# FACTOR INFLUENCING ACCEPTANCE OF E-COMMERCE IN SMALL AND MEDIUM-SIZED ENTERPRISE IN MALAYSIA

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# SUPERVISOR'S APPROVAL

I hereby declared that I have read this thesis and this research is sufficient in terms of scope and quality. This project is submitted to Universiti Teknikal Malaysia Melaka (UTeM) as a requirement for completion and fulfilment of Bachelor of Degree of Technopreneurship with Honours (BTEC).

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A project paper submitted

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# **DECLARATION**

I hereby declare that this project paper the result of my own and independent work expects the summary and experts that have been specifically acknowledgement.

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# **DEDICATION**

This paper is dedicated to both of my parents, who always support me in completing this research and motivate me. They always give me support and advice to fulfil the research requirement. The research cannot be completed without their support and motivation.

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### **ABSTRACK**

Electronic commerce (e-commerce) plays a crucial role in the growth of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) as it enables them to compete effectively in domestic and international markets. This purpose of this study is to identify the acceptance factor of e-commerce in Small and Medium-Sized (SME) of services sector in Malaysia. Besides, this study can facilitate the service sector in Malaysia's SMEs to be ready to accept the e-commerce platform in improving their business through the adoption of latest technologies, infrastructure-building and growth into international market. Besides that, there are such big amount of developed technology and ecommerce application that able to be accepted by a company to be used as a tool in managing and ease the whole business and operation to become more efficient and effective. This research is conducted focusing on the service sector that focus on SMEs in Malaysia. The main objective of this research is to identify the acceptance factor of e-commerce among Small and Medium- Sized Enterprise (SMEs), to identify the relationship of acceptance factors towards attitude to use e-commerce and to identify the most influential acceptance factor towards attitude of using e-commerce. The research method use in the research is quantitative where the research will conduct distributing direct questions by questionnaire.

#### **ABSTRAK**

Perdagangan elektronik (e-dagang) memainkan peranan penting dalam pertumbuhan perusahaan kecil dan sederhana (PKS) kerana ia membolehkan mereka bersaing dengan berkesan di pasaran domestik dan antarabangsa. Tujuan kajian ini adalah untuk mengenal pasti faktor penerimaan e-dagang dalam sektor perkhidmatan kecil dan sederhana (PKS) di Malaysia. Selain itu, kajian ini dapat memudahkan sektor perkhidmatan di PKS Malaysia untuk bersedia menerima platform e-dagang dalam meningkatkan perniagaan mereka menerusi penggunaan teknologi terkini, pembinaan infrastruktur dan pertumbuhan ke pasaran antarabangsa. Selain itu, terdapat begitu banyak teknologi maju dan aplikasi e-dagang yang dapat diterima oleh sebuah syarikat untuk digunakan sebagai alat dalam menguruskan dan memudahkan seluruh perniagaan dan operasi menjadi lebih efisien dan berkesan. Penyelidikan ini ditumpukan kepada sektor perkhidmatan yang memberi tumpuan kepada PKS di Malaysia. Objektif utama penyelidikan ini adalah untuk mengenal pasti faktor penerimaan e-dagang di kalangan Perusahaan Kecil dan Sederhana (PKS), untuk mengenal pasti hubungan faktor penerimaan terhadap sikap untuk menggunakan e-dagang dan mengenal pasti faktor penerimaan yang paling berpengaruh ke arah sikap menggunakan e-dagang. Kaedah penyelidikan yang digunakan dalam penyelidikan adalah kuantitatif di mana penyelidikan akan menjalankan pengedaran soalan langsung dengan soal selidik.

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## LIST OF ABBREVATIONS

GDP - Gross Domestic Product

SME - Small and Medium Enterprise

NSPC - National SME Development Council

ICT - Information and Communication Technologies

EDI - Electronic Data Interchange

EFTPOS - Electronic Fund Transfer at Point of Sale

WWW
 PU
 Perceived Usefulness
 PEOU
 Perceived Ease of Use

SI - Social Influence

RC - Resistance to Change
SP - Security and Privacy
KMO - Kaiser-Meyer-Olkin

TAM - Technology Acceptance Model

UTAUT - Unified Theory of Acceptance and Use of Technology

EFA - Exploratory Factor Analysis

*df* - Degree of freedom

Sig - Significant

*p* - Significant value

B - Beta value

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#### **CHAPTER 1**

### INTRODUCTION

In Chapter 1 explains a conclusion write up of the research conducted through this research. This chapter aimed to explain in detail on the background of study, problem statements, research questions, and research objectives, significant of study, scope and limitations. Besides, researcher also clarifies the definition terms include in this research study.

## 1.1 BACKGROUND OF STUDY

E-commerce is a subset under e-business. It is acknowledged as a plain-simple transaction over the Internet which was first introduced in 1990. As the latter evolved, its horizon has gradually expanded to include online sales, purchasing, logistic and other organization-management activities (Schneider, 2001; Sung, 2006; Jahanshahi, Zhang, & Brem, 2013). Advances in technology of Internet have promoted high rate of sales transaction between parties – individuals, firm, and business, via applications of innovation in business organizational progress. (Elseoud, 2014).

Electronic commerce (e-commerce) has been a vital issue in business since the Internet began to be used commercially. SMEs are necessary and important for almost all of the world's economies, especially those with major challenges in terms of employment and distribution of financial gain. E-commerce technology is widely known to provide many other potential business advantages. The key benefits of e-commerce are increased sales, increased productivity, lower cost, reduced processing times and increased customer loyalty (Rita Rahayu & John Day, 2017).

Small and Medium Sized Enterprise (SMEs) are those small-scale business organization that are often family-run lack of networking. SMEs are increasingly applying this digitalized innovation in the contemporary business environment to reach and note the enhancement of performance, competitive sustainability advantages and opportunities for future success (Fatima Ajmal, 2017). In Malaysia, e-commerce business is becoming importance as people now prefer to buy and buy online products and services. Because buyers have an opportunity to buy products and service online, e-commerce offers plenty of advantage as buyers can take a look at the product and compare price with just one click. since buyers can have a peek on the product and comparing price just in a single click. In addition, e-commerce is important for Small and Medium-Sized Enterprise to make their product well known and to provide them with a wider opportunity to grow. Also, Small and Medium-Sized Enterprise can build a competitive advantage by having a lot of values compared to their competitors. In terms of revenue and recognition of their products and service, this will give them a greater margin

In addition, according to Kotler (2013) e-commerce meaning that to giving visitors with company information, history, policies, products, and opportunities for work, the company or offer the web site to operate or facilitate online sales of products and service. E-commerce builds on traditional trade structures by adding flexibility to traditional environment by reduced transaction costs, more competitive product prices (Bakos, 1991) and improving transaction efficiency.

For many economies, Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) is the economic growth of their backbone. Statics show that SMEs account for about 98.5% of Malaysia's business establishment, contribute more than 65 percent of job opportunities, and SMEs also contribute 36.6% of Malaysia's Gross Domestic Product (GDP). For the sector, service sector contributes 89.2%, while the manufacturing sector contribute 5.3%, 4.3% of construction, 1.1% of agriculture and mining and quarrying contribute 0.1%. The National Council for SME Development (NSDC) was

established in 2004 (Bank Negara Malaysia, 2004) to provides a more focused and coordinated SME development inter-agency strategic framework.

This sector has resulted, this study is being performed on the service sector in Malaysia's SMEs. The service sector is the largest sector of the institution of SMEs with 89.2% of the total establishment of SMEs (Economic Census, Department of Statistic Malaysia, 2016). It generally includes the services, communication technology (ICT), information and primary agriculture. In addition, the service sector has gained momentum worldwide and would remain the engine of economic growth.

The continued survival of SMEs in e-commerce technology is important (Jahanshahi et al., 2013). E-commerce has given a competitive advantage to many large companies, thus giving SMEs a chance to market and promote their business by providing cost-effective ways. The E-commerce system has enabled small enterprises to benefit from integrated flexibility, fast decision making, low cost structure, maintenance and customer service (Hanim and Taha, 2010), thus improving customer communication and information, marketing new products and identifying potential suppliers / parties. Although e-commerce has many advantages for SMEs, it is still limited in use (Turban, 2010).

This work seeks to better understand IT adoption in SMEs through the investigation and identification of factors that influence IT process adoption, both in the developed and developed countries, among small and medium-sized enterprises. It is by examining existing literature and some problems related to small and medium-sized enterprises. By examining previous literature including concepts, methodology, theories, Empirical research, and IT adoption studies among SMEs and combining existing views, the proposed conceptual framework illustrates the determinants of the method and process of IT adoption among SMEs. The research examines and reveals various internal and external issues which drive small and medium-sized companies to embrace information technology solutions. In the same way, the barriers to IT adoption in SMEs will be addressed by reviewing and classifying the IT adoption factors. The authors also propose to SMEs a systematic strategy of IT adoption in order to achieve and succeed at completely different stages of IT institutionalization using the proposed conceptual model of effective IT adopted.

#### 1.2 PROBLEM STATEMENT

One of the main employments and technological advancement opportunities for each developed and developed country is Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises (SMEs) (Jahanshahi, et al., 2013; Savrul, Incekara & Sener, 2014). SMEs are increasingly using e-commerce in the contemporary business environment to achieve performance improvement, sustainable competitive advantage and long-term success opportunities (Ghobakhloo, Arias-Aranda, & Benitez- Amado, 2011). Many governments have consistently recognized SMEs ' contribution and tried to provide appropriate incentives to encourage the use of e-commerce by SMEs (Thong & Yap, 1995).

Moreover, as changing clothes in the dressing room, the new way of running a business is not easy. This conversion process has been slowed down by the literacy level of three keys groups: business owners, employees and consumer in particular. Failure to know about ICT's unquestioned advantages among top management it even more difficult to select a suitable technology to assist the business process. The importance of ICTs in Malaysia, which is a critical factor for the growth of their company, has yet to be discovered in the present environment. Many of them still do not known how to operate a computer and will not take the risk a chance in order to strengthen their technological edge. The issue that employees faced when the company only decided to accept the e-commerce platform in its daily operation. Cost of mastering the new system will be a challenge for management if the worker cannot master what they think.

Some organizations also faced security issues In Malaysia's SMEs (SME Corp. Malaysia, 2018). Security is that when making transaction on the internet, the most talked about issues. Making a secure and private transaction is not only crucial for the customer, it will also determine how effective the website interface is, or whether customer privacy information is well protected, and how the company should act when there are any problems. Banking service providers have engaged web security provider to avoid intruding their online applications. Certification from such security providers allows the user to be more confident of the entire transaction to be in safe hands. For this particular purpose, the legal, policy and regulatory framework is very significant

in order ensuring growth between SMEs through e-commerce adoption. This effort can prevent uncertainty while offering a standard operating system to encourage business information sharing while a number of opportunities and challenges remain to be discovered.

E-commerce is still growing today, although many online consumers are still hesitating to give their personal such as the card credit and private information due to security and privacy concerns. The reasons and obstacles to future growth of e-commerce are the consumer security concerns. Survey shows consistently that consumers associate a significant amount of risk with internet financial transactions (Gabriel & Nyshadham, 2008; Zendehel & Paim, 2012; Zhang, 2013). Consumers are not new in safety and privacy; the public has been concerned about the use of personal data by government and companies for several years (Adelola, Dawson & Batmaz, 2015).

SMEs using e-commerce for business transactions achieve higher growth in sales than their non-e-commerce competitors (Anthony Obioma, 2017). SMEs were slow to accept e-commerce for marketing and commerce. The general business issue I addressed in this study was that some retail SME business owners were adversely affected by the lack of e-commerce system for online consumer shopping.

The aim of this study is to establish the level of acceptability for e-commerce in SMEs. There is still a lack of awareness among most companies in this industry that there is the technology application developed to help them manage their business operations systematically, save time and cost, efficiently with minor error and disruption. E-commerce acts as a platform that has prepared various applications of technology that can be accepted by SMEs in Malaysia. Because of this scenario, Malaysia's SMEs need to prepare themselves for future challenges with technology that will facilitate the e-commerce platform.

The goal of this study is to identify e-commerce acceptability factors in Malaysia's SMEs. In order to improve their businesses Malaysian SMEs, need to disseminate thorough recognition and awareness of the importance of e-commerce, particularly in accepting the e-commerce platform, which can help them. This step is very important in order to reduce the common challenges and errors that usually occur while managing the e-commerce platform.

Through e-commerce acceptance and starting to select this platform, it could increase the organization's level of productivity and sustain them with strong, cost-effective and efficient in the challenging industries. In Malaysia's SMEs, further research will discover and respond to the acceptance of e-commerce by the service sector.

## 1.3 RESEARCH QUESTION

Three research questions were constructed from this research problem statement as follows:

RQ 1: What is the acceptance factor of e-commerce among Small and Medium-Sized Enterprise (SMEs)?

RQ 2: What is the relationship of acceptance factor towards attitude to use e-commerce?

RQ 3: What is the most influential acceptance factor towards attitude of using e-commerce?

## 1.4 RESEARCH OBJECTIVE

The following are research objectives of this study:

RO 1: To identify the acceptance factor of e-commerce among Small and Medium-Sized Enterprise (SMEs).

RO 2: To identify the relationship of acceptance factors towards attitude to use e-commerce.

RO 3: To identify the most influential acceptance factor towards attitude of using ecommerce.

#### 1.5 SIGNIFICANT OF STUDY

This research seeks how to know the e-commerce acceptability factor in the Small and Medium-Sized. In addition, this study can facilitate the service sector in Malaysia's small and medium-sized enterprises to be ready to accept the e-commerce platform to improve their business by adopting state-of - the-art technologies, building infrastructure, and growing internationally. In addition, there is such a large amount of developed technology and e-commerce application that a company can accept it as a tool for managing and facilitating the entire business and operation in order to become more efficient and efficient.

Next, this study also identifies the acceptability factors in any Malaysian use of e-commerce in the service sector. As a result, researchers can identify the factors why some SMEs in Malaysia are resisting accepting to make an e-commerce platform to improve their business. As a result, most SMEs lack sufficient finance, knowledge or talent for the workforce to adopt these new technologies as a result of this research. This researcher will discover, conduct research, and deeper understand the scope and limitation that this study will carry out to ensure that this research focuses on the right topic.

#### 1.6 SCOPE AND LIMITATION

The scope of this research is to identify the acceptance factor of e-commerce in SMEs. Next, the aim of this study is to identify e-commerce acceptance factor. This research focuses on the service sector in Malaysia that focuses on SMEs. In this study, two limitations have been identified.

First, this study is being carried out in Malaysia, as well as any SMEs in the service sector Secondly, is the examination of the acceptance factor level of e-commerce services sector companies of these SMEs. Next, this study also identifies

the factor that influences the acceptance of e-commerce in SMEs. Moreover, while carrying out this, time also has a limitation as the data must be collected within the given timeframe and analysed thoroughly in order to obtain the good result and conclusion. Next, the cost is the limitation. The purpose of this study is to be conducted in Malaysia, so data need to be collected efficiently and costs must be managed wisely in order to obtain it.

## 1.7 SUMMARY

This chapter is introduced and leads to the next chapter which includes the background to the study, the statement of problems, the question of research and the objective of research, study importance, scope and limitations. Based on this chapter as a platform, the researcher proceeds to the next chapter to study literature review, which is chapter two focus. The past research associated with this study will be explained in more detail in Chapter 2. In addition, the model used as a reference in this research will also be included. Based on Chapter 2, this study will give people a better understanding based on previous research study.