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Supplementary file 1. Semi-Structured Interview Questions Thank you for taking time to meet with me. I am planning to audio record this interview. Do I have your permission to do so? (Press "record" on the audio recorder. State student's name and date) I would like to talk with you about your personal and social backgrounds. May I ask you some questions? i) Personal Backgrounds Can you tell me about yourself? -How old are you? -Which class are you from? ii) Social background Where do you live? -How long have you been in rural area? -In which part of this rural plzace do you live specifically? (Name of the residential area) -Have you ever lived at any other place? Where? -What is the major race in your residential area? -Do you mix well with your neighbours? -If you talk to your neighbours, what is the language that you would usually use? Can you tell me about your family? - What do your parents do for living? - Do you have any English reading materials (aside from the ones provided by school) in your house? How many reading materials do you have roughly? - Do any of your family members like to read/write/listen/communicate/watch any **English** materials? -Do your parents know how to communicate in English? - How often do you use English as a medium of communication at home? 1156 Malaysian Rural Secondary School Students' Attitudes towards ... iii) Personal background What are your experiences in learning English language in school? Do you like it or not Why? -Do you ever get complimented by anyone (teachers/friends/family members/ others) because of your English proficiency? -If yes, how did you feel about it at that time?

- Do you still feel the same now?

-Do you ever get insulted by anyone (teachers/friends/family members/ others) because of your English proficiency?

-If yes, how did you feel about it at that time?

- Do you still feel the same now?

- Do the way your English teacher teaches affect your interest in learning the language? Why or why not?

- Do you think your English teacher understands you well? Why or why not?

- Overall, do you perceive your English learning experience as something fun or the other way round? Why or why not?

iv) Attitude towards English Language Learning

What is your opinion about English learning?

- Do you think English is important? Why or why not?
- Do you like learning English at school? Why or why not?
- Do you always finish your English homework? Why or why not?
- Do you like to read English materials at school? Why or why not?
- Do you like to watch English videos/series/films? Why or why not??
- Do you like listening to English songs? Why?
- Do you like to be involved in the English language activities? Why or why not?

- Do you often visit the English Corner, in front of the school hall? Why or why not? Are there any comments or thoughts that you would like to add before we end our

interview today?

Thank you so much for your time. I really appreciate your thoughtful comments, and I enjoyed our conversation