Abstract

This is the study of "An Evaluation of Cultural Contents and Activities in the General English Textbook". General English, published by Curriculum Project, Thabyay Education Foundation, is being used in the migrant learning centers in the nine camps at Thailand-Myanmar border. The evaluation was done to support Thabyay Education Foundation, a non-profit organization. It was adapted from Language in Use (1991) and developed for the post-secondary or post-10 learners who are between the ages of 16 to 25.

This research was meant to find out whether the material is appropriate with regard to the social lives of refugee students and whether it encourages students' learning by evaluation four categories: topics, illustrations and activities, or types of questions. To evaluate these four categories, the researcher applied two research instruments: textbook analysis and interviews to the participants. The researcher did the analysis, then; the interviews were conducted with the 15 participants of three different learning centers from three different refugee camps, Mae la camp, Umphiem camp and Nu Po camp, in Tak province, Thailand.

The findings reveal that the subject content of the material is generally appropriate and potentially engaging to the young adult Myanmar migrant learners. The illustrations are more or less representing the migrant cultural context, but the real pictures and clearly printing are expected. Although there are many language-focused activities, they encourage the high-order thinking skills.