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The exploration of relationship between reading achievement and the improvement in English reading proficiency among nursing students

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Many nursing schools in Taiwan offer English proficiency course for nurses to successfully pursue professional nursing and healthcare training as working environment needs. This study investigated how the relationship of progressive English reading achievement and the improvement in English reading proficiency after the course of English for Nursing Purposes (ENP) among nursing students. The pre and post-test design study was conducted with a total of 38 students volunteered in this study. The reading proficiency scale and ENP reading achievement test were tested nursing students before and after the course. An inferential statistical methods were used to analyze. The findings indicated that both English reading achievement ($t=16.82$, $p<0.001$) and English reading proficiency ($t=8.49$, $p<0.001$) have significantly improved after the course. In addition, the English reading achievement was negative correlation with the improvement in English reading proficiency ($r=-3.63$, $p=0.040$). The limited English reading proficiency students showed improvement in their English reading proficiency; however, their reading achievement may not be as good as their improvement in their English reading proficiency. The limited English reading proficiency students may still struggle with the learning of English language for nursing purposes and need a different learning environment in comparison to English proficient students who may participate in an English-only course successfully. The results provide English language proficiency assessment as an extremely important and the need for the classification of language courses for students with different level of English proficiency to design a desired course and learn the language effectively.

Biography

Hsiao-Yun Chang received her PhD degree in Nursing from Griffith University, Australia, in 2008. Since then, she has been working in the Department of Nursing in Fooyin University, Taiwan, where she was an Assistant Professor and became an Associate professor in 2013. Her current research interests include adult nursing, complementary and alternative medicine and diabetes and she has published more than 25 papers in reputed journals.

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