UAE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS' ATTITUDES TOWARDS USING
AUTHENTIC MATERIALS

A THESIS IN TEACHING ENGLISH TO SPEAKERS OF OTHER LANGUAGES

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AMAL KHALIL THABIT
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Amal Khalil Thabit, Candidate for the Master of Arts Degree
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ABSTRACT

This study is an attempt to investigate the impact of using authentic materials on some of my high school students, especially those who have poor attitudes towards learning the English language. In fact, lack of motivation, and the unwillingness to learn English among them has always been one of my major interests and concerns in the same time. Many of the students attribute their poor attitudes to their textbooks which they describe as being boring and insufficient. Hence, this study attempts to identify the weaknesses in the prescribed textbooks from my students' points of view and to determine the students’ attitudes towards incorporating authentic materials in their ESL classes.

To achieve these goals, I asked my students first to respond to a survey of some closed and open-ended questions that aimed at identifying their evaluation of their textbooks. Next, I asked them to rate their interest in the suggested authentic materials. Then, I asked them to complete a weekly review sheet in which they rated their interest and learning level in each of the offered activities. After that, the students completed an overall evaluation sheet of all the introduced materials. Finally, I asked them to respond to a survey that aimed at identifying their attitudes towards using authentic materials in English classroom.

In order to investigate the impact of activities using authentic materials on my students' language skills more closely and to enhance my understanding of some of the issues they had raised earlier in their responses to the surveys, I interviewed 15 students. The findings revealed that the students had enjoyed the authentic materials presented and had learned from them. The findings also showed that they had positive attitudes towards using them.
Survey Findings ................................................................. 40
Interview Findings ........................................................... 43
Students' Attitudes towards Using Authentic Materials in ESL Classes ................................................. 47

5. CONCLUSIONS AND IMPLICATIONS ................................... 51
   Summary of Conclusions ...................................................... 51
   Implications ........................................................................ 52
       Implications for the Ministry of Education ...................... 53
       Implications for English Supervisors ............................... 54
       Implications for English Teachers ................................. 54
       Implications for Second Language Learners .................... 56
       Implications for Commercial Course Books' Designers ...... 56
       Implications for Test Makers ........................................... 56
   Limitations of the Study ..................................................... 57

REFERENCE LIST .................................................................. 59

Appendix

A. STUDENTS’ ATTITUDES TOWARDS GRADE 11 ENGLISH TEXTBOOK SURVEY ................................................................. 64

B. STUDENTS’ INTEREST IN THE SUGGESTED AUTHENTIC MATERIALS SURVEY .............................................................. 65

C. WEEKLY REVIEW SHEET .................................................. 66

D. INTRODUCED ACTIVITIES ................................................ 67

E. OVERALL EVALUATION SHEET ......................................... 75

F. INTERVIEW QUESTIONS .................................................... 76

G. STUDENTS’ ATTITUDES TOWARDS USING AUTHENTIC MATERIALS SURVEY ............................................................... 77

VITA .................................................................................... 78
# FIGURES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Figure</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Students’ Interest in the Suggested Materials</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. The Introduced Authentic Materials Analyzed according to Their Average Score</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
TABLES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Table</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Students’ Attitudes towards Their Grade 11 English Textbook</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Students’ Interest in the Suggested Authentic Materials</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Students’ Evaluation of the Authentic Materials Introduced</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Students’ Attitudes towards Using Authentic Materials</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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DEDICATION

This thesis is lovingly dedicated to my beloved husband, Ibraheem Al-Sane'a for his generous, endless and tireless support and help. It is also dedicated to my beloved inspiring mother, my father, and my wonderful sisters, mainly Shireen, for their encouragement and support.