

ABSTRACT

The objectives of this comparative study were to investigate Thai and foreign first year students' English language needs at the Faculty of Humanities of Mahachulalongkornrajavidyalaya University. Then the outcomes of Thai first year students' language needs were used to compare with the foreign first year students' needs in order to know what were the significant differences in needs of learning English language in regard to important activities when using English language, the types of English course preferred, and opinions towards the four English language skills.

The instrument used in this study was a questionnaire. The subjects of the study were 36 Thai first year students and 34 foreign first year students at the Faculty of Humanities of Mahachulalongkornrajavidyalaya University in the second semester of the academic year 2549. The statistical device used for data analysis has SPSS, to find the frequencies, percentages, means standard deviations, and independent-sample t-tests.

The results of this comparative study achieved its objectives and confirmed the initial hypothesis. It has been showed that the foreign first year students' language needs in terms of important activities using English language were significant different needs. The foreign first year students' needs in regard to types of English course also were significantly different needs, except the Thai first year students' needs in a number of students in an English class was significantly different needs. Moreover, the foreign first year students' needs of opinions towards the four English language skills and grammar and the English language were significantly different.