

TEXT ME ENGLISH

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Introduction

The use of mobile devices and technologies for language learning is widespread, easy to use and familiar to learners. The Malaysian Communications and Multimedia Commissions (2008) found that in 2008 for every 100 Malaysians there are 90.6 mobile phones and broadband subscription in Malaysia and it was increased by nearly 50% from 2007 to 2008. More than two million mobile phone users in Malaysia were 19 years old or younger. However, mobile learning in Malaysia is still in its infancy. The result study by the Ministry of Education indicates that Malaysian university students were average users of English (Sarudin and Zubairy (n.d)). A study has been conducted to investigate the effect of language learning using the mobile and communication technologies. The results and discussions of the findings are as follows.

Objectives

The overall aim is to help Malaysian students in higher education to learn English as a second language using mobile and communication technologies. The objectives are to :

- design learning activities that involve using mobile and communication technology to engage students in learning.
- help improve students' communication and collaboration skills by involving them in group activities.
- evaluate the effects of using mobile and communication technologies in the language learning activities.

Method

The population of this study consists of first year students from two different specialisation group enrolled at the Faculty of Information and Communication Technology, Universiti Teknikal Malaysia Melaka. The main study was started by distributing pre test consisting questionnaires and writing test to both of the control and experimental group. The intervention started the next day afterwards for 6 weeks. And the study ends by giving out the post test consisting questionnaires and writing test to both of the group. During the intervention period, students will receive text messages and are expected to complete the learning activities using the communication technologies available on the internet at their convenience during this study.

Group	Pre Test		Activities during study		Post Test	
	Q'naires	Writing Test	Texting	Update wiki	Q'naires	Writing Test
Experimental	X	X	X	X	X	X
Control	X	X			X	X

Result

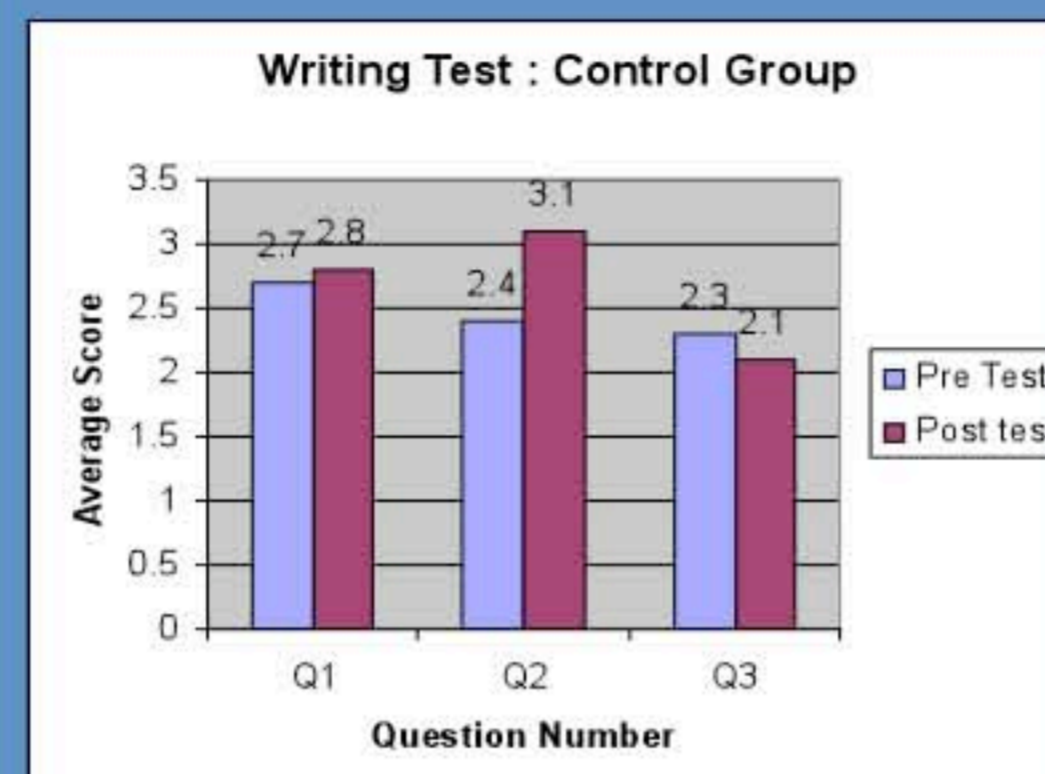


Figure 1

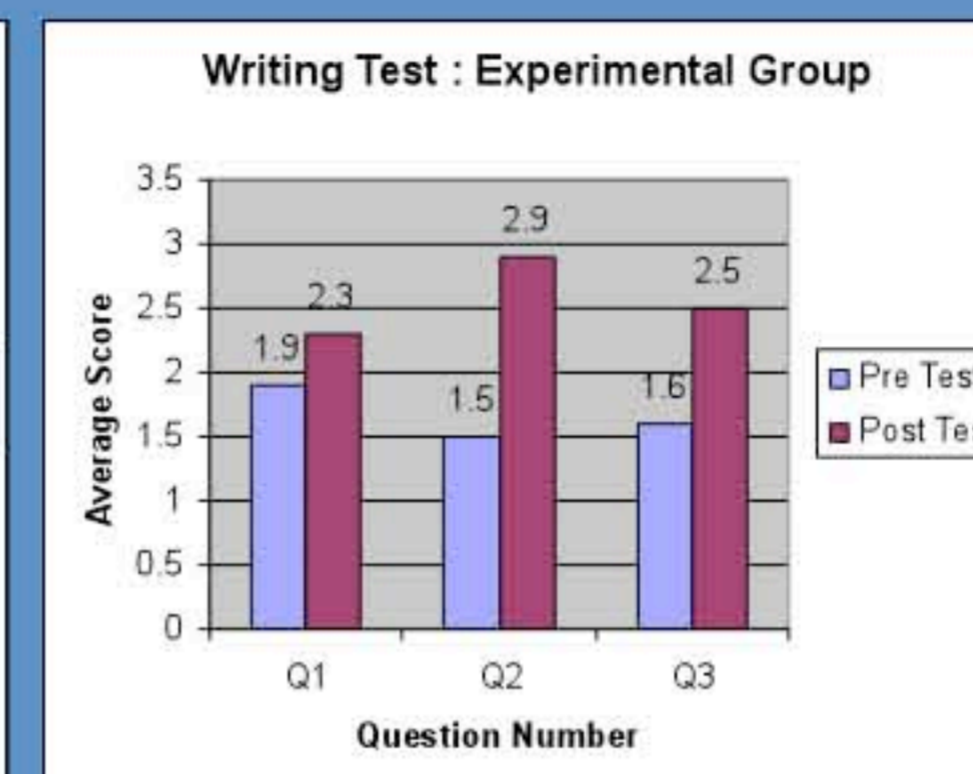


Figure 2

Figure 1 and 2 are the results of the writing test for the control and experimental group. In this writing test the students were given 3 questions which integrates with their Technical Communication 1 subject that is being taught for that semester. The findings for both group especially experimental group show significant positive change in the test.

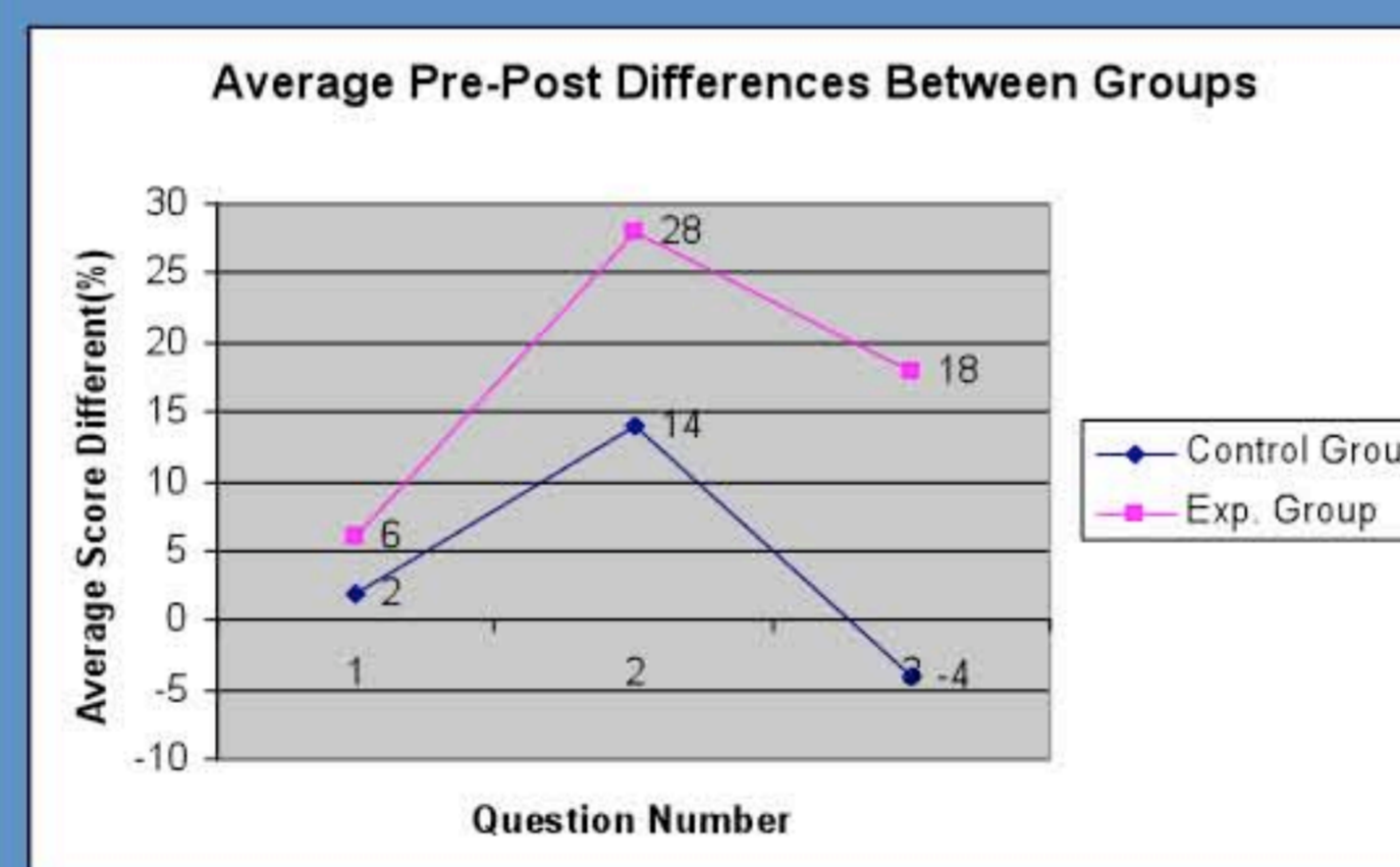


Figure 3

Figure 3 depicted the differences change of total average score for each questions before and after the experiment. The experimental group experienced significant positive change in their writing test.

In Figure 4, we picked 4 participants from the experimental group and relate their results with their short messaging activities (SMS) during the experiment. Active SMS participant in this case replying to the SMS sent to him/her by the researcher at the rate of 80%.

Medium participant at the rate of 40% and passive participant at the rate of 0%. We looked at their writing test score before and after the experiment. Student X improves her writing test by 25%, and student Y1 improves for 60%.

Relationship Between SMS and Test Score

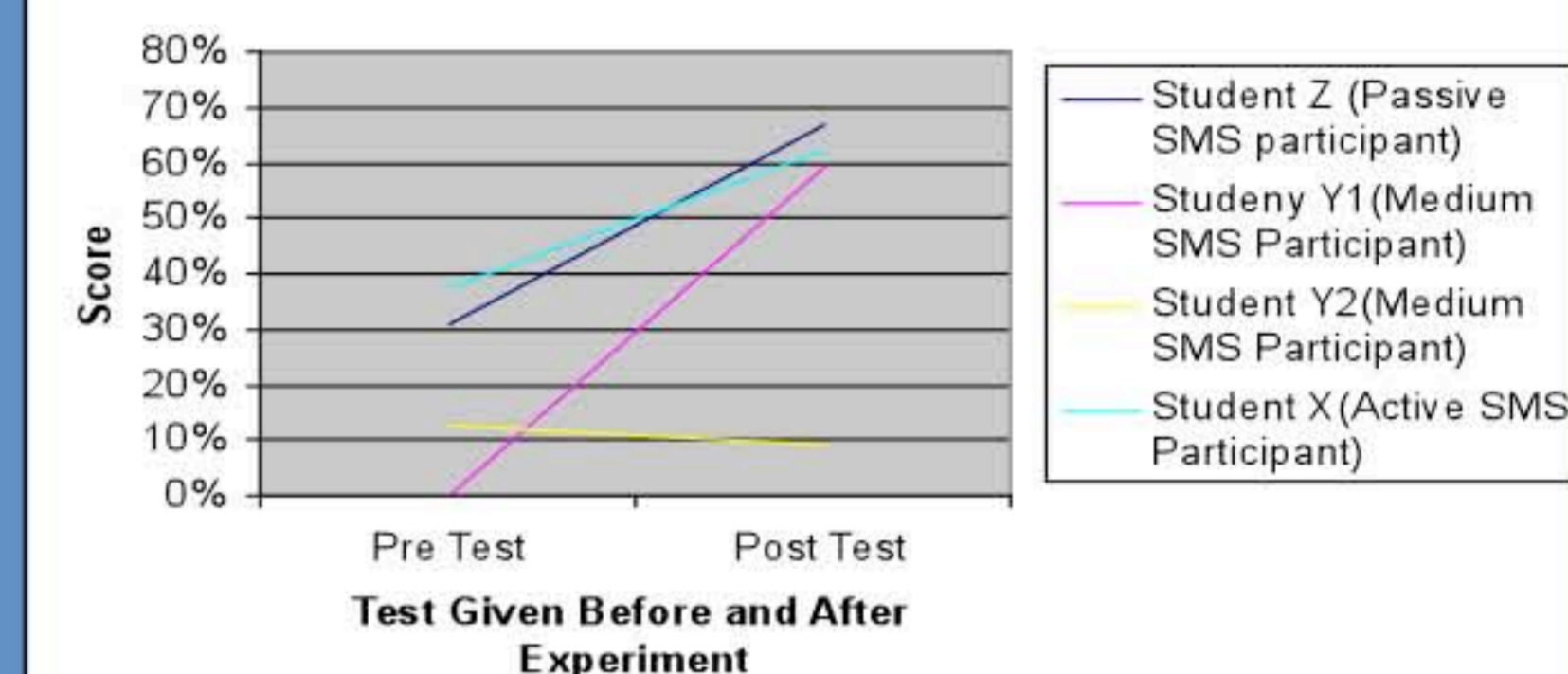


Figure 4

Analysis and Discussion

From the results so far, we found that by sending them different types of messages which includes lesson reminder, update reminder, topic quiz, general quiz, grammar quiz and weblinks reinforce the learning process. As a brain study suggests that for language learning, repetitive experience can help in learning new words. This is a work in progress, the next stage is to perform more detail analysis on the results and feedback given by the participants.

References

- Malaysian Communications and Multimedia Commissions (2008) http://www.skmm.gov.my/facts_figures/stats/index.asp . Retrieved 17 October 2008.
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- Sarudin, I & Zubairy, A.M (n.d) Assessment of Language Proficiency of University Students.

Acknowledgements

We gratefully acknowledge Malaysian Ministry of Higher Education and Universiti Teknikal Malaysia Melaka for sponsoring this research study.