

Application of Structural Equation Modeling (SEM) in Quantitative Research

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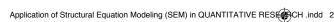
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Abstract: Structural Equation Modeling for SEM is second generation statistical analysis techniques for analyzing the inter-relationships among multiple variables in a model. SEM is an extension of the general linear model (GLM) that enables a researcher to test a set of regression equations simultaneously.

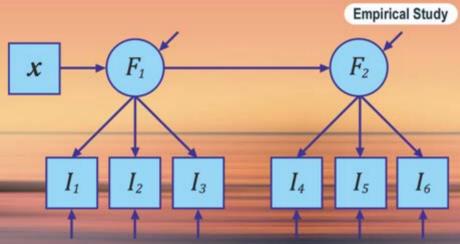
SEM software can examine complex relationships and models, such as confirmatory factor analysis and second order latent variables which improves the weaknesses of ordinary least square (OLS) method. Major applications of SEM are causal model, confirmatory factor analysis, second order factor analysis and multivariate analysis. It starts from explanation on SEM through empirical data focusing on quality management. Empirical data will provide better understanding of SEM application.

Hopefully this book will provide a useful reference towards a better understanding in SEM which can lead to implementing successful research for students and researchers.

Keywords: Structural Equation Modeling (SEM), General Linear Model (GLM), Ordinary Least Square (OLS)



Application of Structural Equation Modeling (SEM) in QUANTITATIVE RESEARCH



Structural Equation Modeling is a second generation statistical analysis techniques for analysing the inter-valationships among multiple variables in a model

Research is easy if you can do it in a systematic way

MD. FAUZI AHMAD@MOHAMAD



STRUCTURAL EQUATION MODELING

Application of Structural Equation Modeling (SEM) in QUANTITATIVE RESEARCH

Empirical Study

Structural Equation Modeling is a second generation statistical analysis techniques for analyzing the inter-relationships among multiple variables in a model

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To my beloved mother and father, Haji Mohamad and Hajjah Mariah. My family, Fatan Adibah, Faiza Irdina and Faiz Saffin, My Dearest Sisters and Brothers Fadzil, Fauziana, Fariza, Fuad and Fatimah

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PREFACE

Finally, I manage to complete writing this book. Thanks to God for giving me, patience and inspiration. Structural Equation Modeling or SEM is a second generation statistical analysis techniques for analyzing the inter-relationships among multiple variables in a model. SEM is an extension of the general linear model (GLM) that enables a researcher to test a set of regression equations simultaneously. SEM software can examine complex relationships and models, such as confirmatory factor analysis and second order latent variables which improves the weaknesses of ordinary least square (OLS) method. Major applications of SEM are causal model, confirmatory factor analysis, second order factor analysis and multivariate analysis. It starts from explanation on SEM and types of testing. This book provides researchers with the application of SEM through empirical data focusing on quality management. Empirical data will provide better understanding of SEM application. I believe that this book will be able to help who are in the theories of applying this techniques in their research.

Hopefully this book will provide a useful reference towards a better understanding in SEM which can lead to implementing successful research for students and researchers. My sincere, thanks to UTHM for giving me the opportunity to write this book, particularly to share my experience and knowledge in this small contribution.

"Research is easy if you can do it in a systematic way"

Dr. Md. Fauzi Bin Ahmad @ Mohamad Production and Operation Department, Faculty of Technology Management and Business, Universiti Tun Hussein Onn, Malaysia.





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My sincere appreciation also extends to dean, department head, all my colleagues and others who have provided assistance at various occasions. Their views and tips are useful indeed. Unfortunately, it is not possible to list all of them in this limited space. I am grateful to all my family members. Without their understanding and support, I can't complete my book with success. I always pray that Allah can give me the direction for success in life.

This book is one of my small contribution to this country and nation based on my experience, observation and research. Hopefully this book will be useful as a guidance to industries for improving company performance and assist Malaysia to achieve vision 2020. At last, thanks to UTHM for giving me the opportunity to publish this book.

All The Best! Gambatte!





AFTA ASEAN Free Trade Agreement

BP Business Performance

GLM General Linear Model

OLS Ordinary Least Square

PDCA Plan-Do-Check-Action

PQA Product Quality Assurance

QA Quality Assurance

QC Quality Control

SEM tructural Equation Modeling

SMEI Small Medium Sized Industry

SPSS Statistical Package for the Social Science

TPM Total Preventive Maintenance

TQM Total Quality Management





STRUCTURAL EQUATION MODELING (SEM)

Structural Equation Modeling (SEM) Introduction

Researchers in social science have used statistical analysis for analysing their research data in quantitative study. At the beginning stage, researchers often used univariate and bivariate analysis to analyse data. **To analyse more complex relationships** in a conceptual model, researchers have started applying more advance multivariate analysis method named as **Structural Equation Modeling (SEM)**. The evolution of statistical analysis started from first-generation through the 1980s then followed by second-generation in 1990s (Hair et al. 2014). Firstgeneration analysis such as exploratory factor analysis (EFA), Anova and multiple regression has their weaknesses which is unable to involve in sophisticated multivariate data analysis. Structural Equation Modeling Structural Equation Modeling or SEM is a **second generation statistical analysis techniques** and it has been introduced for analyzing the inter-relationships among multiple variables in a model as shown in Table 1.1. The Structural Equation Modeling technique employs the combination of quantitative data and the correlational or causal assumptions into the model (Awang, 2014). The inter-relationships among variables could be expressed in a series of single and multiple regression equations. SEM is an extension of the general linear model (GLM) that enables a researcher to test a set of regression equations simultaneously. SEM software can examine complex relationships and models, such as confirmatory factor analysis and second order latent variables.







QUALITY EVOLUATION

"The only advice it accepted was to produce **high quality goods**, **goods of world standards**, **so as to be accepted by the world markets**"

-Tun Dr.Mahathir

"Being number one is about being the best in the world in terms of quality on a sustained basis. We've never tried to become number one in terms of volumes or revenues; as long as we keep improving our quality, size will automatically follow"

-Katsuaki Watanabe, Toyota

This book focuses on SEM application in quality management. This chapter explains the quality evolution starting from quality evolution until TQM (Total Quality Management). In particular, this book focuses on the impact of TQM practices on business performance in Malaysia automotive industry as empirical study. TQM is crucial in ensuring that a company can survive in the continuously growing competition in the global market. Continuous efforts in improving quality, productivity, cost and timely delivery can enhance their competitiveness. Japanese companies are very successful today because of the TQM principles adoption and the implementation of TQM and quality practices, which are expounded by quality gurus such as Deming, Juran, Taguchi and others. TQM is an essential element that ensures business will meet the demands of customers well into the twenty first century (Talha, 2004). Yusof (2000) views TQM as not only bringing benefit to a nation's community and employee but also to the wide range of the world's community through the provision of excellent products from excellent organization at affordable price.



"In Toyota everybody works as a team. We even call our suppliers our partners, and we make things that everybody thinks we should make"

-Katsuaki Watanabe, Former Toyota President

Economic Transformation Programme

Malaysia has experienced rapid economic progress over the last few decades. Nevertheless, the global economy has changed and Malaysia needs a new economic model to transform into a high-income developed country. Malaysia economic performance shows a loss in momentum over the past decade and the main factor slowing of the growth performance is weak labour productivity growth (Performance Management and Delivery Unit, 2012). Malaysia has to enhance its competitiveness by increasing better productivity and technology in order to sustain the economic growth (Talib & Senin, 2008). Thus, Malaysia's economic transformation requires a transformation in the country's productivity growth. After strong growth in the 1990's, Malaysia's economic growth over the past decade has been much slower on average about half of the previous decade, as shown in Figure 3.1. Private sector investment growth is lower compared to pre-1997 period on the underlying reasons including high costs, bureaucracy issues, lack of skilled professionals, and inadequate opportunities for investment.

Strategies that have succeeded to successfully change Malaysia from a poor country to a middle-income country are not suitable for the next stage of Malaysian development. In response to that, the Economic Transformation Programme (ETP) is a new economic model approach with the main purpose to transform Malaysia from developing country to a developed and high-income country where the private sector will





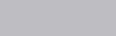
BUSINESS PERFORMANCE

"I think that is why the Japanese produce such high quality products we are familiar with today. Their cars are of the best quality. Really they are as good as the top German cars. In fact in many ways they are better. And I believe this derives from their desire not to be ashamed of their work"

-Tun Dr.Mahathir

Performance Measures

This book focus on the impact of TQM practices on business performance in Malaysia automotive industry. In this section, author reviews performance measure and the dimensions for business performance based on previous works. A serious research effort to measure both quality management practices and their effects on quality outcomes begins with Saraph et al., (1989). Then, it was followed by Flynn et al., (1994), Ahire et al., (1996), and Black & Porter (1996). There are different views in terms of TQM and business performance in previous studies. Some studies view TQM as a multidimensional construct (Sila, 2007; Pinho, 2008; Grando & Belvedere, 2006) while others view it as a single construct (Fynes et al., 2008). Performance measured was also different across studies. Financial performance, measured in terms of growth in market share, profitability, and return on assets, was considered in some studies (Demirbag et al., 2006). Other studies considered operational performance measured in terms of product quality, inventory performance (Agus & Hassan, 2011), and customer satisfaction (Zakuan et al., 2010). In some studies, multidimensional indicators of performance are considered (Kakkar & Narag, 2007; Zakuan et al., 2010) while others used single performance construct (Arumugam et al., 2008, Demirbag et al., 2006).



META-ANALYSIS

Chapter 5

Relationship between TQM and Business Performance

Meta-analysis is a statistical technique for combining the findings from previous studies which based on literature review. Meta-analysis are important for identifying effect size based on systematic review procedure. There are significant relationship between TQM and business performance as evidenced in previous studies, as shown in Table 5.1. The benefits of TQM are improved quality, employee participation, teamwork, working relationships, customer satisfaction, employees satisfaction, productivity, communication, and market share (Besterfield, 2004). Most previous studies show a positive relationship between TQM practices and business performance (Jun et al., 2006; Bou & Beltrán, 2007; Gunday et al., 2011; Miyagawa & Yoshida, 2010; Ismail et al., 1998). However, there are also studies that show TQM does not improve the business performance (Corredor & Goñi, 2011; Claver-Cortés et al., 2007). Some of the findings are also partially correlated with the business performance (Demirbag et al., 2006; Feng et.al., 2006; Arumugam et al., 2008).



RESEARCH DESIGN

Scientific research must begin with a structure or plan. The structure that defines the number of variables to be studied and their relationship with one another is termed as research design. Flynn et al., (1990) examined empirical research methods in operation managements. They compared various research methods such as survey, case study, field experiment, panel study, and focus group. Survey questionnaire is the most commonly used research method in production and operations management research (Konecny & Thun, 2011; Agus & Hassan, 2011). Yin (2009) compared different research strategies based on three conditions: type of research questions, investigator control over behavioural events, and degree of focus on contemporary issues. Both case study and survey have no investigator control over behavioural events, and they focus on contemporary issues. The case study answers questions related to how and why. On the other hand, the survey answers questions related to who, what, where, how many, and how much. This study will attempt to answer such questions and survey method is the preferred method. This study is more suitable using survey method than case study method. The reason is because the nature of the research, which focuses to identify what are the relationships amongst variables rather than exploring phenomena (Gunday et al., 2011; Fotopoulos & Psomas, 2010). Based on all these considerations, a mail survey has been used in this research to empirically investigate the proposed research model. The empirical survey is divided into two parts: a pilot survey and a final survey. The purpose of the pilot survey is to study the responses and to rectify, modify, and redefine the questions for the final survey. The questionnaire has been mailed to the target population. To encourage feedback, respondents have been promised to receive a summary of the research result (Fynes et al., 2008). Two repeat mailings of the instrument have been made to improve the response rate for final survey.



EXPLORATORY FACTOR ANALYSIS (EFA)

Treatment for Missing Data

Using the SEM, treatment of missing value is important. Complete data are required for the probability density and adjustment must be made to incomplete datasets (Brown, 1994). In this study, different procedure has been used to adjust to the missing data for each situation. The first step is to eliminate input errors on the part of the data entry. The second step is to deal with the issue of non-response from the respondents. There are vary and no clear limit of missing data amongst researchers such as 10% (Byrne, 2010; Kline, 2011) and 25% (Sekaran & Bougie, 2010). In this study, the missing data has been filled in with the expectation maximisation (EM) for data which has less than 10% of missing (Byrne, 2010; Kline, 2011). Otherwise, the information has been dropped from the study for more than 10% of missing data.

Pilot Study

A pilot study has been conducted to determine the clarity of the questionnaire and to test the validity and internal reliability of the measures. Pilot data were collected using a self-administered questionnaires that have been distributed to 300 car manufacturers and suppliers companies in Malaysia. It has been requested that the questionnaire to be completed by a quality manager in charge of quality management. The pilot data has been analysed using SPSS.

Reponse Rate for Pilot Study

Prior to the final survey, pilot study has been conducted. A total of 300 surveys were distributed to quality assurance manager of these



NON-RESPONSE BIAS AND COMMON METHOD BIAS

Survey Methodology

Survey method is used to collect the data and information from the samples. Chang (2002) describes survey as questioning the respondents and the recording of their responses to be used as data for analysis. Survey has many advantages such as geographical flexibility, ability to reach a widely dispersed sample especially in international study, free from interview bias, economical method and it gives respondent more time to answer (Mangione, 1995). However, the weaknesses of survey method is that the survey is limited to only one respondent of each company (Lam et al., 2011). In general, compared to interview method, survey method is relatively cost effective, time saving, and energy saving (Cooper & Schindler, 2003). In this study, a questionnaire using a seven-point Likert scale has been used for collecting data. The methodology begins with designing the questionnaire and followed by validity and reliability testing of the questionnaire before the final survey.

Questionnaire Design

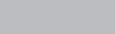
The questionnaire is divided into 3 main sections:

Section 1:General profile of companies participating in this research

Section 2:Level of TQM practices

Section 3:Level of business performance

The respondents have been asked to evaluate the extent to which they agreed with statements that addressed the perception on TQM and business performance in their company on a seven-point Likert scale that ranges from [7] Very High to [1] Very Low.



DESCRIPTIVE ANALYSIS

Chapter 9

Descriptive Statistics of Respondents

This chapter explains descriptive analysis for final survey. The first aspect investigated was the general background of the respondents, which included respondents' position, duration of service in current position, ownership, number of employees, types of product manufactured, types of certification, and award of the company. The result are summarised in Table 9.1 in the form of percentage and frequency. Based on the result, 87.5% of the respondents were quality assurance and quality control managers and 68.3% of the respondents had worked more than 3 years in the current position. 47.6% of the respondents were Japanese companies and 52.4% of the respondents were non-Japanese companies. The type of products was quite diverse among the respondents. Metal and plastic parts showed the highest percentage with 29.2% and 19.4%, respectively. 51.4% of the companies were Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises (SMEs) and followed by large companies, 48.6%. In addition, in terms of quality certification, 80.3% of the respondents had MS ISO 9001 and followed by ISO 14001 and TS 16949 with 64.9% and 49.5% respectively. Industry Excellence award and Quality Management award were the two highest certifications among the respondents, with 12.9% for Industry Excellence award and 6.3% for Quality Management award. Others than that, 59.6% were mostly customer quality award from buyers.





MEASUREMENT MODEL AND CONFIRMATORY FACTOR ANALYSIS (CFA)

Confirmatory Factor Analysis

Confirmatory factor analysis (CFA) has been done to examine the hypothesised factor structure and to assess its fit to the data (Martínez-Costa et al., 2008). CFA is the most comprehensive method for assessing construct validity as it provides statistical evidence (e.g. Chi-square test for the overall fit of the model). CFA has been performed to test the construct validity of unidimensionality and convergent validity (Prajogo & Hong, 2008) and to support the result of EFA. At this stage, the items loading of higher than 0.6 has been accepted (Hair, 1998).

Goodness of Measures

Validity and reliability are two criteria for measure of goodness (Ramayah et al., 2011). Reliability is a test of how consistently a measuring instrument measures whatever concept it is measuring, whereas validity is a test of how well an instrument that is developed measures the particular concept it is intended to measure (Sekaran & Bougie, 2010; Hair, 2010).

Validity

The validity has been tested using first order and second order measurement model. Empirical studies have shown that TQM elements are closely related to each other (Teeravaraprug et al., 2011). The study by Prajogo & Hong (2008) empirically supports the validity of the second order factor model of TQM. According to Hair (2010), validity of each construct must be tested before testing the overall validity of



MEASUREMENT MODEL: FIRST ORDER CONFIRMATORY FACTOR ANALYSIS (CFA)

structural equation modelling (SEM), unidimensionality, validity, and reliability was performed. This stage of analysis is called confirmatory factor analysis (CFA) with multiple factors. This stage is also known as measurement model testing in which TQM and business performance were tested using the first order confirmatory factor model. The items resulting from EFA were confirmed by conducting CFA to determine whether the items were belonging the constructs (Hair, 2010). The functions of CFA were to reconfirm the items that were grouped in EFA and to assess unidimensionality and convergent validity (Byrne, 2010; Sadikoglu & Zehir, 2010). Hair (2010) highlights the importance of performing CFA for the measurement model. If the measurement model is found acceptable, then the structural model can be tested next (Hair, 2010; Sekaran & Bougie, 2010). Hair (2010) also highlights that measurement model is crucial for confirming reliability and validity of a model. Measurement model for individual construct is not important, but measurement model with multiple constructs has higher priority (Hair, 2010). In this study, the measurement model for following variables was conducted:

- Exogenous variable: TQM (ten constructs)
- Endogenous variable: Business performance (six constructs)

Exogenous Variable: TQM

The first model tested showed that TQM had ten constructs with 47 items after EFA. The ten constructs were as follows: (1) top management leadership (TML), (2) human resource development (HRD), (3) work process (WP), (4) customer focus (CF), (5) information and analysis



MEASUREMENT MODEL: SECOND ORDER CONFIRMATORY FACTOR ANALYSIS (CFA)

The validity has been tested using second order measurement model. Empirical studies have shown that TQM elements are closely related to each other (Teeravaraprug, Kitiwanwong, & SaeTong, 2011). The study by Prajogo & Hong (2008) empirically supports the validity of the second order factor model of TQM. According to Hair (2010), validity of each construct must be tested before testing the overall validity of the full model. Validity of instrument can be divided into three types: construct validity, convergent validity, and discriminant validity. The Cronbach's alpha coefficient is used to assess the inter-item consistency for measurement items in a construct, in which the alpha values should be above 0.6, as suggested by Nunnally & Bernstein (1994). In specific, 0.6 is satisfying for a relatively new measurement instrument while 0.7 is sufficient (Nunally, 1978). The alpha value of above 0.70 indicates that the scales are internally consistent (Chi et al., 2011; Hair, 2010). A composite reliability (CR) of 0.70 or greater is acceptable (Fornell and Larcker, 1981), which shows that the measurements are reliable.

In order to measure the second-order CFA, the author used the method commonly applied in the literature (e.g., Bock et al., 2005; Fuller et al., 2006), as suggested by Chin et al., (2003). First, each first-order factor (i.e., top management and human resource) was modeled to the second-order factor (TQM) based on first order CFA analysis. Then, the first-order factors were pulled together as the reflective measure of TQM in AMOS for the measurement model. Initially, the measurement model provided a poor fit for the 5 second order factors model with 26 items as shown in Figure 12.1. The chi-square/df was 3.972 (χ^2 =1147.921, df=289). Furthermore, the GFI was .776, AGFI=.727, TLI=.873, CFI=.887, and RMSEA=.097.







STRUCTURAL MODEL

Relationship between TQM and Business Performance

Covariance-based SEM, developed by Jöreskog in the early 1970's (Jöreskog & Wold, 1982), is the most widely known method. This technique uses software such as LISREL, EQS, AMOS, SEPATH, and ROMANA (Vinci et al., 2010). This approach uses the maximum likelihood that minimises the difference between the sample covariance and theoretical model (Hair, 2010). Hence, the aim is to achieve the best goodness-of-fit of the model proposed in a study. However, goodness-of-fit cannot infer the model if the model is not supported by the theory.

Second order factor was used to examine the relationship between TQM and BP using structural model, as shown in Figure 13.1. Hair (2010) emphasises on using one-tailed test for testing paths in the structural model. The goodness-of-fit indices showed that this model fitted the data adequately. The chi-square/df was 2.37 (χ^2 =246.898, df=104). The GFI was .915, AGFI=.905, TLI=.957, CFI=.967, and RSMEA=.066. The model that fitted the criteria for the path model was satisfactory, thus the model was accepted to fit the data. The standardised rc for the relationships between TQM and BP was 0.81, as shown in Table 13.1. Based on the path analysis, H11 was supported as the rc² value was 0.66, suggesting that 66% of the variance in BP can be explained by TQM. The result showed a positive and significant relationship (β =0.81, CR=13.774, p<0.01) between extent of TQM and BP. The following suggested values for low, medium, and high effects for rc were based on Cohen (1988): (1) rc>0.10: Small effect; (2) rc>0.30: Moderate effect; and (3) rc>0.50: High effect. Thus, TQM practice had strong and significant effect, which contributed to the business performance (Cohen, 1988). This hypothesis was thus supported.





MEDIATOR EFFECT

A mediator is a variable that determines the association between independent variable (IV) and dependent variable (Bennett, 2000). The mediator effect will only be tested when there are significant relationships between independent variables (IV) and the dependent variable (DV), but at the same time the variable should occur in between independent variables and the dependent variable. A mediator effect is as shown in Figure 14.1. Mediator effect exists if the following criteria are met: The independent variable predicts the mediator variable. The mediator variable predicts variations in the dependent variable.

When the relationships in (a) and (b) are controlled in the model, the direct relationship between the independent variable and the dependent variable becomes nonsignificant (Baron & Kenny, 1986).

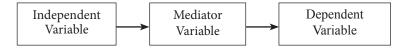
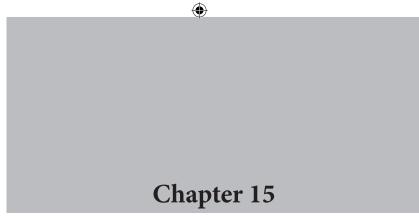


Figure 14.1: Conceptual model of a mediator effect.

TPM mediates the relationship between TQM and BP

In this study, TPM (Total Productive Maintenance) have been identified as mediator based on previous works. TPM as the mediator variable was included into the model, as shown in Figure 14.2. Table 14.1 shows that the relationship between TQM and BP was reduced when TPM was included in the model, but the relationship was still significant with rc from 0.81 (CR=13.177, p<0.01) to 0.55 (CR=7.449, p<0.01). The result also showed that TQM had a significant and direct effect on TPM with rc=0.80 (CR=14.346, p<0.01). In addition, TPM had a significant and direct effect on BP with rc=0.31 (CR=4.334, p<0.01).



MODERATOR EFFECT

Moderators are independent variables that can alter the strength of relationship between IV and DV (Bennett, 2000). Moderators that interact with the IV will result in DV and IV relationships to become stronger or weaker at different levels (Bennett, 2000; Hair, 2010; Hair et al., 2011). Therefore, consideration moderators and mediators allow more precise results between IV and DV, as shown Figure 15.1.

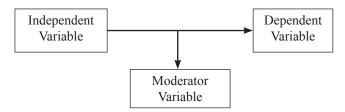


Figure 15.1: Conceptual model of a moderator effect.

Ownership moderates the relationship between TQM and BP

The structural equation modelling (SEM) for testing ownership as a moderator between TQM and BP is shown in Figure 15.2.



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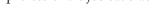


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