

ABSTRACT

As a response to the needs of grade six students to improve in reading, this study was conducted. The study explored the use of reading strategies through Reciprocal Teaching Procedure (RTP), finding its effects on students reading comprehension, students' use of reading strategies, their perception in English reading and the strengths and weaknesses of the said procedure. 20 grade six students from a Thai private school underwent a six week intervention of Reciprocal Teaching in their reading classes. In each session, the students joined a group discussion which practiced the four main strategies of Reciprocal Teaching -prediction, clarification, questioning and summarizing.

To determine the effects of the intervention, reading comprehension tests, a reading strategies questionnaire and interviews were conducted before and after intervention. In addition to the gathered data from the instruments mentioned above, the teacher's observation of the sessions were recorded and analyzed. The quantitative results of the reading comprehension test and reading strategy questionnaire showed a general increase in the mean score after intervention. This increase showed an improvement of students reading comprehension and use of strategies after undergoing six weeks of RTP. These results were supported by the post intervention interviews where students expressed that their understanding of the English texts has improved and they found the strategies to be helpful. Students have also stated that RTP has given them a better perception in English reading, making reading seem easier and giving them more confidence in dealing with English texts. The teacher's observations also reflected the students' answers and gave insights of RTP's strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats. One major strength pointed out by the observations is that RTP allows students to work in groups, encouraging cooperation and creating a more relaxed learning environment. However, this quality of RTP as a group work can also pose weaknesses to the procedure if the groups are not managed well.