

Abstract

This research attempts to investigate EFL learners' reading ability in terms of vocabulary comprehension with the SRA Reading Laboratory tests.

The study was conducted in the first semester of the academic year 2006-2007 in the Institute for English Language Education (IELE) at Assumption University Bangkok, Thailand. The SRA Reading Laboratory tests were administered to 100 learners and the subjects were given one hour to complete the SRA Reading Laboratory tests.

The results show diversity in learners' reading abilities within a section. Moreover, the majority of the learners can perform part II (using word in new contexts) better than part I (word meaning from the context). As a consequence, the researcher strongly recommends the need to promote extensive graded reading such as SRA Reading Laboratory to increase learners' vocabulary and develop their reading comprehension. The researcher believes that when appropriate materials are chosen for ESL/EFL learners, they will have a higher rate of success. The findings will help teachers promote learners' reading ability and to learn new words effectively.

Based on the finding, recommendations of this study and suggestions for further research are discussed in the final chapter of the study.