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SUCHADA RERKAROONTHONG: A STUDY OF THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE OUTLINING TECHNIQUE ON READING COMPREHENSION OF THE FIRST YEAR NURSING STUDENTS AT MAHIDOL UNIVERSITY. THESIS ADVISORS: ANCHALEE PONGPUN, M.A., GRAHAM. K. ROGERS, M.A., MICHAEL TREPIAK, M.A. 126 P. ISBN 974-664-777-6

In view of the importance of reading for ESL readers, programmes in university have paid a great deal of attention to help students acquire reading comprehension skills.

This study attempted to examine the use of the outlining technique in non-native student reading classes. The main purpose of the study was to determine if the outlining technique had an effect on reading comprehension of Mahidol first year nursing students.

Two groups (n = 60) were randomly assigned to experimental and control groups. The experimental group received the outlining technique whereas the control group followed the product-oriented approach. The data of this study were obtained through an English reading comprehension test and a questionnaire.

Results of the study showed that the mean scores obtained from the post-test, in both the control and the experimental groups, were higher than those from the pre-test with a statistical difference ($p < .001$). The post-test mean scores of the experimental group were higher than those of the control group with a statistical difference ($p < .001$). Comparing the two levels of reading ability, low-reading ability students in both groups showed reading development while the high-reading ability students in both groups did not show any reading improvement. In addition, the students in the experimental group showed positive attitudes towards the outlining technique.

The higher reading achievement in the experimental group indicates that reading activities, classroom discussion, and teaching aids facilitate comprehension. Teachers need to be concerned about improving students' comprehension ability rather than just their comprehension. Students share their own experiences and effective reading strategies with other students. This can lead to improved reading and reading comprehension.