

**A STUDY OF DEVELOPING READING SKILLS OF
FIRST YEAR STUDENTS AT
MAWLAMYINE UNIVERSITY**

PhD DISSERTATION

OHNMAR PHYU

**DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH
UNIVERSITY OF YANGON
MYANMAR**

MAY, 2012

ABSTRACT

Reading has been one of the most important skills in traditional EFL classes and even today, it is still the mainstay of EFL instructions in Myanmar. This study was carried out with the aim of developing the reading skills of the first year students from Mawlamyine University through strategy awareness. It was conducted with 80 first year English Specialization students in the academic year 2010-2011. A pre-test was administered to find out the problems that the students encountered while reading. After that, the pilot teaching was carried out for six weeks, focusing on nine reading strategies, namely, predicting about the topic, skimming for the main idea, scanning for specific information, understanding referents, understanding words in context, recognizing coherence, making inferences, understanding the author's attitude and tone and understanding the author's intention. The students achieved the highest score percentage in recognizing coherence but they scored the lowest percentage in making inferences. After giving them strategy awareness, the post-test was administered and the results of the pre-tests and post-tests were compared. It was found that the students showed some improvements in their performance. They made more improvement in recognizing referents but not much improvement in making inferences and skimming for the main idea. Thus, the results suggest that the continued practice of raising students' strategy awareness would be beneficial to EFL learners.