

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 BACKGROUND

English is considered an international language and has an important role in Many countries around the world either as the native language or a foreign language. It is not only used in academic education but also used widely in almost every area such as technology, science, commerce, religion and government organizations.

Many people may wonder why English has a role in the government field. Actually, the Office of the National Security Council is in every country and they have to communicate internationally with others in order to support or ask for cooperation such as for training and policy planning. As a result, English is mostly used as the official language for this purpose.

In Thailand, Office of the National Security Thailand realizes the importance of English so they have set up their own English language course in order to offer their officers a chance to learn English. Moreover, they have encouraged their officers to learn English by creating English course. Communicative English course is provided to the officers. Nevertheless, the number of learners tends to decrease and their English is not much better after taking the course. It may be possibly be interpreted that the existing course is not effective enough. One reason may be that the needs of the officers to study English can not be met. To make ESP course more efficient, the learners' needs are necessary to be considered in designing the course, including the approach (Hutchinson & Waters, 1995, p.7). Although there are many research papers studying the needs of English, the needs analysis of the officers at the Office of the National Security, Thailand in studying English has not been carried out. Therefore, this research is conducted to find out the needs of English for officers at Office of the National Security Council Thailand, in order to lead to more improvement and to design an ESP course which best serves the officer's needs. This is partly due to the fact that they are required to study English, because studying English has become a part of promotion considerations.

1.2 STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

1.2.1 What are the needs of the officers in studying English?

1.2.2 What should be improved, content, teaching style or others?

1.3 OBJECTIVE

This research study consists of three main objectives as follows:

1.3.1 To survey the needs of the officers at Office of the National Security Council of Thailand in studying English.

1.3.2 To suggest improvements to the existing English courses to make them more appropriate.

1.3.3 To get some ideas for designing a new effective ESP course that can respond to the officers' needs.

1.4 DEFINITIONS OF TERMS

Definitions of the terms of this study are the following:

1.4.1 ESP refers to English for specific purposes

1.4.2 Officers refer to the officers of Office of the National Security Council of Thailand.

1.5 SCOPE OF THE STUDY

This research is conducted to survey the needs of officers at Office of the National Security Council Thailand in studying English.

1.6 SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

1.6.1 This study will identify the needs of English for the officers at Office of the National Security Council Thailand.

1.6.2 It can be used to improve existing English course to make them more effective and appropriate for the officers.

1.6.3 It can be used as a guideline in designing ESP courses for the organization.

1.7 ORGANIZATION OF THE STUDY

This research is divided into 5 chapters, as follows:

Chapter 1: Introduction – background, statement of the problem, objectives of the study, definition of terms, scope of the study and organization of the study are described in this part.

Chapter 2: Review of literature – relevant concepts pertaining to the study which are ESP courses, needs analysis and relevant research are included.

Chapter 3: Methodology – it concerns subjects, materials, procedures and data analysis used in the study.

Chapter 4: Results of the study – the results gathered from the questionnaire analysis are shown.

Chapter 5: Conclusions, Discussions and Recommendations – the summary of The study and conclusions of the findings are discussed. Recommendations for further study are provided as well.