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Abstract
The study aimed to analyze the presentation of songs and to clarify their functions in TEFL throughout the elementary English textbooks. The subjects included 379 songs, 84 teacher's manuals collected from 14 series, and the 14 publishers. The main findings were summarized as follows:
1. Fourteen series adopted most of the 40 themes in the NYICG except the issues of "famous or interesting people," "gender equality," "human rights," and "science & technology."
2. More than 99 % of the songs had the direct relationship with the units they belonged to. The majority of songs were composed of words in 1200 wordlist attached in the NYICG.
3. Only three series compiled the singing materials from easy to difficult according to different learning stages. The majority of songs (71%) were composed of the same difficult level of Type-Token Ratio (TTR) ranged from 0.11 to 0.30.
4. The forms of the 379 songs were suitable for children's English learning. Most of the songs had a slower rate than the normal speech; 100% of the songs had some repeated vocabulary and specific structures; 99.5 % of the songs were rhymed, and the songs sung by children had the highest proportion (45%).
5. Ninety-nine point two of the songs were put in the end sections of the textbooks; which meant that most songs in the elementary textbooks served the function of review.
6. The lyrics pages, audio CDs and pictures cards were the most common and the most frequently used equipments in elementary English teaching. There was difference among 14 series in terms of teaching aids supplement.
7. In terms of the length for singing activities, almost half of the teacher's manuals offered the flexibility in song teaching activities; another half of the 14 series provided the exact length for singing activities to teachers.
8. In terms of four-skill activities, the pronunciation practice activity was most used (297 songs/78.3%) in 14 series, while the least was the culture learning activity (10 songs/2.6 %).
9. The explanations and instructions in teacher's manuals of 14 series were presented in two main styles: detailed or brief. The distinctive features of different series were significant.
Advisory Committee Hwang Wen-Shann - advisor

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