

Thesis Title                    The Effectiveness of The Semantic  
   Mapping Technique on Reading  
   Achievement of The First-Year  
   Nursing Students At Mahidol  
   University

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Degree                             Master of Arts (Linguistics)

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#### ABSTRACT

This experimental study was intended to investigate the effectiveness of the semantic mapping technique on the reading achievement of first-year nursing students at Mahidol University.

The subjects of this study were 60 first-year nursing students at the faculty of science, Mahidol University. All of them were female. The research design involved two groups: the control group and the experimental group. Each group consisted of 30 students. The control group was taught by the conventional technique while the experimental group was taught with a semantic mapping technique. The experiment was held over during the first semester of the academic year 1992-1993 within the period of 9 weeks totalling 18 hours in one

semester. The instruments employed were a pre/post test and a questionnaire.

The findings of this study can be summarized as follows:

1. There was a significant difference between the mean scores obtained from the posttest and those obtained from the pretest ( $p < .001$ ) for students in the control group.
2. An equally significant difference was found between the mean scores of the posttest and pretest ( $p < .001$ ) for students in the experimental group.
3. There was a significant difference between the mean scores of the experimental and the control groups ( $p < .01$ ).
4. High reading-ability students in the experimental group scored higher than those in the control groups but the difference between the mean scores of those two groups was not significant ( $p > .05$ ). Whereas low reading-ability students in the experimental group, their mean scores were significantly different from those in the control group at a .001 level.
5. It was revealed from the questionnaire that students in the experimental group reported a favorable attitude toward the semantic mapping technique. And students evaluated themselves that they comprehend the reading passages at the moderate level.