Abstract

This study aims to evaluate the ancillary listening activities of the *See Saw* materials which encourage the pupils' participation in the Thai EFL context. The *See Saw* series was published by Macmillan, and it is claimed that the series is designed for young Asian learners. The study focuses on ancillary listening which is one of the distinct features of the materials.

The listening activities of the *See Saw* series cover around 40 percent of the materials with an audio CD. The types of listening activities include chants, songs, stories, etc. There are illustrations in every page. The listening activities are integrated with other language skills (speaking, reading and writing). The case study also explores the young EFL learners' difficulties while using the *See Saw* series.

The data of this study were collected from Saint Peter's School, Nakhon Pathom Province, Thailand. The *See Saw* series (Levels 1 to 6) is used in the primary education (Grades 1 to 6) at the Saint Peter's School. Two out of six levels of the *See Saw* series were observed in the classes at Grades 1 and 6. The population of pupils in each class is about 50, and the pupils are Thais. The teachers are foreigners (Filipino) with a Thai assistant. Listening to the audio CD is the only channel of listening to native speakers in the English class.

The data were gathered through classroom observations (video recordings), the teachers' journals and the pupils' work. Every activity was evaluated with a checklist which focused on the degree of the pupils' participation in the ancillary listening activities.
The findings of the study indicate that the pupils in the lower grade (Grade 1) participated much more than the pupils in the higher grade (Grade 6). The findings also show some positive factors of the *See Saw* materials, like the types of the activities, and the sound effects of the audio recordings. However, the pupils had similar difficulties when they participated in the ancillary listening activities of *See Saw* materials; for instance, the difficulties on the westernized or unfamiliar topics, the speed of the delivery and the accents of the recording.

It is expected that the study can be helpful for the teachers using the *See Saw* to have a better understanding of the materials. Moreover, the listening difficulties of the young Thai pupils discussed in the study are expected to be useful for the EFL teachers.