

CHAPTER THREE

METHODOLOGY

This chapter describes: (1) the selection of the subjects, (2) the materials, (3) the procedures used in the research instrument construction and collection of the data, and (4) the data analysis.

3.1 SUBJECTS

The subjects of this study were 100 first-year Thammasat University students who studied and completed the Fundamental English Course II during semester 2/2006. They all were willing to join the study and had experience in using the SALC in their English language learning.

3.2 MATERIALS

This study employs a questionnaire as a research instrument to survey Fundamental English Course II students' attitudes towards using the SALC. The questionnaire was divided into 3 parts as follows:

Part 1 was about the personal information of the subjects. There are 4 questions in total asking about the subjects' gender, age, faculty, and the number of years they have studied English.

Part 2 was about the subjects' use of the SALC. Two questions were used to ask about their frequency and purpose of use.

Part 3 asked about the subjects' attitudes and satisfaction towards using the SALC together with additional comments and recommendations. The closed-ended questions and 5-point Likert scale were used to ask their attitudes and satisfaction towards such aspects as media and materials, equipment, atmosphere, and staff service at the SALC. The questions were grouped together in accordance with the rooms available (SALC 1, SALC 2, SALC 3, and SALC 4) so that the subjects could easily rate their satisfaction regarding the resources, facilities, and services provided in each room. The data from the rating-scale in the questionnaire were interpreted according to 5 satisfactory levels from most satisfied, very satisfied, moderately satisfied, quite dissatisfied, to very dissatisfied.

In addition, open-ended questions were used to ask the subjects' comments and recommendations regarding the advantages and problems of using the SALC, what they like and dislike, and what aspects should be improved for further development of the resources and facilities provided at the SALC.

3.3 PROCEDURES

3.3.1 Research Instrument Construction

The questionnaire was devised in Thai under the guidance of a research adviser in order to reach content validity. Then it was piloted by 10 MA-TEFL8 students at Thammasat University who have visited the SALC so as to check whether the language used in the questionnaire was understandable for the expected answers, and any unclear points could be adjusted.

3.3.2 Data Collection

To collect data, the questionnaires were distributed to 150 randomly selected subjects from various faculties. Most of the questionnaires (114 sets) were returned. The completion of the data in each item was checked in order to verify the information. However, 14 sets were found incomplete thus they were excluded from data analysis. Finally, codes were assigned to the items of 100 completed questionnaires for data entry into the computer and further data analysis.

3.4 DATA ANALYSIS

The quantitative data from the subjects were studied and calculated as frequencies and percentages as follows:

3.4.1 The general information of the subjects in the first part of the questionnaire was calculated by using Frequency and Percentage.

3.4.2 The information regarding the subjects' use of the SALC was also calculated by using Frequency and Percentage.

3.4.3 The subjects' attitudes and satisfaction towards using the SALC were analyzed by using Frequency and Percentage

3.4.4 Answers to open-ended questions regarding the subjects' comments and recommendations about using the SALC were tallied and calculated by using Frequency and Percentage.