

Foreword

Welcome to the **First Issue 2015** of the Journal of Social Sciences and Humanities (JSSH)!

JSSH is an open-access journal for the Social Sciences and Humanities that is published by Universiti Putra Malaysia Press. It is independently owned and managed by the university and run on a non-profit basis for the benefit of the world-wide social science community.

This issue contains **16 articles**. The authors of these articles come from different countries, namely, **Malaysia, Iran, Indonesia** and **Thailand**.

The articles cover a wide range of topics: a study investigating the transformation process of post-earthquake houses in Iran, in particular, people's motivational factors for these transformations (*Mohammad Parva, Kamariah Dola, and Farzad Pour Rahimian*); a research that examined the factors influencing residents' satisfaction in high and medium density neighbourhoods of Lagos metropolitan city, Nigeria (*Eluwa, S. E and Ho, C. S*); an analysis on the expectation and satisfaction of tourists towards Heritage Attractions in Melaka (*Jusoh, Jamil., Abd Hamid, Nor Fatimah. and Mohd Najib, Nurul 'Ulyani*); a discussion on the role of the student movement in the 13th Malaysian General Election (*Mohd. Fauzi Fadzil and Ku Hasnita*); and an article that explains the concept of economic analysis of law in understanding labour law (*Kamal Halili Hassan*).

The research studies, on topics related to finance, literature, psychology, education and language and linguistics, include: a study that investigated the choice of multiples in valuing agribusiness firms in Malaysia from 2003 to 2009 (*Goh, C. F., Rasli, A., Dziekonski, K. and Khan, S. U. R.*); research evaluating how tax reforms affect stock prices of local and foreign firms in Oman and Saudi Arabia (*Aslam S., Ariff, M. and Shamsher M.*); an article attempting to trace the parallel search for identity in Hedayat's *The Blind Owl* (1937) and Faulkner's *The Sound and the Fury* (1929) (*Pedram Lalbakhsh and Pouria Torkamaneh*); a paper that discusses how Margaret Atwood's melancholic female subject in *Surfacing* goes on a quest-journey in the wilderness to deal with her sense of loss and gains a new life (*Kamelia Talebian Sedehi and Wan Roselezam Wan Yahya*); a study that explores the causal relationships between globalisation and stress of Thai farm workers (*Kaewanuchit, C., Muntaner, C., Labonte, R. and Johnson, D.*); an investigation of the factorial structure of the Ummatic Personality Inventory among students (*Tekke, M., Nik Ahmad Hisham, I., Adnan, M. A. M., and Nooraini, O.*); a study that illustrates the blurring boundaries between informal and formal learning in Malaysia's banking sector (*Khoo, S. L.*); a study investigating the relationship between two personality types, namely, extrovert vs. introvert, and two types of correction (self-correction and teacher correction) in an EFL writing context (*Nasrin Shokrpour and Shadab Moslehi*); a study that examined an EFL on-line writing programme with its automated feedback in terms of the students' writing

progress, the discrepancy between the on-line and teacher scores, and the teachers' and students' perceptions (*Luciana*); a study of the factors affecting the employment of Arabic language learning strategies among religious secondary school students (*Kamarul, S. M. T.*); research that explored the potential of a project-based instruction programme to improve students' English oral communication skills (*Lia A. , Futuh H., Bambang Bp.*); a study that examines the selective listening ability of a group of EFL learners (*Hayatdavoudi, J.*); and a study that discusses the techniques used in Tamil to convey emotions through words in Facebook (*Malarvizhi, S. and Paramasivam, M., Kannan Narayanan and Normaliza Abd Rahim*).

I anticipate that you will find the evidence presented in this issue to be intriguing, thought-provoking and useful in reaching new milestones. Please recommend the journal to your colleagues and students to make this endeavour meaningful.

I would also like to express my gratitude to all the contributors who have made this issue possible, as well as the authors, reviewers and editors for their professional contribution. Last but not least, the editorial assistance of the journal division staff is also fully appreciated.

JSSH is currently accepting manuscripts for upcoming issues based on original qualitative or quantitative research that opens new areas of inquiry and investigation.

Chief Executive Editor

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