THE USE OF READING PASSAGES IN TEACHING VOCABULARY FOR THE STUDENTS OF THE ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

A THESIS

In partial Fullfilment of the Requirements

for the Sarjana Pendidikan Degree in English

Language Teaching

No. INDUK	0838/97
TGL TERIMA	24.2.97
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DECEMBER, 1996

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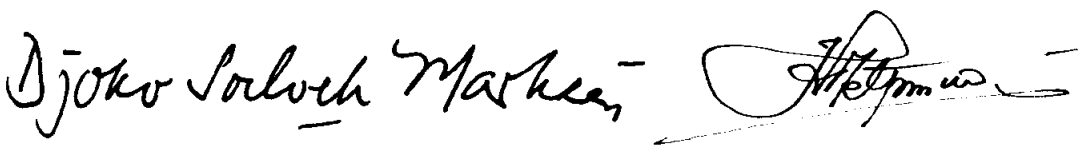

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

First of all, the writer would like to thank Heavenly God for His blessing in the accomplishment of this thesis.

The writer would like to express her deepest gratefulness and indebted feeling to the following persons:

1. Drs. Djoko Soeloeh Marhaen, M.A., her first thesis writing advisor, for his patience, invaluable guidance and assistance in the writing and improving this thesis.
2. Drs. Harto Pramono, M.Pd, her second thesis writing advisor, who has given some comments and corrections in the purpose of completing this thesis.
3. All the lecturers of English Department of Widya Mandala Catholic University Surabaya who have patiently taught the writer during her academic years at the university.
4. Her loving family whose love, advices, patience, and financial support have enabled her to finish her study.

Finally, the writer also wishes to express her thanks to everyone whose names is all impossible to be

written in this paper, that they have helped and motivated her to accomplish this thesis.

The writer

ABSTRACT

Sandra Puspa Dewi. **The Use of Reading Passages in Teaching Vocabulary for the Students of the English Department.** S-1 thesis, the English Department of Widya Mandala Catholic University Surabaya, 1996

As a part of language mastery vocabulary improvement is very important in foreign language learning and teaching. The learning of vocabulary should be done continuously in order to help the students comprehend reading materials well. It means that the teaching of vocabulary goes together with the teaching of reading comprehension. As stated by Dobson (1980:152), one's vocabulary stock is very closely related to one's comprehension in reading because vocabulary or word meaning is an integral part of reading and every person should keep reading in order to increase his vocabulary. In reading-symbols or words are combined together into related ideas.

Vocabulary, in this case symbols or words, will be meaningful to make up an idea if they are put in context because words get their exact and full meanings through context. Vocabulary should be presented through context to enable the students retain the words for longer time. That's why the teachers should make use of context to enable the students to identify the unfamiliar words. The students are expected to learn new words which are inter-related in the context.

Based on above reasons, the writer chooses reading passages to be a good alternative to enrich or develop the student's vocabulary. In reading passages, all words are contextual or interrelated in context. The words found in the reading passages contain messages put in logically related sentences in which play an important role as symbols of meaning. Through reading passages the students are able to enrich their vocabulary and understand the new words without opening the dictionary, i.e. just by reading it in context. Besides that the students will be able to grasp the totality of word meanings of new or difficult words more easily in reading passages. And at last but not least they are able to comprehend the messages and grasp the message found in the reading passages to increase their knowledge as well.

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