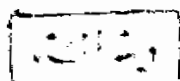


Ain Shams University  
Women's College  
Department of Curricula  
and Methods of Teaching



**The Effect of Using Student-Made Dialogues  
to Develop the Speaking Skill of Students at the  
English Department**

*A Thesis*

Submitted for the Degree of M.A. in Education, Curricula  
and Methods of Teaching English as a Foreign Language

*By*

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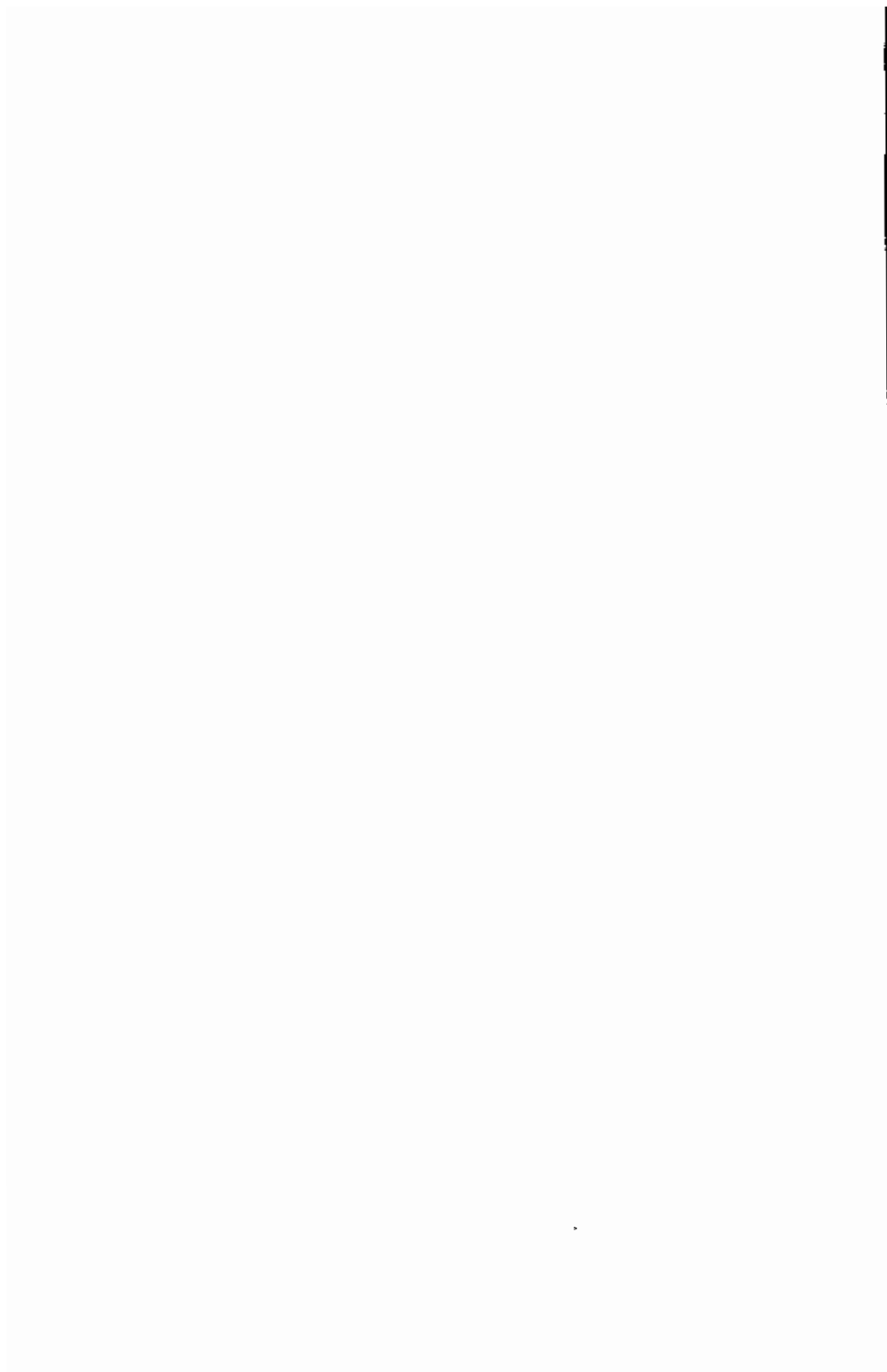
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## *Chapter One*

# Background of the Problem



## *Chapter One*

### **Background of the Problem**

#### **Introduction :**

Studying foreign language is a must in the present age which is characterized as the age of information and technology.

Therefore, teaching foreign languages in Egypt is no more limited to language schools as it was in the past. The new educational policy of the Ministry of Education bridged the gap between the language schools and the governmental schools when it was stipulated that languages should be taught at the primary level (Ministerial Decree 1994). This means that the language teacher's responsibility is maximized, specially the English language teacher as the first foreign language in Egypt. Therefore, many studies concentrated on English language curricula at all levels of education and on English teaching methods. Many studies concentrated on the text book : its preparation, content, aims and evaluation. While other studies lay much importance on English tests.

But, in the last few years the need for more studies in the field of teacher preparation appeared, because the teacher is the essence of the learning process (Abdul Messih, 1982).

The English language teacher has much responsibility for two reasons : first, he has to teach young children at primary level to communicate with their teacher and with each other using a completely new language. Second, through the English language teacher, the students learn the four skills of the language. If the

teacher is weak in any of these skills, the students will never acquire this skill.

Taking into account these facts, the English language teacher is supposed to equally master the four English language skills : listening, speaking, reading and writing. But what is happening is completely the opposite because much stress is laid on reading and writing rather than speaking and listening. Even the exams take the written form whereby the student-teachers are becoming more passive (El-Gameel, 1982).

It is noticed in recent years there has been a decline, in many countries, in the ability of college students to use their own language. A lack of training in foreign language creates linguistic barriers between the students and the language (Rivers, 1981). Student-teachers do not have much opportunity to practise speaking either in the classroom or outside it. The learning process depends mainly on lecturing and note-taking rather than on discussion, expressing points of view and other activities which make learning exciting and vivid. That is why most students know about language, but they cannot use it to express their own meaning (Rivers, 1987).

In Egypt many studies proved that student-teachers are aware of their decreased ability in the speaking skill and they require special courses to improve this skill (El-Naggar, 1986).

The oral mistakes committed by student-teachers in grammar, pronunciation and morphology are much more than the mistakes committed in writing (Zaher, 1986). This weakness is reflected in much Arabic talk, much silence and hesitation while speaking as they are trying to think about and translate what they want to say from Arabic to English (Selim, 1987). They are not used to communicate and thinking in English.