

**THAI NGUYEN UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL OF FOREIGN LANGUAGES**

TRAN VAN VY

**AN ACTION RESEARCH ON THE EFFECTIVENESS OF USING
AUTHENTIC MATERIALS TO PROMOTE EXTENSIVE READING
FOR 11TH GRADE STUDENTS AT XUAN TRUONG UPPER
SECONDARY SCHOOL, NAM DINH PROVINCE**

**(Nghiên cứu hành động về hiệu quả sử dụng tư liệu thực
để thúc đẩy đọc mở rộng cho học sinh lớp 11
trường THPT Xuân Trường, Nam Định)**

M.A THESIS

Field: English Linguistics

Code: 8220201

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(APPLICATION ORIENTATION)**

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Code: 8220201

Supervisor: Dr. Dang Thi Thu Huong

Thai Nguyen, 2019

CERTIFICATION OF ORIGINALITY

I hereby certify that the minor thesis entitled “*An action research on the effectiveness of using authentic materials to improve 11th grade students’ extensive reading at Xuan Truong Upper Secondary School*” submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Degree of Master of Arts at School of Foreign Languages, Thai Nguyen University, is my own study, and that it has not been submitted for any degree to any other universities or institutions. Where other sources of information have been used, they have been identified and acknowledged.

Signature

Tran Van Vy

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ABSTRACT

Extensive reading is believed to develop good reading habits, to build up knowledge of vocabulary and structures, and to encourage a liking for reading. Materials for extensive reading are available everywhere but Internet-based materials seem to be the most suitable for high school students because the World Wide Web now is easily accessible with an endless supply of authentic materials in the target language where students can start on their own. The use of authentic materials in extensive reading is appropriate since they relate directly to the real world. Other aspects which prove positive when using authentic materials are that they are highly motivating, giving a sense of achievement when understood and encourage further reading. However, there has been insufficient research to explore the effects of extensive reading that utilizes authentic materials. Thus, this study is conducted, adapting action research approach, to investigate the impact of authentic materials as the main source of extensive reading and students' attitudes toward these materials. The findings indicate a positive effect of authentic materials on students' language competence and favorable opinions from students.

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

| | |
|---------|--|
| ANCOVA: | Analysis of Covariance |
| EFL: | English as a Foreign Language |
| ESP: | English for Special Purposes |
| GCSE: | General Certificate of Secondary Education |
| L2: | Second Language |
| SPSS: | Statistical Packages for Social Sciences |

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PART A. INTRODUCTION

This is a study on the influence of authentic materials on learning reading skills. This chapter starts with the rationale of the study. Then the aims, hypothesis, scope, significance and method of the study will be presented.

1. Rationale

Reading is an activity that can be considered as a crucial aspect of one's language ability because this skill helps to develop other language skills and provides knowledge on the target language. However, many students experience difficulties in comprehending the reading texts. These difficulties appear because the students have low motivation and possess limited vocabulary. Students today have become more passive and reluctant in regard to reading, doing no more than what is required. Educators are concerned about students' disinterest and therefore, are endeavoring to find ways and sources to encourage students to read. Textbooks are widely adopted in classroom teaching but perhaps because textbook materials often break down language to discrete linguistic points, it may be too formulaic for students. Additionally, textbooks are never enough, especially for those who are going to take the 2 in 1 GCSE (General Certificate of Secondary Education) exams in which English is a compulsory subject. Moreover, time for reading lesson at high school is limited. There are three English lessons every week and in five or six lessons, there is only one for reading which means there is not enough time for reading - the most important language skill. That is the reason why teachers have to find ways to enhance students to read more. That means students have to read extensively.

Additionally, most of the course books used in language classrooms are perceived as traditional materials because they serve a pre-planned goal, so texts are simplified and exercises are adapted, which sometimes seems impractical to learners. Therefore, a new concept, "authentic materials" has been established. Most linguists agree that in language teaching, the use of authentic materials is quite useful to the learning process because as Baddock (1981) stated, learners find genuine materials or realia more motivating and interesting since one day they will use their surviving