

ABSTRACT

The purpose of this study was to survey the needs in learning English at St. Dominic School in order to improve and create an English curriculum and appropriate teaching materials to use in the school.

The research was a cross-sectional survey conducted by means of questionnaires. The total number of subjects was 190 students studying in grade 6 at St. Dominic School in the 2008 academic year. The instrument was a questionnaire consisting of close-ended questions and a five-point Likert Scale. The questionnaire consisted of two main parts; (1) asking for general background, (2) asking for English language needs.

The results of this study showed that the majority of the respondents were 12 years old. The first range of the students had a G.P.A. of more than 3.75. Most of the respondents rated their English abilities (listening, speaking, reading and writing) as fair. They needed to study English for their future careers. The most appropriate language for instructors to use in class was mostly English, with some Thai when necessary and the most appropriate language for respondents' colleagues to use in class was mostly Thai, with some English when necessary. In terms of English instructors, most of the respondents preferred an equal number of Thai and native speakers and preferred to study in a large group (more than 5 students). They would like to study English 4 days/week and 60 minutes/days. Moreover, they preferred period 1 to study English. The overall English skills were extensively need. They extensively need listening skills the most while writing skills were needed the least.