

ABSTRACT

From the previous research, it is generally admitted that phrasal verb is one of the problematic areas for ESL/EFL learners and they have a tendency to avoid using phrasal verbs and prefer to use one-word verbs alternatively. This study, therefore, aims to investigate whether Thai EFL learners, specifically MA TEFL students at Thammasat University, avoid using phrasal verbs in informal spoken language and, if any, whether the proficiency levels of students play an important role in avoidance of phrasal verbs. Thirty-nine (39) students were divided into two groups according to their proficiency level determined by TU-GET scores. All subjects took the multiple-choice test in which they were asked to choose the verbs that they would normally use in the given dialogue or the situation. The results showed that Thai EFL learners avoid using phrasal verbs even though in the majority of cases they prefer to use phrasal verbs over one-word equivalents. Incorporating the findings from the previous study, the conclusion was drawn to some extent that the amount of the exposure to second language environment affects learner's development from avoidance to non-avoidance. In addition, according to the comparison of the phrasal verb test scores of better group and lower group and the correlation between TU-GET scores and phrasal verb test scores, it was found that the proficiency levels of students did not have an effect on the avoidance of phrasal verbs.