

DEVELOPMENT OF ASSESSMENT TOOL FOR DYSLEXIA SCREENING  
USING FUZZY LOGIC

NG LI MUN

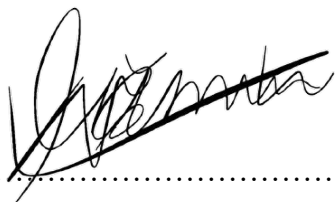
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I hereby declare that the work in this thesis is my own except for quotations and summaries which have been duly acknowledged

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This thesis is wholeheartedly dedicated to my beloved parents and my dearest siblings.



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## ABSTRACT

Dyslexia is a specific reading difficulty leading to low proficiency in an individual's literacy, affecting 5 to 17.5 % of the population globally and 5 to 15 % of Malaysia's children. The current dyslexia screening test known as *Ujian Pengesanan Awal Disleksia Bahasa Melayu* (D-Test) is administrated manually, and the decision to determine dyslexia risk is time-consuming. Hence, this research's main objective is to develop an assessment tool by implementing fuzzy logic for rapid dyslexia risk outcomes using D-Test as the primary screening framework. The Mamdani-type Fuzzy Inference System (FIS) was developed based on 48 rule conditions, whereas the user interface was built using MATLAB App Designer. The developed assessment tool's performance was evaluated based on quantitative (accuracy, sensitivity, specificity, and precision), qualitative (Technology Acceptance Model (TAM)), and system response time assessments. Phase I study was conducted using the D-Test, and Phase II was carried out using the developed assessment tool with the recruitment of school pupils ( $n^{\text{Phase I}}=117$  and  $n^{\text{Phase II}}=74$ ) and teachers ( $n=29$ ), respectively. The outcome from the quantitative results from Phase I and Phase II demonstrated the capability of fuzzy logic to distinguish between dyslexic and non-dyslexic subjects with an accuracy of 88.89 % and 93.24 %, respectively. Meanwhile, the finding from the qualitative approach investigated using showed the perceptions of external control ( $R^2 =0.575$ ,  $p<0.05$ ) and perceived usefulness ( $R^2 =0.675$ ,  $p<0.05$ ) were significantly influencing the behavioural intention of the target users towards the developed dyslexia assessment tool. The final finding on the system response time highlighted the developed tool's capability to improve the time taken when determining the dyslexia risk level (15 seconds per subject). In conclusion, the assessment tool for a rapid dyslexia risk status utilising Mamdani-type FIS had been successfully developed. The developed dyslexia assessment tool could be beneficial to assist dyslexia organisations, parents and school teachers in dyslexia screening process.



## ABSTRAK

Disleksia merupakan masalah khusus berkaitan kesukaran membaca yang menyumbang kepada penguasaan kemahiran literasi yang rendah menyebabkan 5 hingga 17.5 % dari populasi dunia dan 5 hingga 15 % kanak-kanak di Malaysia terjejas. Ujian Pengesanan Awal Disleksia Bahasa Melayu (D-Test) dilakukan secara manual dan mengambil masa yang panjang untuk mendapatkan keputusan saringan. Oleh sebab itu, penyelidikan ini dilakukan bertujuan untuk membangunkan sebuah perisian dengan penggunaan logic kabur bagi menghasilkan saringan disleksia secara pantas berdasarkan penggunaan D-Test. *Fuzzy Inference System* (FIS) jenis Mamdani telah dibina dengan 48 aturan syarat manakala antaramuka pengguna dihasilkan menggunakan *MATLAB App Designer*. Prestasi perisian yang telah dibangunkan diukur menggunakan pendekatan kuantitatif (ketepatan, kepekaan, kekhususan dan kejitian), kualitatif (*Technology Acceptance Model* (TAM)) dan masa tindakbalas sistem. Kajian Fasa I dijalankan dengan menggunakan D-Test manakala Fasa II dijalankan menggunakan perisian yang telah dibangunkan dengan penglibatan murid sekolah ( $n^{\text{Fasa I}}=117$  dan  $n^{\text{Fasa II}}=74$ ) dan guru sekolah ( $n=29$ ). Keputusan daripada analisis kuantitatif bagi Fasa I dan Fasa II menunjukkan kemampuan logic kabur untuk membezakan antara subjek disleksia dan bukan disleksia dengan nilai ketepatan masing-masing iaitu 88.89 % dan 93.24 %. Manakala, hasil daripada analisis kualitatif yang menggunakan menunjukkan bahawa persepsi kawalan luaran ( $R^2=0.575$ ,  $p<0.05$ ) dan kebergunaan ( $R^2=0.675$ ,  $p<0.05$ ) adalah signifikan dalam mempengaruhi keinginan pengguna terhadap penggunaan perisian yang dicipta. Dapatan kajian membuktikan kebolehan perisian dalam menghasilkan keputusan saringan risiko disleksia secara pantas (15 saat untuk seorang subjek). Kesimpulannya, satu perisian saringan disleksia secara pantas telah berjaya dihasilkan dengan penggunaan logic kabur jenis Mamdani. Perisian yang dibina boleh digunakan untuk membantu petubuhan disleksia, ibu bapa dan guru sekolah dalam proses saringan disleksia.

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## LIST OF SYMBOLS AND ABBREVIATIONS

$A$	Fuzzy set named A
$f^2$	Effect size
$m$	Mean
$n$	Non control group (dyslexia and slow learner)
$n_c$	Control group (normal)
$p$	Significance of structural path coefficient
$R^2$	Coefficient of determination
$t$	Significance of structural path coefficient
$U$	Universal set of fuzzy set
$\beta$	Strength of relationship in PLS
<i>ANN</i>	- Artificial Neural Network
<i>ARHQ</i>	- Adult Reading History Questionnaire
<i>AVE</i>	Average Variance Extracted
<i>BI</i>	- Behavioural Intention
<i>BM</i>	- Bahasa Malaysia
<i>CAD</i>	Coronary Artery Disease
<i>CLDQ-R</i>	- Colorado Learning Disabilities Questionnaire – Reading Subscale
<i>COPD</i>	Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease
<i>CSE</i>	- Computer Self-Efficacy
<i>CFS</i>	Correlation Based Feature Selection
<i>DCCC</i>	- Dyslexia Checklist for Chinese Children
<i>DCS</i>	- Diagnostic and Classification System
<i>DEST</i>	- Dyslexia Early Screening Test
<i>DST</i>	- Dyslexia Screening Test
<i>D-TEST</i>	- <i>Ujian Pengesanan Awal Disleksia Bahasa Melayu</i>
<i>ENJ</i>	- Perceived Enjoyment

<i>FIS</i>	- Fuzzy Inference System
<i>FN</i>	- False Negative
<i>FP</i>	- False Positive
<i>GA</i>	- Genetic Algorithm
<i>GUI</i>	- Graphical User Interface
<i>HTMT</i>	Heterotrait-Monotrait Ratio of Correlations
<i>ISD</i>	- <i>Instrumen Senarai Semak Disleksia</i>
<i>KNN</i>	- K Nearest Neighbours
<i>Lucid CoPS</i>	- Lucid CoPS Cognitive Profiling System
<i>LASS</i>	- Lucid Assessment System for Schools
<i>LINUS</i>	Literacy and Numeracy Screening
<i>MATLAB</i>	Matrix Laboratory
<i>MOE</i>	Ministry of Education Malaysia
<i>NKRA</i>	Education National Key Results Area
<i>OUT</i>	Output Quality
<i>PEC</i>	- Perceptions of External Control
<i>PEOU</i>	- Perceived Ease of Use
<i>PLS</i>	- Partial Least Square
<i>PU</i>	- Perceived Usefulness
<i>REL</i>	Job Relevance
<i>RES</i>	- Result Demonstrability
<i>Rhino</i>	- Retinal Health Information and Notification System
<i>SEM</i>	- Structural Equation Modelling
<i>SME</i>	Small and Medium-sized Enterprises
<i>SVM</i>	Support Vector Machine
<i>TAM</i>	- Technology Acceptance Model
<i>TN</i>	- True Negative
<i>TP</i>	- True Positive
<i>UNESCO</i>	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
<i>UNICEF</i>	- United Nations Children's Fund
<i>UTAUT</i>	Unified Theory of Acceptance and Use of Technology
<i>VIF</i>	Inner Collinearity
<i>WEKA</i>	- Waikato Environment for Knowledge Analysis data mining tool



- WISC* - Wechsler Intelligence Scale for Children  
*WMA* - World Medical Association



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# CHAPTER 1

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Overview

This chapter introduces the background and motivation of this study. This chapter also addresses problem statement, objectives to be achieved at the end of the research and scopes of the study as well as contribution. The chapter ends with the thesis organisation.

### 1.2 Background and motivation

Dyslexia is a specific reading disability that an individual suffers from difficulties in the development of reading, writing and spelling skills but the intelligence of the children is remained unaffected [1]. The rate of prevalence varies widely according to the populations and country [2]. A report (1987) submitted to United States Congress stated that the rate of dyslexia was between 5 and 17.5 % which was in line with the opinion of Shaywitz (1994) [3]. International Dyslexia Association (2012) stated that 15 to 20 % of the population worldwide demonstrated symptoms of dyslexia [4] whereas British Dyslexia Association (2017) estimated that 10 % of the population could be dyslexic [5]. On the other hand, various studies of dyslexia's prevalence had been conducted, the results from the research done by Moore *et al.* showed that 10 % were affected by dyslexia in Europe [6] but now it has increased to 15 % of people that are dealing with dyslexia based on the report from Pouspourika [7]; a rate ranged from 2 to 12 % was estimated by Xu *et al.* in China [8]; 5 to 17 % of people were affected by dyslexia in India (Sahoo *et al.*) [9]; and as for United Arab Emirates, the report



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generated by Aboudan *et al.* showed that 17.6 % of people were dyslexic as they faced difficulties with English and Arabic [10]. Meanwhile the dyslexia statistics for Malaysia showed that 5 to 15 % of children possessed trait of dyslexia (Yuzaidey *et al.*) [11]. Although the prevalence of dyslexia is diverse, it does indicate the significance of getting an early screening for dyslexia so that the reading ability of children may be improved.

### 1.3 Problem statement

Dyslexia impacts people with varying degrees of dyslexic difficulty [12] as the dyslexic individuals possess non-identical in brain development. They only share the similarity in their reading ability that tends to be lower than people of their age [13].

At present, Dyslexia Association of Malaysia has constructed a manual screening test named “*Ujian Pengesanan Awal Disleksia Bahasa Melayu (D-Test)*” consisting of ten subtests to identify dyslexic condition among children aged from 6 to 10-year-old [14]. The screening instrument is performed by collecting the total score gained throughout all the subtests, and the calculation is carried out manually to analyse the dyslexic condition. However, this process is time-consuming as the test scores obtained from the dyslexia screening need to be manually calculated and analysed based on the percentile table leading to delay in dyslexia risk confirmation [15].

Lee *et al.* [16] have recently developed a reading assessment battery for dyslexia evaluation. In this study, the researchers were able to identify the children who were at risk of dyslexia and who were at no risk of dyslexia using the assessments in terms of language, literacy, and sublexical-reading aspects. The instrument was able to identify the children who were having risk in dyslexia with high reliability and validity. Despite its reliability and validity, the instrument suffers from manual administration for computing the dyslexia result.

Based on the limitations, the need to develop a computerised risk screening tool for dyslexia is presented here. This research aimed to develop an assessment tool that could assist in calculating dyslexia result to replace with the manual calculation method. Specifically, fuzzy logic was employed to act as the classification method that

could identify the dyslexic and non-dyslexic children. In this research, qualitative and quantitative approaches were utilised to gather all the data required.

#### 1.4 Research objectives

The main aim of this research was to develop a screening tool with generation of dyslexia result rapidly and instantaneously. To achieve the main aim, the project is divided into several components and carried out systematically with the listed research objectives as follows.

- (i) To determine the dyslexia risk status using fuzzy logic
- (ii) To develop dyslexia assessment tool system with fuzzy logic integration for the ease of use during dyslexia screening test session
- (iii) To evaluate the performance of the developed system based on quantitative, and qualitative analysis as well as the system response time

#### 1.5 Scopes of study

The scopes of study of this research are listed as below:

- (i) D-Test was employed to identify the tendency of having dyslexia as the foundation of the screening tool. As such, four out of ten manual tests were selected and utilised as referred in Table 1.1 based on the recommendation from Mr. Saifuddin, the dyslexia expert from Little Genius Multisensory Dyslexia Centre Batu Pahat. MATLAB Fuzzy Logic Designer was applied to rule out all the dyslexia conditions based on the reference from the D-Test screening manual.

Table 1.1: List of selected tests employed in the dyslexia assessment tool

Test	Name of the test
1	Rapid Naming
3	One-Minute Reading
5	Two-Minute Spelling
7	Pseudowords

- (ii) An assessment tool for dyslexia screening was developed using MATLAB App Designer with the integration of MATLAB Fuzzy Logic Designer to



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