

## Abstract

It is widely accepted that a self-access center provides opportunities for the students to develop their English proficiency out of class. Even though a self-access center requires a large sum of budget and resources, its practical usefulness for language learners and its effect on the users' proficiency development have not been fully investigated.

This preliminary study which has been funded by KMUTT is a tentative attempt to fill some of the gaps. Two of the research purposes which will be presented in this article are to evaluate the proficiency in English listening of the KMUTT SALC users and to investigate the significance of the SALC's role in autonomous learning, particularly in developing English listening proficiency. The first hypothesis of this research is that the users of the SALC's listening corner will develop their listening proficiency. The second hypothesis is that some factors, for example, the subjects' starting level of proficiency, their level of study, the frequency, the time and length of their visits as well as the number of materials that they practice will affect their development in listening proficiency.

The researcher finds that the subjects' proficiency in English listening have significantly increased after they practiced in the SALC. By the Pearson Correlation and the T-Test, it is found that the subjects' proficiency development is significantly correlated with their starting level of proficiency at the 0.05 level but other factors do not have significant correlation with the subjects' proficiency development. This study also find the supporting role of the SALC in autonomous learning.