

TITLE: A Study of Factors Affecting The English
Proficiency of Non-Native English Speaking
Students at the Asian Institute of Technology

AUTHOR ID No.: 4721030965

AUTHOR NAME: Wantana Sa-Adpan

FACULTY: Master of Arts in English for Careers,
Language Institute, Thammasat University

ADVISER: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Damrong Attaprechakul

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ABSTRACT

This study investigates 77 non-native English graduate students attending post graduate programs at an international institute in Thailand, known as the Asian Institute of Technology. These students are in their second year of study and belong to different fields of study. This study investigates the factors that affect the English acquisition ability of these students.

The hypothesis that was formulated at the initial stage of the study says that positive attitude, good motivation and higher exposure enhance the acquisition of English proficiency among non-native English speakers.

The research data were collected from responses to a questionnaire. The questionnaire was posted on the web page and the respondents were asked to complete it. Results show that motivation, attitude as well as exposure to the language in the day to day life has strong positive effect on acquiring English proficiency. The fact that proficiency in English will help progress career either in the form of attaining a job or having the opportunity to study further internationally was found to be the single most important driving factor for acquiring English proficiency. The SPSS analysis for correlation studies shows that motivation is strongly correlated with acquiring English proficiency.

However, due to a small sample size, make it is difficult to produce any conclusive remark on this issue; it can be very well suggested that all three factors, motivation, exposure to the language and attitude, have a strong positive relationship with English language acquisition.