

# THE READABILITY OF THE "100 PASSAGES"

## A THESIS

In Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements  
for the Sarjana Pendidikan Degree in  
English Language Teaching



By :

LIDYA MELIANA  
1213094015

No. INDUK	0600 / 99
TGL TERIMA	5. 3. 99
<del>REVISI</del>	
No. ECUK	1000 Mek 1-1
P. KE	1 (Satu)

UNIVERSITAS KATOLIK WIDYA MANDALA SURABAYA  
FAKULTAS KEGURUAN DAN ILMU PENDIDIKAN  
JURUSAN PENDIDIKAN BAHASA DAN SENI  
PROGRAM STUDI PENDIDIKAN BAHASA INGGRIS  
FEBRUARY, 1999

## APPROVAL SHEET


(1)

This thesis, entitled THE READABILITY OF THE "100 Passages" prepared and submitted by Lidya Meliana has been approved and accepted as a partial fulfillment of the requirement for Sarjana Pendidikan Degree in English Language Teaching by the following advisors,



Dr. A. Ngadiman, M.Pd.

First Advisor



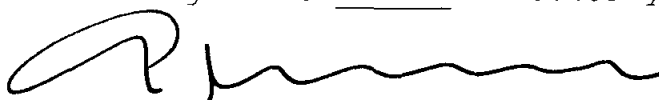
Rosalina N.W.P, S.Pd.

Second Advisor

## APPROVAL SHEET

(2)

This thesis has been examined by the committee on oral communication with a grade of \_\_\_\_\_ on February 20, 1999.



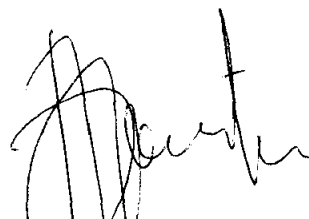
Drs. Antonius Gurito

Chairman



M.G. Retno Palupi, S.Pd.

Member



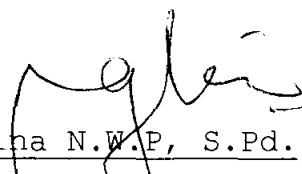
Mateus Y., S.Pd.

Member



Dr. A. Ngadiman, M.Pd.

Member



Rosalina N.W.P, S.Pd.

Member

Approved by



L. Diptoadi, M.Sc.

Dean of

The Teacher Training College



Santi W, M.Pd.

Head of

The English Department

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

First of all, I would like to thank Lord Jesus Christ for His grace and blessing which has guided me through the hardest time in finishing my thesis and also to Mother Mary, The Most Holy Mother, that through Her intercession my prayer is granted and I am able to finish this thesis. I would also like to express my deepest thanks to :

1. Dr. A. Ngadiman, M.Pd. and Ms. Rosalina N.W.P, S.Pd.  
my thesis advisors, for all their help and patience, especially during my hardest time in finishing my thesis, so that I am really able to make a good and valuable thesis.
2. Dr. Veronica L. Diptoadi, M.Sc. for letting me take the data I need for my study from her Reading V class.
3. Dra. Agnes Santi W, M.Pd for her valuable advice and help.
4. All the lecturers of Widya Mandala Catholic University who have taught and enriched me with priceless knowledge during my study.
5. To my beloved father and mother and also to my two sisters, Eva and Intan for their love, support,

encouragement and prayers during my hardest time from the beginning until the end of the finishing process of my thesis writing.

6. My friends, especially Lita Tedja, Evita, Winny, and Lindawati Utama, who always encouraged me to finish my thesis soon and pray for me.

7. My beloved one, Richard Dharyanto, for his encouragement, love, prayer and time to help me with the typing.

8. For all friends, who haven't been mentioned here.

The writer

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Approval Sheet I.....	i
Approval Sheet II.....	ii
Acknowledgement.....	iii
Table of Content.....	v
List of Appendices.....	viii
Abstract.....	ix

### CHAPTER I : INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study.....	1
1.2 Statements of the Study.....	4
1.3 Objectives of the Study.....	5
1.4 Significance of the Study.....	6
1.5 Limitations of the Study.....	7
1.6 Theoretical Framework.....	8
1.7 Assumptions.....	9
1.8 Definition of Key Terms.....	9
1.9 Organization of the Thesis.....	10

### CHAPTER II : REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

2.1 Previous Study.....	12
2.2 Review of Underlying Theory.....	14
2.2.1 The Nature of Reading.....	14
2.2.2 Reading for Second Language	

Learners.....	17
2.2.3 Problems in Reading.....	18
2.2.4 The Schemata Theory.....	19
2.2.5 Readability.....	20
2.2.5.1 Vocabulary.....	23
2.2.5.2 Structure.....	24
2.2.5.3 Background Knowledge.....	26
2.2.5.4 Personal Interest.....	27
2.2.5.5 Illustrations.....	27
2.2.6 How to Measure Readability.....	29

### **CHAPTER III : METHODOLOGY**

3.1 Research Design.....	34
3.2 Subject.....	35
3.3 The Materials.....	35
3.4 Instruments.....	36
3.5 The Procedures of Data Collection.....	40
3.6 Techniques for Data Analysis.....	40

### **CHAPTER IV : FINDINGS AND INTERPRETATION**

4.1 Findings.....	49
4.1.1 Vocabulary and Structure.....	49
4.1.2 Background Knowledge.....	51
4.1.3 Personal Interest.....	53
4.1.4 Illustrations.....	54
4.2 Interpretations of the Findings.....	55

**CHAPTER V : CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS**

5.1 Conclusion.....59

5.2 Suggestions.....62

    5.2.1 Suggestion for Selecting  
        Reading Materials.....63

    5.2.2 Suggestion for Further  
        Research.....63

**BIBLIOGRAPHY..... 65**

**APPENDICES..... 68**

## LIST OF APPENDICES

- Appendix I : Sample of Reading I
- Appendix II : Sample of Reading II
- Appendix III : Sample of Reading III
- Appendix IV : Cloze Procedure I
- Appendix V : Cloze Procedure II
- Appendix VI : Cloze Procedure III
- Appendix VII : The Questionnaire
- Appendix VIII : The Data of Cloze Procedures
- Appendix IX : The Data of the Students' familiarity  
to the Contents
- Appendix X : The Data of the Students' Interest to  
the Contents

## ABSTRACT

Meliana, Lidya.,1999. The Readability of the "100 Passages", Thesis, Program Study Pendidikan Bahasa Inggris, FKIP Universitas Katolik Widya Mandala Surabaya, Advisors : Dr. A. Ngadiman, M.Pd. and Rosalina N.W.P., S.Pd.

Key words: Readability, Reading Materials, Vocabulary, Structure.

One of the most important skills in English is reading since it is one of the ways to obtain knowledge and everyone from children to adult needs to read in order to keep on enriching their knowledge.

Teaching reading, however, is not quite simple for the teacher has to be able to match the students' level to the readability level of the students. Only when the students are consistently successful in comprehending the language, they will achieve something from the text.

This study is meant to analyze the "100 Passages" which is used as the materials for Reading V students of English Department of Widya Mandala University. Many students find the materials too difficult for them. To be able to prove it, the writer conducts a study on it.

In this study, three cloze procedures devised to examine the readability of the materials in terms of vocabulary and structure. Another instrument is a questionnaire which is used to get the total score of the students' readability level in terms of personal interest and background knowledge. The readability level of the materials in term of illustrations is determined by using direct analysis.

The analysis in terms of vocabulary and structure, personal interest, and background knowledge, the "100 Passages" is moderately readable for the students of Reading V students. This means that the materials can be used with only a little informational gain although outside assistance is provided. But for the readability of the materials in term of illustrations, it turns out that the materials are lowly readable for there are no illustrations available to help the students understand the materials. This

means that the materials are not match to the students' level of ability in the target language, so the students cannot comprehend or obtain any information from materials.

From the result of this study, it can be concluded that the reading materials in the "100 Passages" are, in general, moderately readable for the Reading V students of English Department of Widya Mandala University. This means that the reading materials in the "100 Passages" can be used with only a little informational gain although outside assistance is provided.

Based on the findings some suggestions are put forth. It is hoped that the teachers of reading can find a more suitable materials for the reading class so that the students can learn better. If it is not possible to change the textbook, it is suggested that the teachers teaching Reading V should be the ones who have enough experiences in teaching reading. Also it is hoped that this study will encourage further study in the same field of study.