



RESEARCH ABSTRACTS

MOTION PICTURES

SLATTERY, SISTER M. JAMESETTA. *An Appraisal of the Effectiveness of Selected Instructional Sound Motion Pictures and Silent Filmstrips in Elementary School Instruction.* Washington, D. C.: The Catholic University of America Press, 1953. 67 p.

Purpose: To test the effectiveness and to compare the results of using instructional sound motion pictures and instructional silent filmstrips in informational and conceptual learning of fifth-grade social studies.

Procedure: The experimental population of 422 fifth-grade pupils from nine elementary schools of Rochester, New York, was set up in six divisions according to a rotation design. These divisions were equated on the basis of IQ, Mental Age, and Initial Test Scores, and each division contained two groups in which the rotation process and the variable cooperated. The rotation involved four sound motion pictures and four silent filmstrips, and the variable consisted of participation or nonparticipation in the use of the filmstrips. Participation consisted of reading the verbal material aloud and answering questions contained in the script.

Results: (a) Both sound motion pictures and filmstrips contributed to increased learning of fifth-grade social studies. (b) Sound and motion did not seem essential to maximum learning of fifth-grade social studies since filmstrips produced significantly higher mean gains than did motion pictures. (c) Pupils of all intelligence levels learn from filmstrips and sound motion pictures, with those of higher intelligence achieving correspondingly higher scores than those in lower intelligence levels. (d) Filmstrips with participation produced slightly higher nonsignificant mean gains than did filmstrips without participation. (e) Sound motion picture appeal, which is evident from the fact that only 24 pupils preferred silent filmstrips, is not, according to the recorded results, justification for use.—*John Molstad.*

MAINWARING, MARY LOUISE. *Robert Flaherty's Films and Their Critics.* Doctor's thesis, Bloomington, Indiana: School of Education, Indiana University. 219 p. (Typewritten)

Purposes: (a) To examine and to prepare detailed descriptions of all of Robert Flaherty's films; (b) to survey and to summarize the criticism of his films that was published in the United States and in Europe during his lifetime,