PUBLIC EXPECTATION ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF BUS RAPID TRANSIT AT ISKANDAR MALAYSIA, JOHOR

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DEDICATION

Every challenging work needs self-efforts as well as guidance of elders especially those who very close to our heart. Hence, this thesis is dedicated to my parents, family, friends whose affection, love, encouragement and prays of day and night make me able to get such success and honour along with all hard working and respected lecturers.

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ABSTRACT

Iskandar Malaysia is situated in Johor has encountered a lightening urban expansion after its formation in 2006 which also known as Southern Development Corridor. Iskandar region is undergoing critical urban sprawl and high vehicle dependency due to urbanization. Public transportation is one important solution for this problem. Public transport operators and authorities are forced to place emphasis on the monitoring and improvements of the services provided in an attempt to address the increasing rate of car ownership and climate change. This study focuses on commuters' satisfaction using public bus services and expectation towards upcoming Bus Rapid Transit service in Iskandar Malaysia (IMBRT). Furthermore, this research also studied the implementation challenges of IMBRT as preliminary studies and provide recommendation for further enhancement of the BRT services prior implementation. Using self-rate questionnaire to investigate 263 respondents' satisfaction and expectation of commuters. Statistical Package for Social Science (SPSS) was used to analyzed data in a descriptive, cross-tabulation and factor analysis. One main finding, reported that respondents are mostly not satisfied with most of the quality attributes of public buses. This indicates that the quality of Iskandar Malaysia public bus transport service, especially in Johor Bahru is below the commuters' expectation. Frequency analysis suggests that from 22 independent variables, commuters only satisfy with fare collection and fare payment system and feeling neutral for air-conditioning services and not satisfied with other service attributes. Frequency analysis also done to study the commuters' expectation towards future BRT services in Iskandar Malaysia. The factor analysis is conducted to reduce numbers of factor that correlated to customer satisfaction to simplify the decision maker to make an improvement, instead looking on specific items. From twenty-one single service quality attributes that were observed to investigate customer satisfaction in public bus transport, the factor analysis suggests simplifying them into nine factors. Cross-Tabulation analysis was also carried separately from the Johor Bahru city to identify the public bus usage with three independent factors which are: Gender, Employment and Residential area. From the cross-tabulation of gender (Pearson $Chi^2 = 4.832$; df=1; p=0.028 < 0.05) and residential area (Pearson Chi²= 7.94; df= 2; p=0.019 < 0.05) with public bus usage are showing the relationship between variable is significant using Pearson Chi² results and relationship with employment status (Pearson Chi² = 2.246; df = 6; p=0.896>0.05) and public bus usage has shown no significant between these two variables. In addition, under preliminary studies, IMBRT implementation challenges were also being discussed by conducting interview the IRDA officer and found the major possible challenges to be addressed. To summarize, overall aim of this research is to make public transportation mainly Bus Rapid Transit in Iskandar Malavsia (IMBRT) to be implemented in a way more attractive, satisfied, and marketable mode of transport by addressing all those expectations from users and highlighting the implementing challenges in order to provide a highly efficient transport service in Iskandar Malaysia by addressing those challenges.

ABSTRAK

Iskandar Malaysia terletak di Johor telah mengalami urbanisasi yang sangat ketara selepas pembentukannya pada tahun 2006 yang juga dikenali sebagai Pembangunan Wilayah Ekonomi Selatan Johor. Wilayah Iskandar sedang menjalani pemintasan bandar yang serius dan kebergantungan tinggi kepada kenderaan akibat urbanisasi. Pengangkutan awam adalah salah satu penyelesaian penting untuk masalah ini. Pihak berkuasa dan operator pengangkutan awam terpaksa memberi penekanan kepada pemantauan dan penambahbaikan perkhidmatan yang disediakan dalam usaha untuk menangani kadar pemilikan kereta yang tinggi dan perubahan cuaca. Kajian ini memberi tumpuan kepada tahap kepuasan pengguna menggunakan perkhidmatan bas awam dan harapan terhadap perkhidmatan Transit Aliran Bas yang akan dikenalkan di Iskandar Malaysia (IMBRT). Selain itu, kajian awal juga mengkaji cabaran-cabaran pelaksanaan IMBRT dan memberi cadangan untuk meningkatkan lagi pelaksanaan perkhidmatan BRT sebelum pelaksanaan. Kaedah soal selidik digunakan untuk menyiasat tahap kepuasan dan harapan bakal penumpang daripada 263 responden. Statistical Packege For Social Science (SPSS) telah digunakan untuk menganalisis data secara deskriptif dengan cara 'Frequency Analysis', 'Factor Analysis' dan 'Cross-Tabulation'. Hasil kajian melaporkan bahawa kebanyakan responden tidak berpuas hati dengan kualiti perkhidmatan bas awam. Ini menunjukkan bahawa kualiti perkhidmatan bas di Iskandar Malaysia, terutamanya di Johor Bahru berada di bawah jangkaan. 'Frequency Analysis' menunjukkan bahawa dari 22 atribut, pengguna hanya berpuas hati dengan kadar tambang dan sistem pembayaran tambang dan merasa neutral dengan sistem penyaman udara dan tidak berpuas hati dengan atribut perkhidmatan lain. Analisis kekerapan juga dilakukan untuk mengkaji harapan pengguna terhadap bakal perkhidmatan BRT Iskandar Malavsia. 'Factor Analysis' dijalankan untuk mengurangkan bilangan faktor yang dikaitkan dengan tahap kepuasan pelanggan untuk mempermudahkan membuat keputusan untuk penambahbaikan secara keseluruhan. Dari dua puluh satu atribut yang mengkaji tahap kepuasan terhadap kualiti perkhidmatan, 'Factor Analysis' mengurangkan faktor menjadi sembilan faktor. 'Cross-Tabulation' juga dibuat untuk membandingkan penggunaan bas awam dengan tiga faktor iaitu: Perbezaan jantina, jenis pekerjaan dan kawasan kediaman. Dari analisis 'Cross-Tabulation', hubungan antara jantina (Pearson $Chi^2 = 4.832$; df=1; p=0.028< 0.05) dan kawasan kediaman (Pearson $Chi^2 =$ 7.94; df= 2; p= 0.019 < 0.05) dengan penggunaan bas awam menunjukkan hubungan signifikan dengan menggunakan keputusan Pearson-Chi² dan hubungan status pekerjaan (Pearson Chi² = 2.246; df= 6; p=0.896>0.05) dengan penggunaan bas awam tidak menunjukkan signifikasi antara dua pemboleh ubah tersebut. Di samping itu, sebagai kajian awal, sesi temu bual diadakan dengan pihak IRDA untuk mengetahui cabaran-cabaran pelaksanaan IMBRT dan cara-cara penyelesaian kepada cabaran tersebut. Kesimpulannya, matlamat keseluruhan kajian ini adalah untuk menjadikan pengangkutan awam terutamanya Transit Aliran Bas di Iskandar Malaysia (IMBRT) untuk dilaksanakan dengan cara yang lebih menarik, meningkatkan tahap kepuasan dan kebolehpasaran dengan cara memenuhi semua harapan dari pengguna dan menyediakan perkhidmatan pengangkutan yang sangat efisien di Iskandar Malaysia dengan menangani cabaran semasa pelaksanaan.

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

IMBRT	-	Iskandar Malaysia Bus Rapid Transit
IRDA	-	Iskandar Regional Development Authority
BRT	-	Bus Rapid Transit
JKR	-	Public Work Department
MIROS	-	Malaysia Institute of Road Safety Research
JPJ	-	Road Transport Department Malaysia
PDRM	-	Royal Police of Malaysia
EFA	-	Exploratory factor analysis
SPSS	-	Statistical Package for the Social Sciences
КМО	-	Kaiser Meyer Olkin
BRT	-	Bus Rapid Transit

LIST OF SYMBOLS

п	-	Sample Size
E	-	Margin of error
N	-	Population size
r	-	Fraction of response that interested in
Z (c/100)	-	Critical value for the confidence level c

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CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Research Background

Increasing travel demand and preferences in using private vehicle is causing rapid motorization in many counties around the world. Most people are now highly dependent on private motorize travel (Ellaway et al. 2003). This phenomenon was caused because of attractiveness of car and people love to drive (Beirão & Sarsfield Cabral 2007). An increased private motorization has resulted in an increased traffic congestion which in turn result in longer travel times for many people (Beirão & Sarsfield Cabral 2007; Asri & Hidayat 2005). Various studies have shown that commuting can cause considerable stress, whether by public transport or private car (Tse et al. 2000; Bhat and Sardesai 2006; Wener et al. 2005). This stress can spill over into commuters' work and home life (Wener et al. 2005), as well as affect the overall quality of life of commuters (Costal et al. 1988). Elevated stress levels can contribute to serious health problems such as cardiovascular disease and suppressed immune functioning (Wener et al. 2005).

In addition to congestion, private motorization is also affecting the safety of vulnerable road users (Kodukula 2009), high consumption of non-renewable resource (Aßmann & Sieber 2005), and causes serious threat to the quality of human environments (Goodwin 1996; Greene & Wegener 1997). In order to prevent more problems caused by this increase in motorization it is highly recommended by many researchers as well as public decision makers to provide an attractive public transport service as an alternative transport mode in many cities.

Public transportation has undoubtedly play a vital role in commuting passengers to work or to places that they desire, and more importantly, to reduce traffic congestion. The public transport company in Malaysia was first introduced by the British, in 1935 by setting up a company called the General Transport Company. However, public transport was not the trend back then, since walking and cycling were mostly favored by the people (Klang Valley Regional Planning and Development Study, 1973). Customer Expectations and its Relationship Towards Public Transport in Klang Valley.

Iskandar Malaysia is situated in Johor has encountered a lightening urban expansion after its formation in 2006 which also known as Southern Development Corridor in another name. Iskandar Malaysia populace recorded between 2006 and 2010 higher compared to the projected rate with an annual growth rate of 3.8 percent and starting of 2012, recorded population about 1.74 million. Iskandar region is undergoing critical urban sprawl and high vehicle dependency due to urbanization. Likewise, land use for transportation encompasses highest percentage in the category of built up area in 2013 (IRDA 2014). As this region is highly dependent on private vehicle, the public transport modal share is relatively low. According to Iskandar Regional Development Authority (IRDA) (2010), the public transport modal share of Iskandar Malaysia was 10 percent in 2012. Current and expected public transport modal share in Iskandar Malaysia and Greater Kuala Lumpur/Klang Valley (GKL/KV) were showing in Table 1.1 below.

Table 1.1Iskandar Malaysia and Klang Valley (GKL/KV) current and expected
public transport modal share (IRDA, 2014 & EPU, 2015)

	Iskandar Malaysia	GKL/KV
Current public transport	10% (as of 2012) (IRDA,	17.1% (as of 2014) (EPU,
modal share	2014)	2015)
Expected public transport modal share	40% (by 2025) (IRDA, 2014)	40% (by 2020) (EPU, 2015)

In order to solve the issue of unsustainable transportation in Iskandar Malaysia, one of the solutions highlighted in 'CDP II 2014-2025' is Transit Oriented Development (TOD). According to IRDA (2014), TOD is to encourage and enhance Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) system in Iskandar Malaysia and they are to be applied concurrently. BRT system is also incorporated with 'Low Carbon Society Action Plan 2025' by Ho et al. (2015). As of 2013, a total cost of RM36.5 million was invested to develop BRT system as stated in 'Iskandar Malaysia Annual Report 2013' (IRDA, 2014).

Prior going for further discussion, BRT can be characterized as a high-quality bus- based transit system that delivers quick, cozy, and cost-effective urban mobility through the provision of separated right-of-way infrastructure, rapid and frequent operations, and excellence in marketing and customer service (Wright and Hook, 2007). Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) has been classified as one of the most financially savvy instruments for urban communities to develop a public transport system that can cover a complete network and deliver a quick with high-quality service which will help solve the current transportation related problem. Curitiba, Brazil is the first country to implement BRT in 1974 where now BRT turned into a worldwide application in the twenty-first century. In Europe, BRT is generally provided a higher quality and execution of transport with an effective budget. However, the use of BRT system is considered new and growing in some Asian countries like Malaysia (Omar, Lamin and Osman, 2017).

In Iskandar Region, Bus rapid transit (BRT) will be the backbone of public transport in Iskandar Malaysia. Its targets by 2025 (IMBRT Report);

- 1) Increase in public transport coverage from 39% to 90%.
- 2) Increase in public transport modal share from 15% to 40%.

1.2 Problem Statement

Rapid motorization is derived from car and private motorize preference in choosing travel mode in fulfill customer travel demand. According to several studies that the writer summarize in previous report (Budiono 2009b), preference of using car because public transport still could not compete with the attractiveness of private car

or motorcycle, such as low flexibility, no direct access, longer travel time, and unsafe when traveling with public transport.

Inefficient public transportation services will reduce their efficiency and eventually lead to high private vehicle dependency. The masterplan reported that only 8% of Johoreans use public transportation, with a satisfaction level of 45%. (Transportation Masterplan 2015-2045) due to the reduction of efficiency in public transportation system which showing a serious scenario where less public transport ridership in Johor.

According to Comprehensive Development Plan 2 (CDP2) of Iskandar Region, auto-vehicle ownership is expected to rise from 500 cars in 2014 to more than 800 cars in 2025 for count of 1,000 populations. Furthermore, person trips targeted that will increase to 6.9 mil (2.3 trips/person). Private person trip is estimated to be about 4.65 mil with 3.1 mil cars or 1.5 car occupancy rate. All these situations will cause major roads in the Johor Bahru will be heavily occupied by cars especially during peak hour.

Less public transport ridership and high auto-vehicle dependency will eventually lead to congestion in Iskandar Malaysia areas. Jobs opportunities are very concentrated in Johor Bahru City Centre. People will travel to Johor Bahru City Centre every single day at the same time to Johor Bahru City Centre to go to work. This condition gave a really bad congestion not only in Johor Bahru City Centre, but also to the main roads to Johor Bahru City Centre especially to Jalan Skudai. This is because it not only connects the suburb area to JBCC, but also the neighbouring districts which are Pontian and Pasir Gudang.

Therefore, public transportation which is mainly Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) is an exciting public transportation system which will help alleviate the current burden off the roads. But however, until now the implementation of BRT has not taken place yet. Hence, this research aims to investigate the main challenges on implementing BRT in Iskandar Malaysia and to study the public satisfaction and expectation towards BRT services and the improvement needed prior the BRT implementation. Therefore, in order to study the challenges on implementing bus rapid transit in Iskandar, a preliminary study was conducted with the relevant authority which is responsible for Iskandar Malaysia Bus Rapid Transit design and implementation process. The interview has been conducted to have clear view of the Iskandar Malaysia Bus Rapid Transit (IMBRT) history, current progress of IMBRT and possible challenges faced during planning and implementation of this IMBRT. This interview session was conducted with the Iskandar Regional Development Authority (IRDA) who is the main government agency responsible for the Iskandar Malaysia Bus Rapid Transit (IMBRT). Mr.Rudyanto Azhar, the director of IMBRT has agreed to be interviewed at 9.30 am on 27 November 2019 (Wednesday) at IRDA main office located in G-01, Block 8, Danga Bay, Jalan Skudai,80200 Johor Bahru, Malaysia. The interview conducted helped in preliminary study of this research. Table 1.2 is displaying the information related to the interview session conducted for ease of reference.

Aspects	Details
Name of the Agency	Iskandar Regional Development Authority (IRDA)
Name of the Officer	Mr.Rudyanto Azhar
Position of the officer	Director of IMBRT
Location of the interview	Main office located in G-01, Block 8, Danga Bay,
session	Jalan Skudai,80200 Johor Bahru, Malaysia
Date of interview conducted	27 November 2019 (Wednesday)
Time of the interview	9.30 am
conducted	
Total respondents involved in	1
interview session	

Table 1.2Details of Respondents Interview

1.3 Research Aim

Aim of this research is to investigate the possible key challenges which causing delays in implementing the BRT in Iskandar Region and also to know how the public expectation towards BRT services to be like and public satisfaction using current public bus services and this research can be used as reference for other development of BRT in other states of Malaysia and to ensure that this service is meeting the passenger demand. As IRDA has invested RM36.5 million for enhancing the public transport network and established a Transport Blueprint as an output up to Iskandar Malaysia ten years (IRDA, 2015), the usage of public transportation still remains questionable.

1.4 Research Objective

This research objective is can be classified into three parts. First, identification of the **commuters' satisfaction using current public bus services**. Secondly, to determine the public expectation towards upcoming of BRT services. The last objective is, by obtaining the identified challenges and public satisfaction and expectation, recommendation will be proposed to enhance further the BRT services in the designing stage prior implementation. Hence, the research objectives of this study are listed below:

The objectives of this research are:

(1) **To determine the commuters'** satisfaction towards current public bus services in Johor.

(2) To identify the public expectations towards upcoming Bus Rapid Transit in Johor.

(3) To recommend for further enhancement in BRT design and implementation stages prior implementation based on findings from Objective 1 and Objective 2 and also preliminary studies conducted.

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1.5 Research Question

The research questions for this study are shown below:

- (1) What will be commuters' satisfaction towards current bus services?
- (2) What will be the public expectation towards future BRT services?
- (3) What are the suggestions or further modifications required to encourage usage of BRT and improve BRT service prior implementation?

1.6 Scope of Study

The scope for this research are listed as follow:

- 1) This research is confined in Iskandar Area which is Johor Bahru.
- 2) This research investigates the challenges in BRT implementation.
- 3) This research also gathers information on public expectation on BRT services.
- 4) This research is limited to challenges mentioned by relevant officials without touching any sensitive areas or matters.
- 5) The target group of people of this research are the public people, bus users and government officers.
- 6) From the findings, it will attempt to outline the challenges and public expectation and also the way to address the mentioned challenges and encourage public to commute public transportation

1.7 Research Gap

There has been a number of studies conducted on BRT services which mainly focuses on Malaysia's first Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Sunway Line in Klang Valley bases on various dimensions namely accessibility, perceives accessibility, sustainability etc.

In the context of Iskandar Region, there is even fewer studies found on BRT public transportation as it has not yet implemented and doesn't draw other scholar attention. From table 1.3, it can be seen that previous studies.

So, there is a gap in studying the challenges on implementing BRT services and public expectation which will enable the Iskandar BRT services will serve with high efficiency and quality.

Previous research on Bus Rapid Transit Services			Research
			gap
Author	Study area	Objectives	
(Rohani <i>et al.</i> , 2013)	Malaysia	 Review the type of bus service, quality of service in the bus operation that influence the passenger decision and also the role of bus provider and bus driver 	There is a gap in studying major
(Ming and Fong, 2016)	Malaysia (Sunway BRT Line)	 The manner in which the project was awarded The design and costing of the Sunway BRT line The efficacy of the route alignment, the bus lanes and station accessibility. The ticketing system, ridership and fare structure of the Sunway BRT line 	challenges faced in implementin g Bus Rapid Transit in Iskandar Region, Johor and
(Mukhopadhya y, 2017)	Malaysia (Sunway BRT, Klang Valley	 To investigates the potential of BRT systems as a tool of decarbonization, compared to other modes of public transport. To focus on decarbonization, the study also explores the co- benefits of 	there is no recommend ation on how to improve the current BRT

 Table 1.3
 Research Gap between this research and similar research

	and BRT Iskandar	promoting a Bus Rapid Transit system as a mode of public transport in Malaysia	services in Malaysia
(Bannister, 2017)	ETekwini, Durban, South Africa	 Outlines the process that the eThekwini Municipality went through in adopting a BRT system. Provides some lessons, both for policy- making and implementation 	based on public expectation
(Lindau <i>et al.</i> , 2014)	-	 Barriers to introducing BRT based on implementing and improving these systems in cities of emerging countries. 	

1.8 Significant of study

BRT is a very new concept to a developing country such as Malaysia. The success of a BRT project lies in its acceptance by stakeholders, particularly its potential users. Potential uptake of BRT by commuters would be expected to be the greatest when users receive the maximum benefit. According to Levinson et al (2003) the most important principles of BRT implementation are translating BRT plans into the **operating system, and identifying the respective urban area's own specific needs,** opportunities and constraints. This research addresses the possible challenges on BRT implementation and expectation using public bus services and expectation on BRT services. Eventually the investigation from this research will help other megacities with similar characteristics in developing countries by indicating the needs, opportunities and constraints those cities may face during BRT implementation and operation.

Some other studies have considered various transport-related issues and customer expectation with respect to Klang Valley (Rohani, Wijeyesekera, & Karim, 2013;Helmi,Mi Tianghao,2018; Azizan *et al.*, 2016;Kamaruddin *et al.*, 2012). Unfortunately, no research was found that specifically addresses the implementation challenges and public expectation on BRT's attributes for Iskandar region.

1.9 Background of the Study Area

Johor covers an area of more than 1.9 million hectares which is about 14% of the size of Peninsular Malaysia. Johor is the third largest state in Malaysia after Pahang and Perak. Originally, Johor consist of 8 districts until it was revised in 2007 that involved Johor Bahru and Muar. Johor Bahru was divided into two; Johor Bahru and Kulai, while Muar was divided into two; Muar and Tangkak. This mean that Johor now has 10 districts all together. These 10 districts are administered by 16 local council including a newly formed, PBT Pengerang.

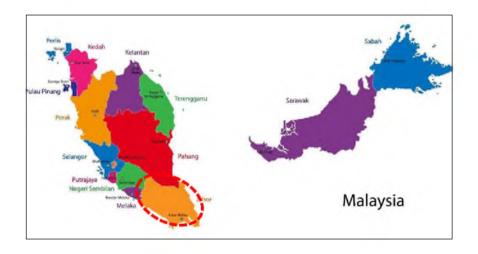


Figure 1.1 Map of Malaysia (Vector Shock, 2017)



Figure 1.2 Map of Districts of Johor (RSN Johor 2030 (Kajian Semula), 2016)

1.9.1 Iskandar Malaysia

Iskandar Malaysia covers an area of roughly 2216.3 km², that is, approximately three times the size of Singapore and two times of Hong Kong Island. IM ranks as the second most significant conurbation in Malaysia, which is expected to rival other cities in East Asia, e.g., Singapore and Hong Kong (Yunos and Johar, 2015).

In 2006, IM was established mainly to attract more focused economic and infrastructure investments under the administration of Iskandar Regional Development Authority (IRDA). It involves five local government authorities with five unique Flagship Zones designated as key points for development in IM (see Table 1.4). These zones are planned to strengthen the existing economic cluster and develop the targeted growth sectors the region involves five local government authorities with five distinctive Flagship Zones designated as key focal points for development in Iskandar Malaysia. These flagship zones have been envisaged to strengthen existing economic cluster as to diversify and develop targeted growth sectors in the future.

Flagship	Area covered	Development
Zone		
A	Johor Bahru	New financial district, central business district, waterfront
	City Centre	city of Danga Bay, mixed development in Tebrau Plentong and Malaysia/Singapore Causeway
В	Nusajaya	New Johor state administrative centre, Medini Iskandar
		Malaysia, a medical hub, an "educity", a resort for
		international tourism and an industrial logistic cluster and
		residence
С	Western Gate	Port of Tanjung Pelepas (PTP), providing a second
	Development	transportation link for Malaysia/Singapore, a free trade zone, the RAMSAR World Heritage Park and the Tanjung Piai.
D	Eastern Gate	Pasir Gudang Port and industrial zone, Tanjung Langsat Port,
	Development	the Tanjung Langsat Technology Park and the Kim-Kim regional distribution centre
E	Senai-Skudai	Senai International Airport, hubs for cargo and knowledge, a multimodal centre and the MSC Cyberport city.

Table 1.4Five Flagship zones in Iskandar Malaysia

1.10 Research Limitation

Because the research has been done based on people expectation, the questionnaire survey and interview have been conducted with the related government officials and public people. Then the limitation for this research are listed as below:

- 1. The data has been gathered from questionnaire survey with public bus user and interview with government officials. The unwillingness of them to participate and cooperate is the problem for this research, because of unwillingness, they might respond to the question without thinking quickly and incorrectly. In addition, because of safety issue, it is hard to convince the female for the interview and questionnaire survey especially the old one.
- 2. During questionnaire answering session, some of the bus user felt insecure to answer the questionnaire truly as they scared in future they might have any problem due to this survey.
- 3. Every state and area are differing in size and other characteristics from Iskandar Region, Johor Bahru. And this research has been done based on the expectation of bus user and public people of Johor Bahru in Iskandar Region. Thus this research may not be applicable in other area in Iskandar Region.

1.11 Thesis Outline

The structure of the research is organized into five chapters, including introduction, literature review, Research Methodology, Data Analysis and Finding, and conclusion and recommendation.

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