

**A study of English reading attitudes, habits and strategies  
used by students in a secondary school in Macao**

**A thesis submitted in partial fulfillment  
of the requirements for the Degree of  
Master of Arts**

**by**

**Anita, Tang Nga Fong**

**M-A2-6310-3**

**Supervised by Associate Professor Kim Hughes Wilhelm**

**MA in English Studies**

**Department of English**

**Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities**

**University of Macau**

20<sup>th</sup> December 2007

## Contents

	Page
Contents.....	ii
List of tables.....	iv
List of figures.....	v
Declaration.....	vi
Acknowledgement.....	vii
Abstract.....	ix
Chapter 1 Introduction.....	1
Chapter 2 Background information	
2.1 Structure of Tong Nam Secondary School.....	4
2.2 Family background of the students.....	4
2.3 Educational background of the teachers.....	5
2.4 Overview of English teaching in Tong Nam Secondary School.....	6
2.5 Situations of students in learning English.....	8
Chapter 3 Literature review	
3.1 Definition of reading.....	11
3.2 Different types of reading comprehension.....	12
3.3 Reading attitudes.....	13
3.4 Reading habits.....	14
3.5 Reading strategies.....	15
3.6 Theoretical models of reading.....	16
3.7 Conclusion.....	19
Chapter 4 Research design and methodology	
4.1 Purpose of the research.....	22
4.2 Research questions.....	22
4.3 Constraints on the research.....	22
4.4 Research instruments	
4.4.1 Reading comprehension assessments.....	23
4.4.2 Questionnaires.....	26
4.5 Methodology of the research.....	27
4.6 Sampling.....	28
Chapter 5 Data discussion and interpretation	
5.1 Reading strategies employed by Form II and Form IV students.....	30
5.2 Differences between Form II high- and low-proficient readers.....	54

	5.3 Differences between Form IV high- and low-proficient readers.....	64
Chapter 6	Conclusions, implications and recommendations	
	6.1 Survey findings.....	72
	6.2 Implications.....	76
	6.3 Recommendations.....	85
	Bibliography.....	88
Appendices:		
	A – Reading comprehension assessment for Form II students .....	95
	B – Reading comprehension assessment for Form IV students.....	97
	C- Questionnaire (English version) .....	99
	D – Questionnaire (Chinese version) .....	105