THE REPRESENTATION OF CULTURES IN TEXTS IN NEW HEADWAY PLUS, Q: SKILLS FOR SUCCESS, ENGLISH UNLIMITED AND UNLOCK

SUMAYYAH ALSULAMI

PhD. Candidate, RMIT University, Melbourne, Australia
E-mail: Somayyah81@gmail.com

Abstract -
English as a foreign language (EFL) in Saudi Arabia is still new and evolving. Recently, many of the university language centres that provide intensive and mandatory English courses for the preparatory-year students have been working to develop English teaching. These centres mainly emphasise teaching using "special edition" textbooks for Saudi students. While the government has been working to provide social and economic policies that intend to open up and communicate widely with the world, there is a need to educate Saudi citizens to be aware and understand others in order to promote tolerance and accept others specially in a conservative culture like Saudi Arabia. In this study, the cultural content in *New Headway Plus*, *Q: Skills for Success, English Unlimited* and *Unlock* are examined to investigate how can textbooks enhance both the national identity of the students and the intercultural awareness. This study explores the representation of culture with respect to the texts in these four sets of textbooks in Saudi Arabia.

Keywords - EFL, Textbooks, Intercultural Competence, Culture