

ISOLATION AND CHARACTERIZATION OF NEW THERMOPHILIC
AMINOACYLASE FROM *Geobacillus* sp. STRAIN SZN

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PEMENCILAN DAN PENCIRIAN AMINOASILASE TERMOSTABIL BARU DARIPADA *Geobacillus* sp. STRAIN SZN

ABSTRAK

Kajian ini bertujuan untuk memencilkan dan mencirikan aminoasilase termostabil daripada bakteria termofilik. Dalam pemencilan bakteria, sampel air dan sedimen telah diperolehi dari Air Panas Ulu Slim, Perak. Aminoasilase SZN termostabil diekstrak secara intrasellular dan ditulenkan sehingga homogen dengan menggunakan kromatografi pertukaran ion dan pengasingan saiz dalam eksperimen seterusnya. Aminoasilase SZN yang tulen telah dicirikan pada pelbagai suhu, pH, ion logam dan perencat. Kajian struktur lebih lanjut menggunakan spektroskopi sirkular dikroisma dilakukan bagi menentukan kestabilan α -heliks dan lembaran β dalam pelbagai suhu. Penghasil aminoasilase termofilik yang dipencilkan itu dikenalpasti sebagai *Geobacillus* sp. strain SZN. Aminoasilase SZN dicirikan sebagai enzim termostabil dengan aktiviti optimum pada 60°C, pH 7.5, tempoh separuh hayat 16 jam dengan peningkatan aktiviti dan kestabilan dalam beberapa ion logam dan perencat yang diuji. Keputusan daripada penentuan struktur menunjukkan pengurangan α -heliks secara beransur-ansur daripada 36 hingga 27.6%, diikuti dengan disorientasi mendadak struktur tersebut pada peralihan suhu daripada 60 hingga 70°C (27.6 hingga 19.5%). Sebaliknya, peratusan lembaran β , telah meningkat secara stabil pada suhu yang diuji. Struktur α -heliks yang juga merupakan lokasi residu-residu pengikat logam dan pemangkin yang penting, lemah sepenuhnya pada suhu melebihi 70°C lalu mengakibatkan kehilangan aktiviti. Kesimpulannya, aminoasilase SZN telah dicirikan sebagai enzim termostabil berdasarkan kepada integriti struktur α -heliks dan kestabilan fungsinya pada suhu tinggi. Implikasi kajian ini menunjukkan bahawa aminoasilase SZN mampu menjadi enzim alternatif kepada bioindustri berdasarkan kepada peningkatan aktiviti enzim dalam suhu tinggi dan kestabilan dalam pelbagai perencat yang diuji.





ABSTRACT

This study aims to isolate and characterize a thermostable aminoacylase from a thermophilic bacterium. For isolation of the bacterium, water and sediment samples were collected from Ulu Slim Hot Spring, Perak. The thermostable aminoacylase was extracted intracellularly and purified to homogeneity by using ion exchange and size exclusion chromatography in subsequent experiment. The purified aminoacylase SZN was characterized at various temperatures, pHs, metal ions and inhibitors. Further structural study using circular dichroism spectropolarimeter was conducted to determine stability of α -helix and β -sheet in various temperatures. The isolated thermophilic aminoacylase producer was identified as *Geobacillus* sp. strain SZN. The aminoacylase SZN was characterized as a thermostable enzyme with optimum activity at 60°C, pH 7.5, half-life of 16 hours with activity increment and stability in several metal ions and tested inhibitors. Results from structural determination have indicated a gradual decrease of α -helix from 36 to 27.6%, followed by a tremendous disorientation of the structure at transition of temperatures from 60 to 70°C (27.6 to 19.5%). In contrast, the percentage of β -sheet has increased steadily over the tested temperatures. The α -helix, where notable metal binding and catalytic residues are located, were totally weakened at temperatures above 70°C, thus resulted in loss of activity. As a conclusion, the aminoacylase SZN was characterized as a thermostable enzyme based on the α -helical structure integrity and functional stability in high temperatures. The implication of this study indicates that the aminoacylase SZN can serve as an alternative enzyme for bioindustries in view from its activity enhancement in high temperatures and stability in various tested inhibitors.





TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Pages
DECLARATION OF ORIGINAL WORK	ii
DECLARATION OF THESIS	iii
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	iv
ABSTRAK	v
ABSTRACT	vi
TABLE OF CONTENTS	vii
LIST OF FIGURES	xii
LIST OF TABLES	xv
LIST OF APPENDICES	xvi
LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS	xvii
 CHAPTER 1 INTRODUCTION	
1.1 Background of Study	1
1.2 Problem Statements	3
1.3 Research Questions	5
1.4 Objectives of Study	5
1.5 Research Limitations	5
1.6 Conclusions	6



**CHAPTER 2 LITERATURE REVIEW**

2.1 Introduction	7
2.2 Thermophiles	7
2.3 <i>Geobacillus</i> sp.	8
2.4 Adaptations of Microorganisms to High Temperatures	10
2.5 Thermostable Enzymes	12
2.6 Aminoacylase	14
2.6.1 Thermostable Aminoacylase	15
2.6.2 Characteristics of Aminoacylase	16
2.6.3 Aminoacylase in Industrial Applications	20
2.7 Research Gap	23
2.8 Conclusions	24

**CHAPTER 3 METHODOLOGY**

3.1 Introduction	25
3.2 Isolation of Thermophile	27
3.3 Screening and Determination of Growth Medium for Aminoacylase Producing Thermophile	27
3.4 Preparation of Cell Extract	28
3.5 Aminoacylase Activity Assay	29
3.5.1 Construction of L-methionine Standard Curve	31
3.6 Identification of the Thermophile	31
3.6.1 Genomic DNA Extraction	31
3.6.2 Amplification of 16S rRNA	32
3.6.3 Cloning of 16S rRNA	32
3.6.4 Transformation of Recombinant Gene	33



3.6.5 Analysis of Recombinant Plasmid from <i>E.coli</i> TOP 10	34
3.6.6 DNA Sequencing	34
3.7 Molecular Investigation of Gene Encoding Aminoacylase Gene (<i>ama</i>)	34
3.7.1 Amplification of Aminoacylase Gene	35
3.7.2 Cloning of <i>ama</i> Gene	35
3.8 Purification of Aminoacylase Strain SZN	35
3.8.1 Preparation of Cell Extract for Purification	36
3.8.2 Ion Exchange Chromatography (IEX)	36
3.8.3 Gel Filtration Chromatography	37
3.9 Protein Determination	37
3.10 Determination of Purity and Homogeneity of Aminoacylase by SDS-PAGE	38
3.11 Characterization of Aminoacylase SZN	38
3.11.1 Structural Analysis of Aminoacylase Thermostability by Circular Dichroism (CD)	39
3.11.1.1 Assessment of Aminoacylase Secondary Structure Stability	39
3.11.1.2 Thermal Denaturation Analysis	39
3.11.2 Effect of Temperatures on Aminoacylase Activity	40
3.11.3 Effect of Temperatures on Aminoacylase Stability	40
3.11.4 Effect of Exposure Time at 60 °C on Aminoacylase Activity	41
3.11.5 Effect of pH on Aminoacylase Activity	41
3.11.6 Effect of pH on Aminoacylase Stability	41
3.11.7 Effect of Metal Ions on Aminoacylase Activity	43

3.11.8 Effect of Inhibitors on Aminoacylase Activity	43
3.12 Conclusions	43

CHAPTER 4 RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

4.1 Introduction	44
4.2 Isolation and Screening of Aminoacylase Producer	44
4.3 Molecular Identification of the Isolated Bacterium	49
4.4 Molecular Investigation of Gene Encoding Thermophilic Aminoacylase	54
4.5 ProtParam Analysis	62
4.5.1 Hydropathicity Analysis	63
4.6 SignalP 4.1 Analysis	66
4.7 Purification of Aminoacylase from <i>Geobacillus</i> Strain SZN	68
4.7.1 Ion Exchange Chromatography (IEX)	68
4.7.2 Gel Filtration S-200	72
4.7.3 Analysis of Protein Purity and Molecular Weight by SDS-PAGE	75
4.8 Characterization of Aminoacylase Strain SZN	76
4.8.1 Assessment of Aminoacylase Secondary Structure Stability	77
4.8.2 Thermal Denaturation Analysis	81
4.8.3 Effect of Temperatures on Aminoacylase Activity and Stability	83
4.8.4 Effect of Exposure Time at 60 °C on Aminoacylase Activity	85
4.8.5 Effect of pH on Aminoacylase Activity and Stability	87
4.8.6 Effect of Metal Ions on Aminoacylase Activity	90

4.8.7 Effect of Reducing and Denaturing Agents on Aminoacylase Activity	92
4.9 General Discussion	95
4.10 Conclusions	97
CHAPTER 5 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS	
5.1 Conclusions	98
5.2 Recommendations	99
REFERENCES	101
APPENDICES	110



LIST OF FIGURES

Figures No.		Page
2.1	Mechanism of aminoacylase activity.	15
2.2	The major metabolic precursors of the amino acids. The amino acids that are precursors for other amino acids are shown in yellow. The nine essential amino acids are shown in boldface.	21
3.1.	Summary of the research methodology.	26
3.2	Flow chart for enzyme assay steps.	30
4.1	The yellowish bacteria colonies growth on LB agar plate incubated for 16 h at 60 °C.	45
4.2	Gel electrophoresis of the amplified 1.5kb of 16S gene from PCR reaction (a) and positive recombinant of 16S gene and pJET/1.2 blunt end vector(b).	50
4.3	The 1518 base pairs of 16S rRNA sequence deduced from <i>Geobacillus</i> sp.strain SZN. Numbers of nucleotide is indicated at extreme right sides.	51
4.4	Basic Local Alignment Search Tool (BLAST) result shows that the isolates was identified as new strain from <i>Geobacillus</i> with 99% sequence identity.	53
4.5	Gel electrophoresis for (a) amplified of 1.1 kb <i>ama</i> from PCR reaction and (b) positive recombinant of <i>ama</i> and pJET/1.2 blunt end vector.	55
4.6	The ORF sequence of <i>ama</i> gene from <i>Geobacillus</i> strain SZN. Numbers of nucleotide is indicated at extreme right sides, respectively.	57
4.7	The nucleotide BLAST result of <i>ama</i> from <i>Geobacillus</i> sp. strain SZN had shown the highest similarities (99%) with <i>B. stearothermophilus</i> aminoacylase ORF (X74289) followed by complete genome of <i>Geobacillus</i> sp. Strain Y412MC52 (CP002442), Y412MC61(CP001794) and C56-T3 (CP002050) with 95-96% similarities.	58
4.8	Multiple sequences alignment of aminoacylase strain SZN with <i>Bacillus stearothermophilus</i> (X74289), <i>Geobacillus kaustophilus</i> (Q5KUV0), <i>Pyrococcus horikoshii</i> (O58453), <i>Pyrococcus abyssi</i>	60





(Q9V2D3), *Bacillus subtilis* (1YSJ), and *Staphylococcus aureus* (4EWT). The conserved region among the sequence was marked with red box. The highlighted amino acid residue with yellow and blue colour represents predicted metal binding site and active site residues for *Geobacillus* strain SZN.

- 4.9 Kyte-Doolittle hydropathy profile of aminoacylase strain SZN. The shape of the graph plot indicates a lot of hydrophilic residues of amino acids in aminoacylase SZN. 65
- 4.10 Signal P 4.1 prediction of signal Peptide among the aminoacylase SZN amino acids sequence. Signal P shows no significant different scores between C, S and Y, for each position in the sequence, thus showing no peak. 67
- 4.11 Ion-Exchange Column Chromatography of cell extracts from *Geobacillus* strain SZN by using DEAE Sepharose Fast Flow column. Each step in the protein purification protocol: FT, flowthrough; W, washing unbound; E, elution and WAE, wash after elution, is separated by dashed lines. The gradient blue dashed line indicates the gradient concentration of NaCl in elution steps. Absorbance at 280 nm and aminoacylase activity is indicated by (■) and (▲), respectively. 71
- 4.12 Sephacryl S-200 Gel Filtration Chromatography of pooled fractions of protein from IEX. Absorbance at 280 nm and aminoacylase activity is indicated by (▲) and (■), respectively. 73
- 4.13 SDS-PAGE that summarized the purification step of aminoacylase SZN. Lane 1, 2, 3, and 4 at top of the gel represents samples from Unstained Protein Molecular Weight Marker (Fermentas, Canada), crude enzymes, IEX, and gel filtration, respectively. Components with their respective sizes (kDa), found in standard protein marker are: β -galactosidase, 116.0; bovine serum albumin, 66.2; ovalbumin, 45.0; lactate dehydrogenase, 35.0; REase Bsp98I, 25.0; β -lactoglobulin, 18.4 and lysozyme, 14.4. 76
- 4.14 Aminoacylase strain SZN secondary structure estimation. All the predicted residues for metal binding sites and catalytic sites were marked with red and black underline, respectively. The respective alphabets consist of c, h, t, and e represents respective secondary structure of random coil, α -helix, β -turn and extended strand. The secondary structure estimation for catalytic sites was underlined with black. 80
- 4.15 CD spectra for determination of thermal denaturation point of aminoacylase. A curve that indicates the transition state of the α -helical structure was formed when the temperature arise from 70-80°C. The temperature of 80 °C at approximate midpoint of the sigmoidal curve has defined as thermal denaturation point of 82



aminoacylase.

- 4.16 Effect of temperature on aminoacylase activity. The relative activity at 60 °C was taken as 100 %. Relative activities (●) are represented by mean value $\pm$ standard deviations (n=3). Absence of bar indicates that errors were smaller than symbols. 83
- 4.17 Thermal stability of aminoacylase at various temperatures for 30 min. Aminoacylase activity at 5 °C was regarded as 100 %. Relative activities (◆) are represented by mean value $\pm$ standard deviations (n=3). Absence of bar indicates that errors were smaller than symbols. 84
- 4.18 Thermal stability of aminoacylase at 60 °C. Dashed arrow indicates the half of protein, which confers by reduction of relative activity to 50 %. Aminoacylase activity at 0 min was regarded as 100 %. Relative activities (•) are represented by mean value $\pm$ standard deviations (n=3). Absence of bar indicates that errors were smaller than symbols. 86
- 4.19 Effect of pH on activity of aminoacylase. The buffering systems (50mM) used in this study were sodium acetate (●), potassium phosphate (■), Tris-Cl (▲), sodium tetraborate (◆) and sodium hydrogen phosphate (—). Aminoacylase activity in phosphate buffer of pH 8.0 was regarded as 100 %. Relative activities are represented by mean value $\pm$ standard deviations (n=3). Absence of bar indicates that errors were smaller than symbols. 88
- 4.20 The pH stability of aminoacylase at 60 °C for 30 min. The buffering systems (50mM) used in this study were sodium acetate (●), potassium phosphate (■), Tris-Cl (▲), sodium tetraborate (◆) and sodium hydrogen phosphate (—). Aminoacylase activity in phosphate buffer of pH 8.0 was regarded as 100 %. Relative activities are represented by mean value $\pm$ standard deviations (n=3). Absence of bar indicates that errors were smaller than symbols. 89
- 4.21 Stability of aminoacylase in metal ions tested. All metal ions were used at final concentrations of 1 mM (■) and 10 mM (□). Aminoacylase activity in non-metal ion containing enzyme solution is regarded as control (100 %). Relative activities are represented by mean value $\pm$ standard deviations (n=3). 91
- 4.22 Stability of aminoacylase in various chemical tested. All inhibitors were used at final concentrations of 5 (■) and 10mM (□). Aminoacylase activity in non-inhibitor containing enzyme solution is regarded as control (100 %). Relative activities are represented by mean value $\pm$ standard deviations (n=3). 93



LIST OF TABLES

Table No.	Page
2.1	Characteristics of Aminoacylase from Various Microorganisms Species. 18
3.1	Buffers Used for Determination of Optimum pH and pH Stability. 42
4.1	Optimization of Aminoacylase Production Parameters. 47
4.2	The Screening of Optimum pH of 50 Mm Tris-Hcl Binding Buffer and Elution Buffer. 72
4.3	Purification Table of Aminoacylase from <i>Geobacillus</i> Strain SZN by IEX and Gel Filtration S-200 Purification Step. 74
4.4	Estimated percentage of secondary structures by using Perry Freeshell software when protein was incubated at various temperatures. 78





LIST OF APPENDICES

- A L-Methionine standard curve
- B Preparation of L-Methionine standard curve
- C Vector map of pJET1.2/Blunt
- D Bradford Standard Curve
- E Phylogenetic tree of 16S gene from *Geobacillus* strain SZN
- F BLAST result of amino acids sequence of aminoacylase strain SZN with other aminoacylase from another species
- G Phylogenetic tree of aminoacylase strain SZN gene.
- H Far UV spectra of aminoacylase at various incubation temperature.
- I Effect of various parameters on the stability of aminoacylase from *Geobacillus* sp. strain SZN



**LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS**

A	Ampere
A ₅₉₅	absorbance at 595 nm
A ₅₇₀	absorbance at 570 nm
AMA	Aminoacylase
APIs	Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients
BGSC	Bacillus Genetic Stock Center
bp	base pair
BSA	bovine serum albumin
D-	dextrorotatory
Da	Dalton
DEAE	diethylaminoethyl
dH ₂ O	distilled water
dNTPs	deoxyribonucleotide triphosphates
DTT	dithiothreitol
EDTA	ethylenediaminetetraacetic acid
FDA	Food and Drug Administration
g	gram
g/L	gram per litre
h	hour
IPTG	isopropyl-β-D-galactoside
kb	kilo base pair





kDa

kiloDalton

kPa

kiloPascal

L

litre

L-

levorotatory

LB

Luria Bertani

M

molar

mM

millimolar

mg

milligram

mL

millilitre

min

minute

MW

molecular weight

mg/mL

milligram per millilitre



NAME

N-acetyl-L-Methionine

nm

nanometer

OD₆₀₀

Optical Density at 600 nm

ORF

Open Reading Frame

PCR

Polymerase Chain Reaction

PMSF

phenylmethylsulfonyl fluoride

rpm

rotation per minute

SDS

sodium dodecyl sulphate

SDS-PAGE

sodium dodecyl sulphate-polyacrylamide
gel electrophoresis

TEMED

N,N,N,N-tetramethylenediamine

 T_m

thermal denaturation

U

unit





U/mL

unit per millilitre

U/mg

unit per milligram

 μg

microgram

 μL

microlitre

 μm

micrometer

 μmoles

micromoles

V

volt

v/v

volume per volume

W

watt

w/v

weight per volume

%

percent

 $^{\circ}\text{C}$

degree Celcius

16S rRNA

16 small Sub-unit Ribosomal Ribonucleic Acid



CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

Global amino acids market demand was 7.5 million tons in 2016, and was expected to reach a volume of more than 10 million tons in 2020 (Research & Market, 2015). The market of amino acids is anticipated to reach USD 30.8 Billion by the end of 2024. This can be attributed to various factors such as growing consumer awareness and rising demand for healthy and functional food. Furthermore, increasing consumption of dietary supplements is expected to positively impact the growth of global amino acids market, Researchnester.com (2018). All amino acids excluding glycine are chiral molecules, because they have a chiral carbon atom adjacent to the carboxyl group (CO₂⁻). This chiral centre allows for stereoisomerism. The amino acids form two stereoisomers that are mirror images of each other, they exist in left and right-handed forms (L- or D-) of enantiomers. The production of single enantiomers of



chiral intermediates has become increasingly important in the pharmaceutical industry. Single enantiomers can be produced by chemical or chemo-enzymatic synthesis. The advantage of biocatalysis over chemical synthesis is that enzyme-catalyzed reactions are often highly enantioselective and regioselective. They can be carried out at ambient temperature and atmospheric pressure, thus avoiding the use of more extreme conditions that can cause problems with isomerization, racemization, epimerization and rearrangement (Patel, 2013). Microbial cells and enzymes derived from them can be immobilized and reused for many cycles, and enzymes can be over-expressed to make biocatalytic processes economically efficient.

Enzyme catalysis reactions that performed at relatively high temperature have numbers of advantages, such as decreased viscosity of reaction solutions, increased diffusability of substrates and products and extended availability of less water-soluble substrates (Tanimoto, Higashi, Nishioka, Ishikawa, & Taya, 2008). According to Kramers (1940) theory, solvent viscosity results in friction against proteins in solution, and this should result in decreased motion, inhibiting catalysis in motile enzymes (Uribe & Sampedro, 2003). The search for new local thermostable aminoacylases is essential needs in global industry especially in amino acids productions industry. Enzymes from extremophiles, has becoming greater to the traditional catalysts because they can perform industrial processes even under harsh conditions, under which common proteins are completely denatured. Basically, industrial use of enzymes for production of L-amino acids has started since more than 40 years ago in Japan with the resolution of N-acetyl D, L-amino acids by immobilized aminoacylase (Ivanov, Stoimenova, Obreshkova, & Saso, 2014) as an alternative to production of amino acids by fermentation and chemical synthesis





which is faster and more specific in producing amino acids product. The industrial production of L-methionine is being practiced by immobilization of aminoacylase on to DEAE Sephadex in a packed bed reactor. Nowadays, the thermostable aminoacylases from thermophiles have been further modified for industrial use. Aminoacylase from *Thermococcus litoralis* have been using by Chirotech, the company of Dr Reddys for commercial production of L-amino acids (Holt, 2004).

1.2 Problem Statements

Normally, in common cells, the enzyme will denature and unfold when the temperature increased beyond a specific point. As the temperature is raised, the rate of molecular movement and hence the rate of reaction increases, but at the same time there is a progressive inactivation caused by denaturation of the enzyme protein (Robinson, 2015). The consequences happened because the three-dimensional structure of proteins is damaged due to loss of hydrogen and disulfide bonds which responsible to maintain the structure. Protein unfolding may cause the enzyme to no longer be able to catalyse the reactions appropriately because it had lost its fundamental shape which is associated with its specific affinity and its substrate binding site. Vieille and Zeikus (2001) reported that enzymes from extreme environments may be more suitable in some biotransformations because they offer highly desirable traits of activity and stability for application under various manipulated of temperature process conditions. In industrial processes, enzyme will be exposed to different environment compared to their natural environments. Most of enzymes derived from hyperthermophiles are active (optimally) at temperatures that



close to the host's optimal growth temperature (Vieille & Zeikus, 2001). Another advantage of application of thermostable enzyme in industry is that, at high temperatures, the thermostable enzyme able to react at higher substrate concentrations, lower viscosity, with higher reaction rates and most importantly can reduce risks of microbial contamination (Otieno, 2010).

Excellent characteristics has been reported on capability of hyperthermostability aminoacylase from *Pyrococcus horikoshii* (Tanimoto et al., 2008) and *Pyrococcus furiosus* (Story, Grunden, & Adams, 2001) that can withstand the catalytic activity at 90 and 100 °C, respectively. Through this study, newly local thermostable aminoacylase was expected to be isolated with greater characteristics with stability at high temperatures and have the capability to withstand the activity at

several tested reducing agents, detergents and denaturing agents which will be an added advantage as the criteria which is needed by the excellent enzymes in order to be applied in industries. In addition, to understand the intrinsic values though molecular investigation of gene encoding thermophilic aminoacylase and analysis of the sequence and database similarity using Basic Local Alignment Tools (Altschul et al., 1997), Biology Workbench (Subramaniam, 1998) and ExPaSy Tools (Gasteiger et al., 2003), this study also will emphasize more about secondary structure stability and its distortion at high temperatures. Thus, the focus of this study is to provide a better understanding on adaptation of thermostable aminoacylase at high temperatures, from structural point of view.

1.3 Research Questions

1. How to isolate and identify thermostable aminoacylase producer?
2. How to characterize purified thermostable aminoacylase?
3. How to determine structural adaptation of thermostable aminoacylase in various temperatures?

1.4 Objectives of Study

1. To isolate and identify thermostable aminoacylase producer.
2. To characterize purified thermostable aminoacylase.
3. To determine structural adaptation of thermostable aminoacylase in various temperatures.

1.5 Research Limitations

There are few limitations needed to be addressed throughout this study. First of all, about two main instruments which are not available in this university, such as Circular Dichroism Spectropolarimeter (CD) that is only accessible in Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM) and Genome Institute Malaysia (GIM). The second major instrument that is lacking here is AKTA Purifier Chromatography System (GE Healthcare, USA) which is vital for protein purification in this research. Through research collaboration

with UPM, the purification was managed to be done utilizing AKTA Purifier Chromatography System (GE Healthcare, USA) there.

Secondly, regarding information availability through online literature research, there is lacking of latest research information, especially for aminoacylase from bacteria. The greatest finding from archaea aminoacylase in 2008 and several species that has been industrially developed for amino acids productions had proved that this enzyme was worth to explore. Last but not least, the complex gene expression system for aminoacylase has leaded this research to continue with aminoacylase extracted from wildtype even though gene expression approach was attempted at the first place but meet failure.

1.6 Conclusions

There are three focus areas that will be emphasized in this study, firstly, isolation and identification, second is characterization of the purified aminoacylase and lastly, secondary structure adaptation analysis when aminoacylase was exposed to high temperature. Lacking of research data on secondary structure of aminoacylase from microorganism especially from high temperatures brought this novelty research project to reveal more information about factors involved in structure rigidity and the secondary structure stability and distortion of newly isolated thermostable aminoacylase exposed at high temperatures.