

Using Novels in the Language Classroom

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Abstract

The objectives of this quantitative and qualitative research were 1) to examine students' attitudes towards using novels in EFL classrooms 2) to know the perceptions of teachers regarding the reasons of teaching novels in the language classroom 3) to investigate if novels can motivate students, enrich their cultural knowledge and improve their linguistic level and 4) to identify certain problems students may face in learning novels. The samples were composed of 71 English specialization students from third year to fourth year and 24 English teachers who are currently teaching novels at selected universities in Myanmar. They were selected through a purposive sampling method. The instruments used to gather information were questionnaire and selected teacher's semi-structured interviews. The statistics employed to analyze the quantitative data were percentage, mean, and standard deviation. The findings showed that students held positive attitudes towards using novels in the EFL classes. The interview with teachers revealed advantages of using novels and some challenges. The results are of pedagogical significance to EFL teaching in that they present how well a novel was received in an EFL class, the benefits it offered as well as the difficulties it entailed to the reading process.

Keywords: Novels, EFL teaching, Language classroom