Chapter IV

Results

The data for this study were obtained from 100 second-year Payap University students who were studying the AE 201 course in the first semester of the 1998 academic year. The 100 subjects were asked to take the reading comprehension test and to complete the questionnaire after taking the test immediately. The 30 students randomly selected from the 100 subjects were interviewed after they had finished completing the questionnaire. The percentage, mode, and mean were used to analyze the data. The findings showed that the students' reading abilities was 44.04 percent of the total scores (see Appendix A), and the students' reading abilities on identifying main ideas, making inferences, making predictions, and drawing conclusions was 46.00, 47.50, 42.30, and 40.30 percent of the total scores respectively (see Table 1).

Regarding reading strategies obtained from the questionnaire, students used all of the fifteen reading strategies given in the questionnaire. Six of the fifteen reading strategies were found to be used frequently, and eight of the fifteen reading strategies were found to be used sometimes (see Table 2). From the interview, the number of students who totally used proper reading strategies was 35.14 percent. The number of students who partially used proper

34

reading strategies was 41..43 percent. The number of students who simple used random guessing was 23.33 percent. The mean of percentage of totally used proper reading strategies to enhance the four reading comprehension skills was ranged from 29.44 to 47.67 percent (see Table 3).

Table 1: Mean of percentage of total scores on each reading comprehension skill.

Reading comprehension skills	Percentage
1. identifying main ideas	46.00
2. making inferences	47.50
3. making predictions	42.30
4. drawing conclusions	40.30

Table 2: Mode of reading strategies used

Before students begin the test	frequently used	sometimes used	rarely used
1. read the instructions	X		
2. read the questions	X		
3. observe the genre and plan how to take the test		X	
4. observe how the texts are organized	X		
While students are reading	frequently used	sometimes used	rarely used
5. use their language schemata		X	
6. use their textual schemata		X	
7. use their content schemata		X	
8. focus on major content	X		
9. guess the meaning of difficult vocabulary by using context clues		X	
10. read in broad phrases	X		
11. make short notes or ongoing summaries		X	
12. underline important words or sentences			X
13. keep asking questions to help them stay alert		X	
14. make use of cohesive devices		X	
15. try to use new reading strategies when the previous ones do not help them to get the answer	X		

Table 3: Mean of percentage of totally used proper reading strategies for

enhancing each reading comprehension skill

Reading comprehension skills	Totally used proper reading strategies ($\overline{X}$)
1. identifying main ideas	47.67
2. making inferences	29.44
3. making predictions	33.80
4. drawing conclusions	29.64

From table 3, students should be given more opportunity to practice the

two reading comprehension skills: making inferences, and drawing conclusions

when compared with identifying main ideas, and making predictions.