DEVELOPING SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS’ READING ABILITY AND MOTIVATION USING AN EXTENSIVE READING PROGRAM

A MASTER’S PROJECT
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The purposes of this study were to investigate whether the extensive reading program (ERP) can develop students’ reading ability, specifically reading comprehension and vocabulary acquisition, and enhance students’ reading motivation. In addition, the students’ opinions toward the ERP were investigated. The participants of this study were purposively selected from 9th graders learning in the academic year 2008 in Khamsaenwittayasan School, Naklang District, Nongbua Lamphu. The participants participated in the ERP for 12 weeks. The research instruments used in this study were 1) the Reading Test, 2) the Respondent’s Background Questionnaire, 3) the Reading Motivation Questionnaire, 4) the ERP Evaluation Form, 5) Observation Form, 6) Book Report Form, and 7) the Reading Record Sheet. The analysis of quantitative data revealed the following findings. First, there was a significant difference between the overall mean scores of students’ pre- and post-reading test at the 0.05 level. In addition, the significant differences were found between the mean scores of both the reading comprehension and vocabulary part of the students’ pretest and post test at the 0.05 level. For the students’ reading motivation, the analysis of the students’ responses from the Reading Motivation Questionnaire indicated that after the ERP, the students had a significant higher level motivation than before the ERP. In terms of the four variables of reading motivation regarding Intrinsic Value, Extrinsic Utility Value, the Importance of Reading, and Reading Efficacy, the results also revealed the significant differences between the means of the level of reading motivation from the pre-and post-
questionnaires for all variables at the 0.05 level. Overall, the students’ opinions towards
the ERP were at the high level, indicating that the students were satisfied with the ERP.
The findings suggested that reading teachers should help students to improve their
reading ability, particularly reading comprehension and vocabulary learning by engaging
them in the systematic extensive reading program, and allow them to independently
choose the reading materials and books based on their reading proficiency and interest.