Choosing Materials for a Writing Center Resource Library in an ELL Setting

John R. Baker
Indiana University of Pennsylvania

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CHOOSING MATERIALS FOR A WRITING CENTER

RESOURCE LIBRARY IN AN ELL SETTING

A Dissertation
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Requirements for the Degree
Doctor of Philosophy

John R. Baker
Indiana University of Pennsylvania
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We hereby approve the dissertation of

John R. Baker

Candidate for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy

__________________  _________ ________________________

Jeannine M. Fontaine, Ph.D.
Associate Professor of English, Advisor

__________________ _________________________________

Mary R. Jalongo, Ph.D.
University Professor & Professor of Education

__________________ _________________________________

Lisya Seloni, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor
Department of English
Illinois State University

ACCEPTED

__________________                     __________________

Timothy P. Mack, Ph.D.
Dean
School of Graduate Studies and Research
The purpose of this sequential mixed methods study was to gather three types of information the writing center staff at Mountain View University (pseudonym) in Taipei, Taiwan needs in order to select the best anthologies of paragraphs and essays for purchase as self-access materials. These are (a) what anthologies are available on the Taiwan Market, (b) whether these materials are suitable for the reading levels of the students who visit the center as indicated by the Lexile Readability Formula, and (c) what features beyond the two measured by the Lexile Readability Formula (i.e., vocabulary and sentence length) the students perceive as influencing text difficulty when interacting with exemplars found in the anthologies. The study found that 12 anthologies are available on the local market. It additionally found that (a) none of the anthologies are accessible to 53.85% of the students’ reading levels and (b) only a limited number of the exemplars in the anthologies are accessible to the other 46.15%. It further found that the students who can access the texts feel that the two features measured by the Lexile Readability Formula and 14 others influence the difficulty they have with the exemplars.