EVALUATING THE QUALITY OF THE TWO TEXTBOOKS TIẾNG ANH 3 - TẬP 1 AND FAMILY AND FRIENDS - GRADE 3: A COMPARATIVE STUDY

(Dánh giá chất lượng của 2 cuốn sách Tiếng Anh 3 - Tập 1 và Family and Friends - Grade 3: Một nghiên cứu so sánh)

(MA. MINOR PROGRAM THESIS)

Field : English Teaching Methodology
Code : 60140111

HÀ NỘI - 2016
NGUYỄN THỊ MAI

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Supervisor: Prof. Dr. Hoang Van Van

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DECLARATION

I, Nguyễn Thị Mai, hereby certify that the thesis “Evaluating the quality of the two textbooks Tiếng Anh 3 - Tập 1 and Family and Friends - Grade 3: A comparative study is submitted for the partial fulfillment of the Degree of Master of Arts at the Faculty of Graduate Studies - University of Languages and International Studies - Vietnam National University, Hanoi. I also declare that this thesis is the result of my own research and efforts and that it has not been submitted for any other purposes.

Hanoi, 2016

Signature

Nguyễn Thị Mai
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ABSTRACT

The basic goal of material evaluation is selecting teaching materials which are appropriately relevant for a particular teaching context. The current study aimed at evaluating the quality of the two textbooks Tiếng Anh 3 - Tập 1 and Family and Friends - Grade 3 to reveal their similarities and differences, strengths and weaknesses, and their appropriateness to Vietnamese teachers and students. The researcher designed a questionnaire consisting of 35 items to evaluate the textbooks. The study results showed that Tiếng Anh 3 - Tập 1 meets almost all criteria given and seemed to be highly suitable for Vietnamese teachers and students while Family and Friends - Grade 3 also got positive feedbacks from teachers. However, this set of textbook offered a large amount of knowledge, big size of paper, unfamiliar contents and so on..., that affect teachers’ low ratings on the quality of the textbook compared to Tiếng Anh 3 - Tập 1. However, it can be concluded that Tiếng Anh 3 - Tập 1 and Family and Friends - Grade 3 are suitable to Vietnamese teachers and pupils. Although there exist some minor weaknesses, these two sets of the textbooks are seen to be a good choice of textbook and can be widely used.
PART A: INTRODUCTION

1. Rationale for the Study
We are living and working in the world of cultural diversity, in which languages operate. Learning a language provides us with a new communicative tool to transfer advanced science and technology knowledge and to learn about different cultures, which makes a contribution to mutual understanding, helps to form global citizen awareness and develops personal qualities and performance. By dint of learning a foreign language and having much knowledge of different cultures, we gain a deeper understanding of our own language and culture.

English is one of the most common international languages in the world. Learning English at primary level helps students form and develop their English communicative ability by practicing listening, speaking, reading and writing skills. English learning is also a beginning step in forming and developing long-life studying skills, working ability in the future and cultural-social activity participation at the same time. Learning English from primary level provides a basis for continuously studying English at higher levels or learning other languages in the future. Besides, English study gives students a chance to form their idea-expressing ability confidently, independently and creatively.

With the thorough understanding of the importance of English, the quality of English teaching and learning has attracted considerable interest from the society. Such issues as the quality of teachers, facilities, and curriculum have been widely discussed in the media. In order to have a quality curriculum, the quality of the textbooks plays an extremely important role. Nevertheless, a countless number of English textbooks are available on the market today. The eyes can easily be deceived by colorful covers, a beautiful layout and attractive artwork. As an inexperienced teacher it can be particularly difficult to know what to look for
a good textbook for use. Therefore, the selection of a course book is one of the most important decisions a teacher will make to have a textbook that involves matching the material against the context in which it is going to be used, following the aims of the teaching program, as well as fitting the personal methodology of the teacher.

In the Vietnamese context, the Ministry of Education and Training (MOET) has implemented its policy of radical and comprehensive reform, in which the quality of education, teachers and textbooks has received a lot of special attention. When working on the national project “Teaching and Learning Foreign Languages in the National Education System, period 2008 - 2020”, at the end of 2010, MOET approved *Pilot English Curriculum for Vietnamese Primary Schools* and assigned Vietnam Education Publishing House to organize the writing of the set of textbooks, including Tiếng Anh 3, Tiếng Anh 4 and Tiếng Anh 5. This set of textbooks is being piloted in some selected primary schools. While the set of primary English textbooks published by Vietnam Education Publishing House is being piloted, the *Family and Friends* set compiled by foreign authors has also been used in a number of primary schools in Vietnam since the mid 1990s. It has been familiar to many teachers and pupils. After that, this set of textbooks has been adapted to suit the teaching context of Vietnam. However, there are different opinions on the advantages and disadvantages of these two sets of textbooks. But there has not been any research to compare them. For this reason, in this minor thesis, I will attempt to conduct a preliminary research to compare two sets of textbooks. Specifically, I will attempt to compare *Tiếng Anh 3 – Tập 1* compiled by Vietnamese authors of Vietnam Education Publishing House in collaboration with English native authors of MacMillan Publishing House and *Family and Friends - Grade 3* compiled and adapted by foreign writers of Oxford University Press.

**REFERENCES**


Nguyen Thi Nguyet Anh (2010). *Teacher’s evaluation on “Let’s go 1A second edition” for grade 3 at primary schools in North Vietnam*.


