

Thanchanok Lornark 2010: Needs and Problems about Academic English Reading of Veterinary Undergraduate Students at Kasetsart University. Master of Arts (English for Specific Purposes), Major Field: English for Specific Purposes, Department of Foreign Languages. Thesis Advisor: Assistant Professor Pornsiri Muangsamai, Ph.D. 100 pages.

The main objective of this study was to investigate the present needs for reading English materials for academic purposes of veterinary undergraduate students at Kasetsart University, and problems that they encountered when reading English materials. This study was also conducted to explore reading strategies utilized by the veterinary students. The results were anticipated to reveal needs for academic reading in English of the veterinary students, their difficulties in English reading, and their reading strategies.

The subjects of this study were 100 third-year veterinary students at Kasetsart University, including 35 male students and 65 female students. The research instruments were a questionnaire and interview. The statistical devices used to analyze data consisted of frequency distribution, percentage (%), a five-point Likert scale, arithmetic mean (\bar{X}), and standard deviation (S.D.).

This study indicated that the veterinary students highly needed to read textbooks, research articles, research journals, and research reports of their discipline. On the other hand, research reports of other disciplines were perceived as the lowest need. The main purposes of reading these materials were to seek information for a seminar paper and a term paper.

The students' important problems in English reading involved unknown words and technical terms, followed by problems in selecting an appropriate meaning of a word. However, grammatical knowledge was the least serious problem for them. Due to their lexical problems, the strategy they used the most was to consult a dictionary when unknown words were come across. The least frequent strategy was to read aloud when the texts became hard to understand.

The findings of this study will result in a clearer understanding of the students' needs and problems in English reading. This may provide a beneficial guideline for designing an English course in academic reading which meets their demands.

Student's signature

Thesis Advisor's signature