

Two UMS' innovations win awards

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KOTA KINABALU: University Malaysia Sabah (UMS) continued to excel in the field of innovation after two of its creations received recognition at the national level e-Seminar on Research and Innovation in Education 2021 (e-SPeDIP2021) contest held virtually recently.

The entries titled "Employing Social Media Based Willingness To Communicate Module In English Speaking Skill Instruction" and "Using Madlipz In An Oral Communication Classroom: L2 Learners' Perception" won gold and silver awards in the Higher Learning Institution (IPT) category respectively. The golden innovation was produced by a group of researchers from the Centre for the Promotion of Knowledge and Language Learning (PPIB), Faculty of Psychology and Education (FPP), Faculty Of Science And Natural Resources (FSSA) and Preparatory Center

for Science & Technology (PPST). They are PPIB lecturer Anna Lynn Abu Bakar; deputy director of the Centre of Internationalisation and Global Engagement Associate professor Dr Wardatul Akmam Din; FSSA deputy dean (Academic and International) Associate Professor Dr Darmesah Gabda; Associate Professor at FFP Dr Suyansah Swanto; as well as PPST language teachers Nur Anneliza Abd. Latip and Iziana Hani Ismail.

Their innovations highlighted methods of strengthening speaking skills in English by developing the Willingness To Communicate (WTC) Module with emphasis on elements of self-confidence, anxiety and motivation, as well as integrating the module with the use of three social media applications namely Facebook, Tik Tok and Madlipz.

The outcomes of the innovation showed students enjoyed, showed interest, highly confident and

ready to improve their English language proficiency.

The other innovation titled "Using Madlipz In An Oral Communication Classroom: L2 Learners' Perception", was produced through combined efforts of PPIB researchers.

The group comprised Anna Lynn Abu Bakar, Dr Irma Wani Othman, Sabariah Abd Rahim and Wan Hurani Osman who are PPIB lecturers as well as Nor Dawirah Rahman and Bernadette Tobi who are language teachers at PPIB. The research conducted also revolves around the use of Madlipz application in oral learning of English in classroom and its effectiveness in helping to improve speaking skills and improve grammar in English.

The two innovations are among 108 entries from various IPTs, teacher's institutes, matriculation colleges, schools (form six) and others in the same category.