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READING ALOUD LITERATURE IN MULTIMEDIA: A TRANSLATION APPROACH

NORASMADI BIN NORASIM

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THIS ACADEMIC EXERCISE IS SUBMITTED IN PARTIAL FULFILMENT OF THE REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEGREE OF MASTERS IN EDUCATION

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Dedicated to

those unlucky ESL readers
who are still searching the
best way to understand English texts

and

my parents and family who have
loved me for what I am

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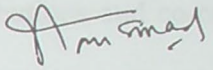
DECLARATION

I hereby declare that the writing in this thesis is my own except for quotations and summaries which have been duly acknowledged.

Signature : 

Date : 10 April 2004

Name : Norasmadi bin Norasim

Registration no.: 200200486

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In the name of Allah, the most merciful and most compassionate.

May benediction and salutation be upon Prophet Muhammad, the Last Apostle.

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Abstrak

Kajian dijalankan menerusi eksperimen menggunakan intervensi. Dua kelas Tingkatan 1 telah dipilih. Kelas 1 J adalah sebagai kumpulan eksperimen manakala Kelas 1U diletakkan di dalam kumpulan kawalan. Tujuan kajian ini adalah untuk melihat sejauh mana keberkesanan Pengajaran Kesusasteraan Bahasa Inggeris Berasaskan Multimedia mampu membantu prestasi pemahaman teks Komponen Sastera Bahasa Inggeris Tingkatan Satu selepas intervensi dilakukan terhadap kumpulan eksperimen.

Pengukur kepada keberkesanan "*Reading Aloud Literature in Multimedia : A Translation Approach*' adalah sejumlah 21 soalan anika pilihan. Pada mulanya set tersebut berjumlah 25. Selepas Ujian Rintis dijalankan ke atas sampel Tingkatan 1, didapati gabungan alpha yang diperolehi adalah 0.4809. Untuk membolehkan item-item ujian ini memperolehi kesahan, gabungan alpha sepatutnya berada di antara 0.6 sehingga 1. Oleh itu proses pengurangan item telah dijalankan melibatkan pembuangan 4 item. Hasilnya gabungan alpha telah meningkat kepada 0.6218.

Kedua-dua kumpulan eksperimental dan kawalan bermula dengan min pra ujian yang hampir sama. Min kumpulan eksperimental adalah 47.85 manakala min kumpulan kawalan adalah 45.55. Analisis statistik UjianT Satu Sampel telah dilakukan ke atas kedua-dua kumpulan. Data yang diproses daripada kumpulan eksperimental menunjukkan keputusan signifikan (0.000). Data yang diproses daripada kumpulan kawalan pula menampakkan keputusan tidak signifikan (0.094).

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Abstract

The study took the form of an experiment through an intervention. Two classes of Form 1 students were chosen. The purpose of the study was to investigate the effectiveness of the *'Reading Aloud Literature in Multimedia : A Translation Approach'* to improve the English Language reading comprehension performance of the experiment group after a specific time duration.

The main measuring tool to examine the effectiveness of the *"Reading Aloud Literature in Multimedia : A Translation Approach'* (placed at the back cover of this research report) is a set of 21 multiple-choice items prepared by the researcher himself. Previously the list consisted of 25 multiple-choice items. After the pilot test was administered to a sample population of Form 1 students, a reliability analysis (*Cronbach alpha*) was run. It was discovered that the joined alpha was .4809. In order for test items to be accepted as reliable, the joined alpha for the items should range between 0.6 to 1. Therefore item reduction was done whereby 4 items were taken out and the joined alpha had increased to 0.6218.

It was a coincidence that both experimental and control groups departed with nearly equally means of pre test. The experimental group obtained a mean of 47.85, while the control group received a mean of 45.55. A separate One-Sample T-Test for both experimental and control groups were carried out. The data of the experimental group undergoing the treatment named the *'Reading Aloud Literature in Multimedia : A Translation Approach'* obtained a very significant result (0.000). The data of control group undergoing a normal reading lesson, on the other hand, failed to display a significant result (0.094).

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CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION TO THE STUDY

1.0 Introduction

Although it sounds anecdotal, the standard of English amongst Malaysian students, specifically in the rural based schools is declining year after year. This is notably true if the yardstick is Penilaian Menengah Rendah (hereafter PMR) as it portrays the student's general reading level. A student is considered a failure if she/he fails his/her English Language paper. Students' limited vocabulary hinders their reading competency. As a result most of them are unable to answer reading comprehension questions as they fail to understand what they are required to do. This limitation leads to their inability to write effectively.

This chapter addresses several important accounts about the beginning of a study. First, the purpose of the study is highlighted. Then, the significance of the study is described. Following next are the aim and background of the study. Later, the researcher comes out with a research question which is then formulated into a hypothesis. The last two accounts outline the limitations of the study and the statistical considerations that the researcher has taken into consideration.

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1.1 Purpose of the study

This study entitled *'Reading Aloud Literature in Multimedia: A Translation Approach'* (refer to a CD placed at the back cover of this research report and hereafter known as RALiM) sought to determine the effect of a grammar translation multimedia reading aloud literature text which served as a tool to improve the reading comprehension of Form 1 students. The researcher attempted to see whether this experimental software was able to improve the reading performance of Form 1 students.

1.2 Significance of the study

It was the researcher's intention to promote favourable classroom climate in English Language learning through this study. Willings (1988:1, in Richards and Lockharts, 1955) gives considerable evidence which suggests that accommodating students with the relevant strategy can result in improved learner attainment. By using this approach (Reading Aloud Literature in Multimedia), the researcher hoped to equip students with the equivalents of Malay Language (the medium of instruction in most schools in Malaysia) to quicken their understanding of the English Literature text used.

1.3 Aim of the study

The main focus of this experimental study was to enable English Language teachers to try out the possibility of using a classic method but with a new approach to facilitate and promote effective classroom learning.

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1.4 Background of the study

The students under study were the ones who the researcher is currently teaching in SMK Sultan Azlan Shah, Lenggong, Perak. They were students of two classes, Form 1 J (n=27) and Form 1 U (n=27. These two classes were chosen to serve the researcher's convenience as they were under the researcher's guidance. There are times when, if we are to carry out an experiment at all, it will have to be with intact groups, that is, subjects who have been group together for reasons other than the carrying of an experiment (Nunan, 1992).

1.5 Research question

It was discovered that the reading comprehension ability of these two classes (Forms 1 J and 1 U) was below average. Their overall mean for reading comprehension section in the first semester examination was taken into account before any conclusion was made. For English Language Paper 1, the students need to answer 30 multiple choice questions involving 6 different texts. The mean recorded was only 30. Therefore a research question was issued. It reads *'Can Reading Aloud Literature in Multimedia: A Translation Approach' improve the reading comprehension performance of the experimental group under study?'* Other factors were ignored as they were beyond the researcher's control.

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1.6 Hypothesis

The research question was formulated into a research hypothesis, that is *'The Reading Aloud Literature in Multimedia : A Translation Approach' used in the treatment on the experimental group would improve their reading comprehension performance'.*

1.7 Limitations of the study

The scope of this experimental study did not allow the investigation of the effect of the grammar-translation multimedia reading aloud literature text on all students in SMK Sultan Azlan Shah, Lenggong. The researcher intended to monitor how far it would work on the experimental group (Form 1 J) as they form the less skilled readers in Form 1. The other class that is Form 1 U, serving as the control group for this experimental study underwent reading aloud literature lessons without the grammar translation multimedia reading text.

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1.8 Statistical considerations

Reliability analysis, here named as Cronbach alpha was used to determine the reliability of the multiple choice items prepared as one of the instruments to measure the students' reading performance in the study. The pilot test was administered to a group of students forming the sample population of all students in Form 1 in SMK Sultan Azlan Shah.

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The reliable test consisting of multiple choice items then was administered to both experimental and control groups for pre and post tests. The data were processed into descriptive statistics. Then two one-sample t-tests were run. One-sample t-test on both experimental and control groups were done separately to discover the statistical differences. The analyses for both descriptive statistics and one-sample t-test were described in Chapter 4 that is Data Analysis.

1.9 Summary

In this chapter, we have looked at various aspects of the early accounts of the study. The purpose and significance of the study explain what and why this study was undertaken. The aim of the study focuses on the researcher's intention to apply a new approach in English Language teaching, while the background of the study specifies the location and the sample population where the study was conducted. A research question was then formulated into a hypothesis. This chapter also explains the limitations of the study in which the researcher explains the specific boundary. Several statistical considerations were explained as these would form the core analysis of the data that would yield an enlightment regarding the use of '*Reading Aloud Literature in Multimedia : A Translation Approach*'.

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