

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 BACKGROUND

According to the policy of the Ministry of Education, which wants Thai students to improve English, English has been added as one important subject in the curriculum. There are many factors in teaching and learning, and teacher is one important factor that helps students succeed in learning. However, textbook is another one factor. The selected textbook has an influence on both teaching and learning. In teaching, the textbook is an instrument to determine the direction of the class according to lesson plan and contents in the textbook. In learning, a student can review the textbook and know the direction and content of the subject. Student also does exercises to check the comprehension after learning.

In Thailand, there are many English textbooks which are selected for English courses. These textbooks are developed by many organizations; Academic Department, the Ministry of Education, and local and international publishers. Some textbooks are written in Thai but some are in English. Some textbooks have Thai instruction but some have only English. Some have many colorful pictures but some have few of them. Therefore, the decision to purchase one textbook should be carefully considered. Teachers should apply appropriate criteria when choosing the textbook. These can increase the outcome for both teachers and students.

According to Fredriksson and Olsson (2006), it is important to conduct an evaluation to ensure that the textbook is suitable for the class. Therefore, certain criteria must be considered in the evaluation. Since every school setting is unique in the sense that students have different backgrounds, abilities and needs, the criteria will inevitably vary. Other criteria, such as teachers' perspectives, as well as the syllabus, should also be taken into account in the evaluation. It is important that teachers have a critical approach towards the potential material. Another perspective that will be discussed in our dissertation is whether to use a textbook or not.

Besides, teachers also need to check errors in selected textbooks such as spelling and grammar errors. This is an important point because sometimes a teacher

does not notice the error; this miss will make students learn and remember incorrect information. According to Jones (2000), a recent spate of newspaper and magazine articles has highlighted factual errors in textbooks. In response to this publicity, some states and school districts have begun charging fines for each error found in a publisher's book, and some publishers have set up web sites to field complaints and disseminate corrections. This is a good chance for both reader and publisher, but it has not begun in Thailand.

Therefore, an analysis of an English textbook can help a teacher to select an appropriate English textbook for teaching and learning. Besides, a teacher can develop the textbook by him/herself to reinforce his/her effectiveness in teaching, and motivate students in learning.

1.2 STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

This paper analyzes *Super Goal 1* both Student book and Workbook, which are written by Manuel Dos Santos, and published by Thai Watana Panich Press under license from McGraw-Hill. The textbooks have been selected for teaching and learning in the seventh grade. The textbooks also are licensed from the Ministry of Education to use from 2004 to 2009.

The analysis of the textbooks concerned whether or not contents, activities, and readability are appropriate for student's level. If it is possible, the textbooks can be developed and the textbooks must not have any errors.

1.3 OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

This study intends to answer the following questions:

- 1.3.1 What are the purposes, contents and tasks of the textbook?
- 1.3.2 How many topics are in the textbook?
- 1.3.3 According to the curriculum, are the topics and content appropriate for the class?
- 1.3.4 Does the textbook include all four skills? If not, what skill is excluded from the textbook?
- 1.3.5 According to Graves' framework, is there a development for the textbook?

1.3.6 Is there any error in the textbook?

1.4 DEFINITION OF TERMS

1.4.1 Textbooks refer to *Super Goal 1*, which includes Student book and Workbook. The textbooks are used in the Grade 7 and written by Manuel Dos Santos, and published by Thai Watana Panich Press under the license from McGraw-Hill.

1.4.2 The Eighth National Education Development plan refers to the plan from 1999-2001 for the first grade to the twelfth grade. The plan is issued by the Ministry of Education.

1.4.3 The Standard Curriculum for Basic Education year 2001 issued by the Ministry of Education refers to the curriculum for the first grade to the twelfth grade.

1.5 SCOPE OF THE STUDY

The study aims to analyze the Student book and Workbook.

1.5.1 The features of the textbooks will be analyzed as following:

- Is there a different type of text?
- What is the text's style?
- How does the textbook use bold type?
- What does it mean when the textbooks use italicized words?
- Does the textbook use color to convey information?
- Does the textbook use symbols or icons to convey information?
- What kind of information accompanies an illustration or image?

1.5.2 Academic aspect

- Is the content relevant to the curriculum, aim and student's level?
- Is the content correct and up-to-date?
- Is vocabulary correct and suitable for students?
- Are reading passage relevant to student's level?

1.6 SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

This study is useful for teachers to know whether or not the textbook is appropriate given the academic aim and student's level. If the textbook is

inappropriate, the teacher or liaison officer should revise the textbook for next class by setting certain criterion.