DISCUSSION

The result of the experiment yielded that there is no significant difference of the effects of selective red, selective black and both on recognition memory. This is in contrary to the results in the review of literature mentioned earlier which states that the analysis yielded significant effect of the factor condition on recognition memory (Day, 1980). This may be due to several factors, namely, small sample of subjects, time constraint and the presence of inevitable circumstances or events which occured just recently in the university.

Time constraint made it difficult for the experimenters to gather as many subjects as they can and this resulted in a small sample size (30) used in the experiment. Inevitable circumstances such as the DLSUEA strike and barricade further hindered the experimenters from obtaining more significant results. It is therefore suggested that in the future, time for preparation as well as time for conducting the experiment should be given consideration.

Sex, as earlier mentioned, was used as an ex-post facto variable because previous studies have shown that sex has no significant effect on selective attention. Counterbalancing was utilized by randomly assigning on each of the three experimental conditions of the independent variable (selective attention) equal number of male and female subjects before the experimemt was actually done.

Selective attention is the ability to pick and choose among the various available inputs. In the experiment, the red and black pictures were the available inputs. Selective attention was manipulated through verbal instructions. These verbal instructions made it possible for the subjects to focus their attention to a specific stimulus, either red, black or both pictures.

Instructions to view the black pictures resulted in better overall performance than instructions to view the red pictures and both the red and black pictures as shown by the mean of each of the three conditions (See Appendix D). Memory for black pictures was enhanced by the instructions to process them and was reduced by the instructions to process the red pictures. On the other hand, memory for red pictures was less enhanced by the instructions to process them and was less reduced by the instructions to process the black pictures. Thus, these results suggest a difference in the tractability of voluntary attentional allocation to red and black pictures.

The explanation for this difference is not obvious, but the finding may still be worthy of replication and further study.