

UNIVERSITI TEKNOLOGI MARA

**THE EFFECTIVENESS OF
THE SQ3R READING STRATEGY
IN ENHANCING STUDENTS' READING
COMPREHENSION ABILITIES**

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**Dissertation submitted in partial fulfilment of the requirements
for the degree of Master of Education
in Teaching of English as a Second Language (TESL)**

Faculty of Education

October 2008

Abstract

The main aim of this study was to investigate the effectiveness of SQ3R Reading Strategy in enhancing students' reading comprehension ability. The study involved a group of diploma in business students at Universiti Teknologi MARA Sarawak. The study employed a quasi-experimental research design which engaged an experimental group and a control group with 30 students in each group. The experimental group was given direct and explicit instruction in the use of the SQ3R Reading Strategy for a period of 32 hours, focusing on training students in seven (7) specific reading skills which included predicting, skimming, scanning and locating main ideas, making inferences, distinguishing between facts and opinions, identifying main ideas and supporting details, and drawing conclusions. The perceptions of the students in the experimental group were assessed by means of a 25-likert scale SQ3R Questionnaire. Semi-structured interviews were also conducted not only on the students but also the lecturer involved in teaching the SQ3R reading strategy. The quantitative data collected was analysed using SPSS 13.0 for descriptive statistics whereas the qualitative interview data was analysed inductively and deductively before any final conclusions were made. The two groups were also given a pre-test and a post-test to investigate the reading comprehension performance of the two groups. The test scores were analysed using Wilcoxon test for significant difference. The findings indicated that both the students in the experimental group and the lecturer perceived the SQ3R reading strategy positively despite a few challenges. The non-parametric Wilcoxon Matched-Pairs Signed-Rank test results on the pre and post tests indicated that there was a significant increase in means scores of the students in the experimental group indicating the effectiveness of the SQ3R reading strategy. Furthermore further analysis on the performance of the two groups on the seven specific reading skills also indicated that the students in the experimental group outperformed the control group by recording significant differences in almost all the questions except in making inferences and drawing conclusions. This study seems to suggest that SQ3R strategy is an effective reading strategy in enhancing students' reading comprehension ability.

Declaration

I declare that the work in this thesis was carried out in accordance with the regulations of Universiti Teknologi MARA. It is original and is the result of my own work, unless otherwise indicated or acknowledged as referenced work. This topic has not been submitted to any other academic institution or non-academic institution for any other degree or qualification.

In the event that my thesis be found to violate the conditions mentioned above, I voluntarily waive the right of conferment of my degree and agree to be subjected to the disciplinary rules and regulations of Universiti Teknologi MARA.

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CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Introduction

In today's age of Information and globalization, English is fast becoming the lingua franca for international trade and commerce. Governments all around the globe realize that to become keen and competitive global players in today's economies; quality human capital with a good grasp of English is fast becoming a prerequisite.

In Malaysia, prior to 1979, English was the medium of instruction in all public schools. In 1979 the National Act was implemented and this witnessed the use of Bahasa Malaysia (National Malay language) as the medium of instruction in schools and tertiary institutions. Nevertheless English has continued to be taught at all levels as a compulsory second language. The importance of English has been highlighted by a number of academics including the former premier of Malaysia, Tun Dr. Mahathir. He stressed that there was a realisation for a need to reintroduce English as a medium of instruction. He added that:

‘To compete on equal terms with the world's most advanced countries, Malaysians as well as most other Asian nationalities still have some way to go. There are skills that must be learned and values that may yet have to change... We do not become European simply because we wear a coat and a tie, speak English and practise democracy... We have to learn the language of telecommunications, of computers, of the Internet ...’

(Mahathir Mohamad, 1999: 40).