UNIVERSITI TEKNOLOGI MARA

A COMPARATIVE STUDY OF THE

SMART READER'S APPROACH AND THE TRADITIONAL APPROACH

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APRIL 2008

i

TABLE OF CONTENTS

PAGE

CHAPTER 1   **INTRODUCTION**

Abstract

This project is a comparative study of the Traditional Approach of reading and the Smart Reader's Approach to teach reading comprehension among the pupils in a primary school. The study was conducted on the year 4 pupils of Sk. St. George, Punau, Kuching and whole population of the year 4 pupils involved in the study. The aim of the study is to find out whether the Smart Reader's Approach program can increase the student's level of comprehension and also help enhance the students' interest in reading. In order to find out the students' background on the reading activities 25 students had been selected randomly to complete the questionnaires. In addition to the questionnaires the students were required to sit for two tests to determine the comparative effectiveness of both approaches. The students were required to sit the same pre-test and the post-test which consisted of 20 questions each to be answered by the pupils before and after the study. The pre-test shows that both groups scored almost the same result as the pupils were equally matched in terms of language proficiency. However, in the post-test the differences in the test scores can be seen as the experimental group achieved a better result than the control group.

CHAPTER   1

INTRODUCTION

1.0   Introduction

This section of the study discusses the overall purpose of the research, statement of the problem, significance of the study, research hypotheses, definition of terms, and finally limitations of the study.

1.1   Background of the study.

English Language is becoming more important and challenging especially with the introduction of various subjects taught in English such as Science and Mathematics. Students' understanding and competency in the English Language is very much needed so that they can acquire the skill of learning Science and Mathematics in English. Furthermore, the terms used in the teaching and learning process are also subjective thus requiring the pupil's understanding and mastery of the English Language prior to the learning of Science and Mathematics in English.

As far as English is concerned, there has been a declining trend in the school's UPSR achievements. The main problem area seems to be the reading comprehension section. It was found that when the students answered the comprehension questions they would tend to give undesirable answers or guess answers to the questions asked. The assumption or guessing made by the students often results in wrong answers. Such problems can be traced in their topical, monthly or even semester test results. It seems that the students did not understand what they had read or did not even bother to understand what they had read. Once they had given the answers

CHAPTER II

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

2.0   Introduction

Reading is one of the most important language learning skills to be acquired by the students besides of the other three learning skills of Listening, speaking, and writing. It is hoped that every pupil should at least acquire all the four basic skills while they are in school. As the children learn the language, they need to know how to read whatever materials 'reading text' required so that they can master the language skill to be learnt. Therefore it is very important for the students to read efficiently so that they can learn and understand better whatever they read and learn in school. As reading is one of the important components to master thus the students needed to focus on what they read, understand what the article or text is about and to enable them to comprehend what they had read. There are several interpretations as to what reading is as suggested by different researchers on the matters.

According to Brown, *'Reading is a system of rules governing the conventional arrangement and relationship of words in a sentence. He further stated that grammatical competence is necessary for communication to take place'.*

<div align="center">(Brown, 1994; 347)</div>

Based on the statements above, it is clearly stated that reading is the tool for someone to convey his/her message through the written form. Thus, it also functions as a tool to communicate ideas with one another. In order to make communication functioning well, it is better for a person to be able to understand what had been interpreted in the written form.