

ABSTRACT

The purpose of the study is to investigate the needs that Thai dance instructors of the College of Dramatic Arts, Bangkok encounter in their use of the English language, in order to develop a course syllabus to match their needs, and thereby to contribute to their professional advancement. The study was conducted by means of questionnaires which were distributed to 75 Thai dance instructors from the Thai dance department. The results of the study can be summarized as follows:

1. Among the four principal English language skills - listening, speaking, reading and writing – the first two were deemed to be the most important and should become the major focus of the course, whereas writing skill was considered the least needed.
2. The course subject matter should deal specifically with explaining Thai dance and with facilitating communication during dance tours abroad.
3. The respondents prefer a native English-speaking teacher with a Thai teacher as an assistant, with emphasis on training in speaking skills, with active student participation.

These findings are discussed, and suggestions for the development of such a course are offered.