

## **CHAPTER THREE**

### **METHODOLOGY**

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

#### **3.1 SUBJECTS**

- The population was M.4 students in Chitralada School, in the academic year 2007
- There were only 10 students in the Art program (French)
- 10 students completed the questionnaire and the perception test as well as the production test

#### **3.2 MATERIALS**

- This research was conducted to find out whether there is a correlation between students' perception and production of the English /v/. As a result, a test on both perception and production of /v/ is the device for the data collection.
- The questionnaire was used as the instrument for collecting students' data on their background information and attitudes, as well as awareness of perception and production of English consonants. Its construction was based on the Likert scale. The questionnaire was typed in Thai in order to facilitate students' responses.
- The perception test consists of 12 target minimal pairs, together with 3 minimal pairs as fillers. They were added in so that the students might not be able to notice which minimal pairs were the focus of the test. In the test, the subjects circled the words they heard on the provided answer sheets. The scoring process was carried out only with the target phoneme /v/. Hence, the total points of this test are 12 points (one point for each item).
- The production test was composed of the same set of words as in the perception test. Three fillers were also added in. The subjects were

required to read the words provided in the word list. Again, the scoring process was computed only on the target phoneme /v/ from the 12 words.

### **3.3 DATA COLLECTION PROCEDURES**

As a means of investigating the subjects' performance in both perceiving and producing English phoneme /v/, they were required to complete the perception and production test. The word list employed in the two tests was checked by a phonologist and then piloted with three M.4 students. The results revealed that the two tests were appropriate for using in the data collection procedures.

The procedures were as follows:

1. All 10 students in the M.4 Art program (French) in the academic year 2007 of Chitralada School were distributed the questionnaire.
2. The subjects completed the questionnaire individually. It took about 5 minutes to complete the questionnaire.
3. The perception test was circulated to the subjects.
4. The subjects were informed how to complete the test. Each subject was given a test paper. They wrote their names under the test item number; after that, they had to choose the words they heard. Each item was read twice by a native speaker of English. After finishing the test, the researcher collected the questionnaires as well as the perception tests.
5. For the production test, the same subjects were required to pronounce 12 target words with a short pause between each item. The subjects were called one by one (in the order of their test item number from the perception test). The subjects' numbers and their pronunciation were recorded into a tape recorder for the scoring process.

### **3.4 DATA ANALYSIS**

1. After all the data were collected, the SPSS program was employed to calculate the data from the questionnaire. It explained the subjects' background information in terms of gender, age, attitude toward practicing English pronunciation, and so forth.

2. For the perception test, each test paper was marked to the total score of 12. Each correct score was calculated to find the mean perception scores of each word position (initial, medial and final). Then each subject's total scores were compared to the production test scores to find out if there was any degree of relation between each subject's perception and production scores.
3. As for the production test, each subject's performance in /v/ pronouncing was transcribed and scored phonetically. The transcription process was conducted by the researcher as well as an English teacher who has a high level of English phonetics competency. Each recorded pronunciation was listened to twice.
4. Finally, the number of variants in each word position was calculated in order to explore each subject's mean production score. After that, the total scores of each subject's perception and production test were compared to determine whether they have any relationship.

In summary, this chapter has shown the details of the subjects, the materials, the data collection procedures and the data analysis of this study. In the next chapter, the results of the study will be presented.