RESEARCHING TEACHING IN HIGHER EDUCATION
Our Paths to Surrender

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Editor
We are in the midst of the fourth wave of the global research paradigm shift.

Secondly, the current research trends are about group collaboration and ideas.

Thirdly, there is a growing interest in the third space, Malaysia's birthplace, which supports local ownership and operates at a grassroots level.

Finally, a new learning environment has been evolving, driven by the needs of the new learners. We think...
# Table of Contents

Acknowledgements iii

Introduction by Fatimah Hashim iv

## Chapter 1

Students’ Unvoiced Agenda in Action Research 1

*Evelyn Khor*

- Abstract 1
- A Teacher’s Enthusiasm 2
- Starting Out 2
- Evaluating My Classroom Practice 3
- A New Beginning 10
- References 12

## Chapter 2

Motivating Students to Learn Non-Prescription Products More Effectively — It Is not as Simple as I Thought 13

*H. G. Lee and W. Y. Low*

- Abstract 13
- Enthusiasm and Excitement 14
- Initial Survey Confirms My Hypothesis 14
- Discovering Negative Outcomes – A Reality 20
- Some Good and Promising Outcomes – A Boon 20
- What I Learnt After the Long Struggle 22
- My Final Reflections 23
- References 24
1

Students' Unvoiced Agenda in Action Research

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ABSTRACT

This chapter describes my road towards understanding myself and my students. In an attempt to cultivate students' interest in writing, a creative writing class was offered during lunch hour to first semester English major students once a week. The purpose of the class was to give students the opportunity to use language in imaginative and creative ways. The activities which I used were poems and short story writing activities. Using the 'start, stop and continue method', I introduced different activities each session, and taking the students' responses into consideration, I planned that I would then decide whether to continue with the same activity or to stop and go on to a new activity. Feedback from the students was not as spontaneous as I had expected. However, as I was keen to prove to myself that creative writing activity is the tool to improve students' writing, I chose to continue and ignored the principles of Action Research. In the end, I had to admit defeat as the numbers dwindled and the lunchtime classes eventually came to an end. Although it was difficult to admit defeat, the experience showed me that students have their own agenda when they enter a class and this agenda may not be in line with mine. Unless I make a conscious step to listen to their unvoiced agenda, and negotiate to see how we can reach a compromise, the best intention of a teacher does not always translate into the best outcome for the student.