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Abstract
A Study of Literature Circles in an EFL Reading Class for Seventh Graders in Taiwan
ABSTRACT
Literature circles have been successfully implemented in different levels of reading classes in North America and other countries for many years. In Taiwan, the implementation of literature circles is still a new approach. Only a few studies pay attention to it because many English teachers teach reading by explaining vocabulary, sentence structures, and translation of the text. Instead of reading for enjoyment, most students consider reading as a dry and repugnant task.
The main purpose of this study was to design a literature circles reading program and examine its effects. The participants in this study were five seventh graders. Three main research questions in the study were as follows: 1.Will the five seventh graders' attitudes towards reading and their reading habits change through a literature circles reading program? 2. What are the principles that guide the selection of reading materials? 3. What are the attitudinal changes of the teacher and the five seventh graders in a literature circles reading program?
Findings suggested that for EFL students, efficient reading strategies and reading materials were very crucial to reading success. The participants all reported positively toward literature circles. The researcher and the participants gradually perceived the attitudinal changes and transition of their roles in this reading program. Suggestions and recommendations about the implementation of literature circles for further study were discussed.
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