A study on applying group discussion approach to enhanse speaking skills of English for the first year students at An Duong Vocational Middle School =.Áp dụng đường hướng thảo luận theo nhóm để phát triển kỹ năng nói cho sinh viên năm thứ nhất tại trường Trung cấp Nghề An Dương : M.A Thesis Linguistics: 60 14 10 /.Tống Thị Hoàng Hạnh ; Supervisor : M.A. Dương Thị Thực-H. :.ĐHNN ,.2010-46 p. +.CD-ROM

ABSTRACT

This study was carried out to investigate students' and teachers' attitudes towards applying group discussion to promote speaking English in the class of non-major English intermediate students of An Duong Vocational School. The study was designed to answer the two following questions:

- 1. How will the group discussion (GD) model under the cooperative learning instruction in the EFL classroom help the teacher– researcher to enhance the first year students at An Duong Vocational School to speak English?
- 2. What can the researcher learn from implementing the GD model under the cooperative learning instruction to improve EFL teaching speaking skill for the students of An Duong Vocational School?

A detailed questionnaire was used as the measuring instrument. Data for the study is gathered by the survey questionnaires. 100 copies of survey questionnaires are delivered to the students to learn about their opinions toward applying group discussion approaches in speaking class. And 7 other

copies are also distributed to teachers of English to find out the difficulties and achievements when using group discussion to enhance their students' English speaking in the English class at the same time. The findings show that students are interested in speaking English in group discussion because they can feel confident to communicate and share the ideas in groups. And the findings also indicate some problems teachers of English meet in using group discussion besides the advantages it brings about. All of them are presented in the main part of the study.

Basing on such findings, some practical recommendations for the students, the teachers and the administrators at An Duong Vocational School were proposed to develop students' ability to communicate successfully.

It is hoped that this thesis will help the other teachers of English be aware the usefulness of group discussion techniques and apply it in their English-speaking teaching.

TABLE OF CONTENT

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	1
DECLARATION	11
ABSTRACT	111
TABLE OF CONTENT.	iv
LIST OF ABBREVIATION	vi
Part I: Introduction	
1. Rationale	1
2. Aim of the study	3
3. Scope of the study	3
4. Methods of the study	3
5. Design of the study	3
Part II: Development	
Chapter 1: Literature review	5

1.1. Speaking skill	5
1.1.1. What is speaking skill?	5
1.1.2. The requirements for speaking skill	6
1.1.2.1. Accuracy	6
1.1.2.2. Fluency	6
1.1.3. Common problems during Speaking Activities	7
1.2. Cooperative Language Learning	8
1.2.1.The background of CLL	8
1.2.2. Types of Cooperative Learning group	9
1.2.3. The benefits of Cooperative Language Learning	9
1.3. Group discussion in speaking class.	12
1.3.1. History of the group discussion	12
1.3.2. The concepts of group discussions/group work	12
1.3.3. The formation of group discussion.	13
1.3.4. Seating arrangement in group discussion	15
1.3.5. The role of learner in group discussion	17
1.3.6. The role of teacher in group discussion	17
1.3.7. The advantages and disadvantages of using group discussion in the speaking class	18
1.3.7.1. Advantages	18
1.3.7.2.Disadvantages	19
Chapter 2: Methodology	
2.1. Setting of the study	21
2.2. Current situations of teaching and learning English speaking skills at An Duong Vocational School.	22
2.3. Methodology	22
2.3.1. Subject	22
2.3.2. Techniques for Collecting Data.	24
Chapter 3: Findings and Recommendations	
3.1. Student survey	26
3.1.1. The importance of English speaking skill	26
3.1.2. Students' interest in English speaking skill	26
3.1.3. Students' preference to how they like to practice speaking skill in class	27
3.1.4. Students' opinion on speaking in group discussion	28
3.1.5. Students' opinion on the advantages and disadvantages of group discussion.	29
3.1.6. Students' preference in group discussion.	30
3.1.7. Factors cause difficulties when speaking in group discussion	31
3.1.8. Students' desires in learning speaking through group discussion.	32

3.2. Teacher survey.			
3.2.1. Teachers' opinion on teaching speaking skill.			
3.2.2. Teachers' opinion on the important role of group discussion in improving speaking skill			
3.2.3. Teachers' opinion on group discussion in teaching speaking skill			
3.2.4. The frequency of difficulties			
3.2.5. Teach	ers' current teaching methods in using group discussion in speaking class	36	
3.3. Reports	on the students, teachers and the materials	38	
3.3.1. Rej	3.3.1. Report on the students.		
3.3.2. Rej	3.3.2. Report on the teachers.		
3.3.3. Rej	port on materials	40	
3.4. Recomi	mendations	40	
3.4.1. Rec	ommendations for students.	40	
3.4.2. Rec	ommendations for teachers	40	
3.4.3. Rec	ommendations for materials	41	
3.4.4. Rec	ommendations for administrators	41	
Part III: Co	onclusion		
1. Summary	of the study	42	
2. Limitation of the study		43	
3. Suggestions for further research		43	
		44	
APPENDIX 1 APPENDIX 2			
711 1 ENDIX 2	LIST OF ABBREVIATION		
GD:	Group Discussion.		
EFL:	English Foreign Language.		
ELT:	English Language Teaching.		
CLL:	Cooperative Language Learning.		