

UAE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS' ATTITUDES TOWARDS USING
AUTHENTIC MATERIALS

A THESIS IN TEACHING ENGLISH TO SPEAKERS OF OTHER LANGUAGES

Presented to the faculty of the American University of Sharjah
College of Arts and Sciences
In partial fulfillment of
the requirements for the degree

MASTER OF ARTS

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Sharjah, UAE
August 2006

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American University of Sharjah, 2006

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.

CONTENTS

ABSTRACT	iii
LIST OF FIGURES	vii
LIST OF TABLES	viii
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS.....	ix
DEDICATION	x
Chapter	
1. INTRODUCTION	1
Purpose of the study	1
Context	2
Research Questions	4
Overview of the Chapters and Appendixes	4
2. REVIEW OF THE LITERATURE	6
Major Paradigm Shifts in ESL Teaching / Learning Field	6
Introduction of Authentic Materials	8
Impact of Authentic Materials on Second Language Learners.....	10
Using Authentic Materials	15
Conclusion	16
3. METHODOLOGY	17
Participants	17
Pre-Questionnaire Survey	17
Weekly Review Sheet	18
Introduction of Authentic Materials	18
Overall Evaluation Sheet.....	23
Post Activity-Questionnaire	23
Students' Interviews	23
4. FINDINGS AND DATA ANALYSIS	25
Students' Attitudes towards their grade 11 English Textbook	25
Students' Interest in the Suggested Authentic Materials	27
Students' Evaluation of the Eight Authentic Materials Introduced....	30
Activity One	32
Activity Two	33
Activity Three.....	34
Activity Four	35
Activity Five	36
Activity Six	37
Activity Seven.....	38
Activity Eight.....	39
Students' Overall Evaluation of all the Presented Activities.....	40

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

Figure	Page
1. Students' Interest in the Suggested Materials.....	29
2. The Introduced Authentic Materials Analyzed according to Their Average Score.....	31

TABLES

Table	Page
1. Students' Attitudes towards Their Grade 11 English Textbook.....	25
2. Students' Interest in the Suggested Authentic Materials.....	28
3. Students' Evaluation of the Authentic Materials Introduced.....	30
4. Students' Attitudes towards Using Authentic Materials.....	48

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I would like to deeply thank my incredibly supportive thesis supervisor, Dr. Cindy Gunn. It is by her true love, genuine support and encouragement, and insightful feedback and guidance that I could complete the fulfillment of this degree. My sincere thanks also go to Dr. Rodney Tyson, and Dr. David Gugin, the committee members, for their significant contribution and constructive remarks. I would also like to take the opportunity to forward my gratitude and regards to Dr. Fatma Badry, the Director of the MA TESOL Program for her commitment, dedication and support for the students in the program. My sincere thanks are also extended to my classmates who were really of great help.

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.