

**UNIVERSITI TEKNOLOGI MARA**

**USING NEWSPAPER TO ENHANCE STUDENTS'  
LEARNING IN ESL CLASSROOM**

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## Abstract

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Newspapers in the classroom helps to improve students reading, comprehension, promote self-study and enable students to express their own views and opinions. Newspapers also increase students' interest in what going on in a society and the world and broaden students' point of view and are able to have more opportunity to communicate about news and related matters at home or at school (*Ajayi, 2002; Antepara, 2003; Guariento & Morley, 2001; Coelho, 2007; Pinkman, 2005; Crossley, 2007; Day, 2004*). This study investigates the effectiveness of newspaper in the language classroom to foster student-centered activities, to enhance the students' vocabulary development and act as a platform for students to know and understand society at home and around the world. This study involved students in SK Wirajaya, Samarahan, Sarawak. The apparent decline of English proficiency (*Ministry of Education, 2004*) among school students triggered the researcher to find out other alternative to reduce this deficiency. The subjects of the study were 48 of students in SK Wirajaya. These students were in Year 4Bestari and were of mixed level of proficiency. The study was conducted within a 3-week period (6 hours of formal English Lessons) and a local English newspaper, The Borneo Post, was used during the entire study. From the findings in the study it is clear that the use of newspaper in the classroom contributed to the active and creative involvement of students in participating in all activities employed by the students. Furthermore, newspaper also enhanced the development of students' vocabulary in a short period of time. In addition, newspaper has helped students to know about places around them either locally or abroad. The results of the study also imply that students were more comfortable with short texts with pictures and these texts were found to be related to students' past knowledge. In addition, the results of the study implies that students learned new word receptively through several factors such as frequency of exposure, repetitions, cognates and knowledge of related words. It was also observed that the activities had increased students' cooperation and understanding among themselves and it also encouraged passive students to be more active and motivated in learning the target language. This study is meant to ascertain the advantages of newspapers in the classroom and there are still a lot to be done in order to determine the effectiveness of newspapers to foster vocabulary learning and other learning skills such as reading and writing.

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## **Declaration**

I declare that the work in this dissertation was carried out in accordance with the regulation 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 academic institution or non-academic institution for any other degree or qualification.

In the event that my dissertation be found to violate the conditions mentioned above, I voluntary 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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## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>CONTENT</b>	<b>PAGE</b>
TITLE PAGE	i
ABSTRACT	ii
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT	iv
TABLE OF CONTENTS	v
LIST OF TABLES	viii
<b>CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION</b>	
1.0. Introduction	1
1.1. Background of the Study	1
1.2. Statement of the Problem	3
1.3. Purpose of the Study	5
1.4. Research Question	5
1.5. Scope of the Study	6
1.6. Significant of the Study	6
1.7. Limitation	7
1.8. Definition of Term	
1.8.1. Authentic Material	8
1.8.2. Vocabulary Development	8
1.9. Summary	9
<b>CHAPTER 2: LITERATURE REVIEW</b>	
2.0 Introduction	10
2.1. Authentic Materials	10
2.2. Newspaper in ESL Classroom	16
2.3. Advantages of the Use of Newspaper in ESL Classroom	20



# CHAPTER 1

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.0. Introduction

One of the main ideas of using newspapers in the classroom is to expose the learner to as much real language as possible. The learner is exposed to real discourse and not the artificial language of course textbooks which tend not to contain any incidental or improper examples (Guarriento & Morley, 2001). In addition, newspapers give a wide variety of different types of texts and this means it is easier to find something that will interest the learner and may even encourage further reading or reading for pleasure (Senior, 2005). The role of the teachers, on the other hand, is not to delude the language learners but to prepare them, giving the awareness and necessary skills so as to understand how the language is actually used. Newspapers are also being used by teachers to improve students' English proficiency, to extend knowledge in the content areas and to enhance thinking skills. Newspapers provide opportunities for students to see the gap between the classroom and the real world. Therefore, students are encouraged to read newspapers because they will benefit from the exposure to real language being used in real context (Guarriento & Morley, 2001). Newspapers are also proven to be highly motivating, giving sense of achievement when understood (Guarriento & Morley 2001, *Nuttall 1996:172.*) and encourage further reading (Antepara, 2003).

### 1.1. Background of Study

There are a number of reasons why people choose to read (Alderson, 2000). The prominent reasons to read would be for pleasure or for intellectual development. Reading will give them the special kind of pleasure that comes from the experience of