

DEVELOPING WRITING COMPETENCIES: A CASE STUDY OF EDUCATORS' EXPERIENCES WITH A READ EDUCATIONAL TRUST TRAINING PROGRAMME IN PRIMARY SCHOOLS

by

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2008



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SUBMITTED IN PARTIAL FULFILMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE DEGREE OF

PHILOSOPHIAE DOCTOR (Ph.D.): ASSESSMENT AND QUALITY ASSURANCE IN EDUCATION AND TRAINING

IN THE

DEPARTMENT OF CURRICULUM STUDIES FACULTY OF EDUCATION

UNIVERSITY OF PRETORIA

Promoter: PROF. W.J. FRASER

PRETORIA
OCTOBER 2008



DECLARATION

I, Koena Jacobeth Rankapole, hereby declare that this thesis is my own work, and that all
sources referred to or quoted have been indicated and acknowledged by means of complete
references. This thesis has not been submitted in candidature for another degree at this or any
other university or tertiary education institution.

DATE

RANKAPOLE K.J.



DEDICATION

This thesis is dedicated to my late son,
LETAGO TLOU ALLAN RANKAPOLE,
who passed away in 2005



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

My sincerest thanks to:

- My supervisor, Prof W.J. Fraser, for his patience, encouragement, support and expert
- guidance throughout this study;
- Dr J. M. Kivilu, for assisting me with the interpretation of statistical data;
- Dr M.J. Themane, for his professional advice, insight and invaluable practical assistance;
- My colleague, Dr E. Greyling, for his encouragement and support;
- The Department of Statistics at the University of Pretoria, for their support and analysis of the quantitative data;
- The University of Pretoria (UP) and the University of South Africa (UNISA) for financial assistance;
- Mrs. D.R.M. Bopape, the Regional Director (UNISA) North Eastern Region, for being supportive of this investigation;
- My dear friend, Ms Khuli Mkhaba, former Head of Library Services (UNISA) Limpopo, for her encouragement and for making it possible for me to complete this research during the time when the tide was extremely high;
- Mrs R.M. Sibisi, the Curriculum Advisor: Department of Education, for expert advice on the development of the questionnaire;
- Mr B.G. Bell and Mr M..M. Mohlake, for editing my work;
- Ms Madevha Maleka and Mr Godfrey Marobela, for typing this thesis;
- Ms V. Thema, Head of Department for Languages at EDL Rampola High, for proof-reading my draft chapters;
- Mr M.P. Mashitisho, the principal of All Days Combined School, for his contribution to the investigation;
- Government officials, school principals, READ staff and Grade 4 language educators, for their cooperation, encouragement and support;
- My dearest husband, Dikeledi Marcus, for his support, cooperation and encouragement throughout the many months I spent working on this study, and my beloved children, Sheila Kgaugelo, Khutso and Kgothatso, who have always provided a relaxed and pleasant atmosphere.



They dearly missed the motherly love and care during the completion of this work. Thank you for being so patient and loving!

- My beloved parents for believing in me;
- My dear colleagues, friends and relatives for their words of encouragement;
- Ms Desireé Volschenk for the technical editing at the end; and
- Above all, I thank Almighty God for blessing me with good health, perseverance and patience, For me, this is a manifestation of His word that says, "He gives the power to the faint, and to them that have no might, he increased strength...but they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings as eagles, they shall run and not be weary and they shall walk and not faint".

I thank you all!



SUMMARY

Worldwide, the urgent need for educational reform led to the pressing need for educational transformation. Basically, educationalists, policy makers and business leaders of the world ascribe the educational transformation to various factors such as the global economy, technological inventions and the new organizations of work. Subsequently, pathways to improvement in schools have become less specific and more ambiguous than ever before. The dynamic interplay amongst internal factors, combined with the influence of external factors, does not lend itself well to one prescription for quality assurance and improvement in schools. In the past, traditional manufacturing sectors had their own interpretation of the concept of organizational improvement, whereby the worker was expected to be dependable and loyal, rather than develop thinking skills. Management was responsible for planning, creative thinking, leadership and control. Under the pressure of economic competition, however, many companies including schools are in the process of changing to so-called high performance work organizations.

As a result, the provision of quality education has become one of the challenges facing the entire African continent. Hence there has been a variety of strategies implemented by the South African National Department of Education (DoE) in order to improve the quality of teaching and learning in schools, for example the Tirisano campaign that aims to involve all the stakeholders in schools.

A large number of service providers were involved in the implementation of Tirisano, including the READ Educational Trust that offers outcomes-based language programmes to language educators, who in turn implement them in schools. The language programmes are aimed at equipping learners with basic language skills such as speaking, listening, reading, and writing. The ultimate goal for the initiative to encourage teamwork in the provision of education in South Africa is to ensure that people are able to comply with the high demands of the country's labour market. Undoubtedly, good communication skills are a basic requirement for anyone to perform well in a turbulent work environment. It is against this background that organizations such as READ Educational Trust are actively involved in the provision of support through language programmes.

This thesis reports on a case study of educators' experiences with a READ Educational Trust's language programme in primary schools.



KEY WORDS

- Performance Assessment
- Training Programmes
- Impact Assessment
- Outcomes-based Education
- Training Models
- Writing Competencies
- Evaluation Research
- School Factors
- Learning Theories
- Whole School Effectiveness



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