

A STUDY OF READING GENRES AND QUESTIONS IN THAI AND ENGLISH TEXTBOOKS FOR O-NET EXAMINATIONS

Tanut Jivavorratum

Institute for English Language Education
Assumption University, Thailand
apocalypse_24@hotmail.com

Abstract

Reading is one of English skills that students have to learn since in primary school until university. However, the result of the national examination in Thailand for English subjects seems unsatisfied, which reading part occupies the largest portion. This study aims to find out the differences and similarities in reading sections of English textbooks and O-NET and GAT examinations in terms of genre and type of questions. Reading passages and questions were analyzed based on Derewianka's linguistic features of genres and Nuttall's taxonomy of questions. Text organization and linguistic features were shown in each text on the right and left respectively to identify the genres. The findings show the dominance of information report in the textbooks and examinations. Although literal comprehension questions are dominant in the textbooks, reinterpretation questions also appear in the examinations. Therefore, materials writers should develop materials to help students improve their ability in reading a range of texts for their future education and functional roles in their lives.

Keywords: Reading, English, Textbooks, Genres, O-NET and GAT examinations

Introduction

Thai government and the Ministry of Education promote learning English because, nowadays, English plays an essential role in everyday life and its importance is emphasized as part of ASEAN Economic Community or AEC 2015. With this integration, there are attempts to enhance and improve the English language of Thai people in academic settings to be more competitive in the region (Baker 2009). However, English proficiency in Thailand is ranked 55 out of 60 countries around the world.