic level. True      False
4. Students who exit EL status are proficient English speakers with skills equivalent to that of a native English speaker. True      False
5. Most English Learners in US schools were born in the United States. True      False

6. Spanish is the most common home language of ELs in the US.	True	False
7. Long-term ELs are students who arrived in the country after middle school and need more time than traditional schooling allows to learn English.	True	False
8. Retention has shown to have long-term benefits for ELs who need extra time to acquire English.	True	False
9. ELs often require more explicit instruction and additional time to master concepts.	True	False
10. ELs should focus entirely on learning to read in English so that they are not confused by native language instruction.	True	False

**Answers:**

1. **False**, 2. **True**, 3. **True**, 4. **False**, 5. **True**, 6. **True**, 7. **False**, 8. **False**, 9. **True** and 10. **False**

# PUZZLE CHOICE

## CITY SEARCH

Can you unscramble the letters to find ten world cities?

1. BADUPSET

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2. BEHINDRUG

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3. TUBNAIL

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4. KTOY

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5. ADMASTER

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6. OPENCHANGE

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7. LOWGAGS

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8. REALBACON

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9. SAWWAR

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10. SHINLIKE

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**KNOWLEDGE OF  
LANGUAGES IS  
THE  
DOORWAY  
TO WISDOM**

*Prophet Saeed*

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