

Chapter 3

METHODOLOGY

In this section, the selection of data is explained and then the steps for analysis are elaborated.

3.1 Data Analysis

3.1.1 Source of Data

The reading texts to be analyzed are taken from Far East English Reader for Senior High School Students, Book III and Book IV, both edited by Shi, Lin, and Brooks (1997). There are six books in total in this series, meant to be used by senior high school students within six semesters. In each book, there are 12 lessons with 12 reading texts. The six books share almost the same text type in each corresponding lesson, for example, lesson 5 is about conversation skills, lesson 9 poetry and lesson 10 short story. However, these lessons differ in the amount of vocabulary and the length of texts. There are an average of 20, 30, and 40 new words respectively in each reading text of different grade. Book III and Book IV are chosen because they are meant for senior high school students in their second year, the intermediate level. Besides, the first College Entrance Exam held in each year aims at testing the achievement the students have attained within the range covered by the first 4 books, among which Book III and Book IV would be more appropriate compared with the introductory level of the first two books. For this analysis, some reading texts of conversational nature, short story, excerpt of novel, prayer, and poetry are ruled out, because they belong to other genres, beyond our discussion. The other remaining reading texts are mainly prose of expository or narrative types.

3.1.2 Criteria for Analysis

In terms of the analysis unit in this study, the sentence will be adopted. Although some researchers may argue that the most useful unit for analyzing Theme