

Thesis Title	An Experimental Study on the Use of Readings from Science Fiction in ESP Classes for First Year Nursing Students, Salaya Campus, Mahidol University
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### ABSTRACT

The purpose of this research is to investigate and measure whether after the first year nursing students at Salaya Campus, Mahidol University had studied readings from science fiction in their ESP class for 12 hours, they would improve their English proficiency and develop positive attitudes towards learning English. The information obtained from the study can be used as a basis for the preparation of other kinds of reading materials for the students.

The total population in the research is 100 students and is classified into two groups: the experimental group who was provided with readings from science fiction and the control group who was not provided with readings from science fiction.

The instruments employed in the study are four readings from science fiction, lesson plan, test and questionnaire. All four readings were chosen according to the criteria for selecting literature for ESP classes. Lesson plans were prepared on the basis of the theory for teaching reading in English class. And the test was selected from the National University Entrance Examination since it is a standardized test. And the questionnaires were constructed and revised under the guidance of Thesis Supervisory Committee and also validated in the pilot study. The reliability of the questionnaire was .905. The statistical devices used to analyze the results of the questionnaire were arithmetic mean, five point Likert Scale, T-Test and Cronbach Alpha method.

In this experiment, both groups of population were asked to take the test at the beginning of the semester. But only the experimental group was asked to answer the questionnaires. After the experimental group had studied readings from science fiction for 12 hours, both groups were asked to take the test again. And the experimental group was asked to answer the questionnaire again.

From the statistical data, it can be concluded that the nursing students who have studied readings from science fiction have improved in English proficiency more than the students who have not. Regarding their attitudes, the students' general attitudes towards learning English have not much developed. However, the students' attitudes towards readings from science fiction were positively developed. That is to say, the students think that readings from science fiction can help them enjoy learning more because they are different from the other texts they have to read in their class.

The result of the study can be used as the basis for the preparation of reading materials for university students. This is because, from the research result, science fiction can increase the students' interest in learning English and develop

the students' reading skill. A teacher can change the type of reading materials from science fiction to other types of literature for instance children's literature, detective story or adventure story. Apart from this, the teacher can also use reading materials to develop writing, listening or speaking skill.