

Student 2: High Merit
NZQA Intended for teacher use only

This report was produced by Te Puni Kokiri in 2006. It is a statistically based report on the attitude Maoris and non-Maoris within New Zealand have towards the native New Zealand language, Maori. ①

They choose to survey 1500 people each year; 2000, 2003, 2006. Although 1500 New Zealanders were surveyed in 2006 only 24.3% of Māori people and 22.5% of non-Māori people responded. ⑥

The Government commission took these samples by phone surveys but it does not state what method was used to do this. ③

The data displayed is categorical and is in three different sections for both Māori and non-Māori; attitudinal statements about Māori language 2000 – 2006, attitudes towards Government involvement in Māori language 2000 – 2006, and participation in selected language and cultural related activities 2000 – 2006. Tables in section one and two state the percentage of Maoris and non-Maoris who agreed or strongly agreed in the three surveys but do not show the percentage who disagreed. Even though the first two tables show the surveys took place in 2000, 2003 and 2006 the last table only produces surveys for 2000 and 2006. ④ ②

No direct question is asked in the survey as a whole but the aim of the surveys is to see the attitude New Zealanders have towards the Māori language and if the influence of the language itself progresses between 2000 – 2006 within New Zealand. In saying that there are a number of questions within the survey to determine New Zealanders attitude towards the Māori language. In all three sections or tables (Māori: 1,2,3 and non-Māori 1,2,3) the questions or statements are slanted one way which is in the context of being favourable towards the language which makes it difficult for someone to disagree, therefore increasing their chance of getting a more positive overview of the whole survey. An example would be the statement/question in table one: well spoken Māori is a beautiful thing to listen to, which a high amount of people surveyed (who responded) agreed/strongly agreed although it did decrease in the period of 2000 – 2006 (2000 - 97%, 2003 - 96%, 2006 – 95%). ⑤ ⑧

In comparison to the rest of the statements/questions surveyed two or three times out of the 2000, 2003 and 2006 surveys increased in percentage (apart from one statement in table three, participation in selected language and culture related activities, 2000 – 2006; Go to a tangi or funeral on a Marae which remained constant (59% in both 2000 and 2006). Therefore proving Te Puni Kokiri's conclusion of ' The results of the three surveys of attitudes toward the Maori language indicate good progress is being made in achieving the goal of having the language valued by all New Zealanders correct according to the results collected. ⑦

By saying the conclusion in Te Puni Kokiri's statistically based report is correct for the data collected within the surveys, the conclusion in regard to the whole populations could be misleading or false. To get a better representation of the whole population of New Zealand more people need to be surveyed within New Zealand. Another aspect affecting the validation of the data would be the type of survey used; phone surveying. As stated in the report only 24.3% of the Maoris and 22.5% of the non-Maoris phoned for the survey responded in 2006. This shows people's unwillingness to take part in phone surveys, once again questioning the representation of the results compared to the data.

The conclusion and/or results could be biased as it is not stated what proportion of Maoris and what proportion of non-Maoris have been surveyed within 1500 New Zealanders overall. The report also does not state the proportion of Māori one has to be to qualify as Māori in the survey. This once again affects the conclusion by not clearly stating particular information revolving around the survey.

8