

Thesis Title An Experimental Study of the Use of
Thai Text in Parallel with English
Text in Teaching English Reading
Comprehension

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ABSTRACT

Purpose of the Study

This research investigated and compared two teaching techniques, the conventional technique and the use of Thai text in parallel with English text, to investigate their effectiveness to English reading comprehension and to English reading development of the first-year Nursing students, Faculty of Science, Mahidol University.

Procedures

The subjects of this research are 60 first-year Nursing students in the 1991 academic year at the Faculty of Science, Mahidol University. The subjects were divided into 2 groups of 30 students for each. The first group, the control group was taught by the conventional technique while the experimental group was assigned to

read English with the use of Thai text in parallel with English text.

The tools employed in this research were the reading test which was written and adapted by the present researcher to evaluate subjects' English reading ability in both groups. The test consisted of 5 reading passages together with 40 multiple-choice questions. The reliability of this reading test was at 0.77. The scores obtained from the pretest and the posttest of the control and the experimental groups were analyzed and administered to find out the effectiveness of these two teaching techniques.

A rating-scale questionnaire was also employed to investigate students' attitudes in the experimental group towards the use of Thai text in parallel with English text at the end of the experiment. The questionnaire was composed of 3 main parts. The first part contained the items concerning subjects' personal data and the previous teaching techniques they have been assigned in English reading classroom. Then, the second and third parts were employed for students to have self-evaluation and to elicit attitudes towards the use of Thai text in parallel with English text in English reading comprehension.

Findings:

1. There was a significant difference between scores gained from the reading pretest and the reading

posttest for students in the control group taught by the use of the conventional technique.

2. The mean scores of the posttest of students in the experimental group taught by the use of Thai text in parallel with English text was significantly higher than those of the pretest.

3. It was found that the posttest scores obtained by students in the experimental group taught by the use of Thai text in parallel with English text were significantly higher than the posttest scores obtained by ones in the control group taught by the conventional technique.

4. The mean scores of both high-reading ability students and low-reading ability students in the experimental group were significantly higher than the mean scores of the pretest of high and low-reading ability students in the control group.

5. The rating-scale questionnaire revealed that students in the experimental group taught by the use of Thai text in parallel with English text in English reading comprehension showed a positive attitude towards this technique, and then, from their self-evaluation, it was found that this technique enabled them to have more reading comprehension, especially in vocabulary meanings and the details of context.