

The purpose of this study was to access sociolinguistic competence in English of mathayom suksa 6 students which consisted of the ability to use English appropriately to topics of the interaction, styles of language and language functions. The subjects were 664 mathayom suksa 6 students of the academic year 1992, sampled from secondary schools under the jurisdiction of the Department of General Education. The instrument used to access the students' sociolinguistic competence in English was a one hundred items of 4-choiced test constructed by the reseacher and was verified its content validity by 5 specialists. The reliabiliy of the test was 0.86 with the level of difficulty between 0.20-0.80 and the power of discrimination between 0.20-0.60. The data was analysed by mean score and percentage.

The major findings were as follows :

1. Mathayom suksa 6 students' sociolinguistic competence was lower than the passing level with the mean score of 43.45. Considering the sociolinguistic aspects, the students had the highest competence in language functions with the mean score at the percentage of 49.25 , and the lowest in styles of language with the mean score at the percentage of 38.76.

2. Considering the quantity of the students according to the English language competence criterion, it was found that 67.20 percent of mathayom suksa 6 students had the sociolinguistic competence lower than the passing level, 19.60 percent of them were at the passing level, 10.5 percent were at the moderate level, 2.40 percent were at the high level, and only 0.30 percent were at the highest level.