

Paper's title: The Design of the Learning Activities Packages by Using the Learning Technique on SQRC to Develop Grade 9 Students' Reading, Critical Thinking and Writing Skills

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Abstract: The objectives of the research were to construct and study the efficiency value of the learning activities packages by prescribing the criterion of 80/80 and compare the students' learning achievement between pretest and posttest of using the learning activities packages. The subject of the research was 60 Secondary students enrolled the Reading and Writing I. The samples of the research were 15 of experimental group and 15 of control group by means of simple random sampling. The instruments were 5 learning activities packages, 15 lesson plans, achievement test, observation forms and semi-interviewed. The analyzed statistics used were the efficiency value, mean, standard deviation and t-test for independent samples. The findings of the research were as follows: the learning activities packages had the efficiency value as prescribed of 80/80 and the students' learning achievement after using the learning activities packages was significantly higher than pretest at 0.05 level.

Key words: learning activities packages, reading, critical thinking, writing skills

Introduction

In the age of globalization, there are many changes to people's life such as the changes of society, politics, economy and education. Particularly, the changing on education has many impacts to people's living and learning. Education is very important to people because they cannot live without it. People need more education for their living and

learning all the time. Having good education can make people's life succeed in many aspects because it's a special and effective tool for developing people. People can use their education to develop and improve themselves so as to make their lives better (the Basic Education Core Curriculum, 2008).

From the report of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development: OECD and the National Institute of Educational Testing Service indicated that Thai learners who studied in grade 9 had low achievement test on the Programme for International Student Assessment: PISA, the Ordinary National Educational Testing: O-NET and the National Test: NT (Ministry of Education, 2011). These are the big and important problems that happened to Thai learner for this century. PISA is the International Assessment that evaluates the international students on their reading, writing and problem solving skills. On behalf of the teacher researcher who is responsible for English language teaching, I realize to the importance of the learners' problem learning. Therefore, I considered to the cause of the problems and made me know about the cause of them. And the problem was the Basic Education Core Curriculum of B.E. 2551. It had many learning areas and the duration of time that used for instruction was less than the learning areas. There was also another problem on learning process that not related to the learning areas and the time. These are the main problems that happened and related to Thai learners' problem learning on solving and developing their reading, critical thinking and writing skills (Suwat Wiwattananon, 2011).

According to the problems that happened to Thai learners, I tried to solve the problem and finally found out the solution. The solution of the problem solving was to design and construct the effective and meaningful innovation. It was called “the learning activities packages for promoting and developing learners’ reading, critical thinking and writing skills.” And I also believed that my innovation that designed and constructed will be able to solve my learners’ problem solving.

Research Questions

In conducting the research, there were two research questions as follows:

- How can the learning activities packages solve the learners’ problem learning on their reading, critical thinking and writing skills?
- Can the learning activities packages enhance the learners’ learning on their reading, critical thinking and writing skills effectively?

Research Objectives

The objectives of the research were to construct and study the efficiency value of the learning activities packages by prescribing the criterion of 80/80 and compare the students’ learning achievement between pretest and posttest of using the learning activities packages.

Research Hypotheses

The hypotheses of the research were as follows:

- The learning activities packages had the efficiency value as prescribed of 80/80.
- The learners’ learning achievement of using the learning activities packages were significantly different at 0.05 level.

Scopes of the research

The scopes of the research consisted of four of these:

- The subject of the research was 60

Secondary students enrolled the Reading and Writing I. The samples of the research were 15 of experimental group and 15 of control group by means of simple random sampling.

- The Independent variable were the learning activities packages on reading, critical thinking, and writing skills and the dependent variable was the learning achievement on reading, critical thinking, and writing skills.
- The contents of the conducting research was the subject matter of the Basic Education Core Curriculum of B.E. 2551.
- The duration of time was taken 40 hours of the first semester, academic year 2013.

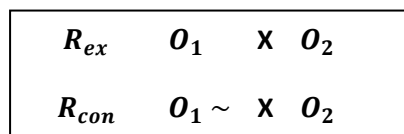
Significance of the research

The significance of the research was to solve and enhance the learners’ problem learning on reading, critical thinking and writing skills.

Research Methodology

Research Design

The research design of the research was a pretest and posttest experimental design as shown in the following diagram.



Research Instruments

The research instruments that used for conducting the research consisted of the learning activities packages, 15 lesson plans in the form of SQRC, observation form and semi-structured interview.

Data Collection

In collecting the data, it was consisted of the following procedures:

- Pretest the samples of the research by using the pretest of the learning activities packages and record the pretest’s test score.

- Study the learning activities packages and do the variety of activities. Then, observe the learners' performance by using the observation form.

- Record the scores of doing the activities.

- Posttest the samples of the research by using the posttest of the learning activities packages and record the posttest's test score.

- Interview 2- 3 of the samples by using the semi-structured interview.

- Analyze the data by using the statistics packages for social science: SPSS version 12.0.

Data Analyses

The analyzed statistics used for the research were as follows:

- The efficiency value was used for analyzing the efficiency of the learning activities packages.

- Mean and standard deviation were used for analyzing pretest and posttest's scores.

- Independent t-test samples was used for analyzing the difference between pretest and posttest's scores.

Conclusion

Research findings

The research findings were revealed as follows:

- The learning activities packages had the efficiency value as prescribed of 80/80.

- The students' learning achievement after using the learning activities packages was significantly higher than pretest at 0.05 level.

Discussion

According to the findings of the research, the researcher could discuss the findings of the research as follows.

- The learning activities packages had the efficiency value as prescribed of 80/80 because of the learning activities packages were well – designed and constructed that based on the good concepts and theories. After they were

designed and constructed, they were used for trying out with the different group of learners in order to examine their efficiency value. In addition, the learning activities that the researcher has designed by using the SQRC learning technique could enhance and motivate them to achieve the learning goal.

- The students' learning achievement after using the learning activities packages was significantly higher than pretest at 0.05 level because of the design of the learning activities packages. SQRC learning technique was used for designing the learning activities. It was suitable for improving and solving the learners' problem learning on reading, critical thinking and writing skills. Particularly, the learning activities packages were well-designed and tried out with the different group of learners before they were implemented with the samples of the research.

Recommendations

- Before using the learning activities packages, teachers and learners should study the learning activities packages' manual to have a good understanding of their details.

- Learners can use the learning activities packages everywhere both at home and at school because they were designed for supporting and promoting the autonomous learners.

- Teachers can apply, design and construct the learning activities packages in the different forms and skills.

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