CHAPTER THREE
METHODOLOGY

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

3.1   SUBJECTS

The subjects in this study were 280 Mathayom 2 students at Datdaruni School. The subjects comprised 90 Mathayom 2 students who were taking the elective Chinese course, and 190 students selected by using stratified random sampling from 410 Mathayom 2 students who did not take the elective Chinese course in the academic year 2007. All of the subjects had attended the compulsory Chinese course when they were in Mathayom 1.

3.2   MATERIALS

In this study, a questionnaire was used to collect the data.

The questionnaire was divided into three parts. The first part concerned general information of the respondents, which comprised 14 close-ended questions concerning the respondents' grade in the compulsory Chinese course, Chinese learning experience, study plan at the high-school level, personal interest, peer influence, and family influence.

The second part concerning the attitudes towards the compulsory Chinese course for Mathayom 1 contained 29 statements which were categorized into 4 aspects:

(1)   Appropriateness of course content
(2)   Appropriateness of teaching materials and teaching aids
(3)   Teaching style
(4)   Usefulness of the knowledge

In this part, the 5-point Likert's rating scale was applied to score each statement. The responses were rated at five levels and scored as follows:

Strongly Agree	=	5
Agree	=	4
Undecided	=	3
Disagree	=	2
Strongly Disagree	=	1

The third part consisted of 15 statements concerning the respondents' problems of learning Chinese and suggestions on how to improve the compulsory Chinese course for Mathayom 1.

3.3 PROCEDURES

3.3.1 Research Design

A cross-sectional design was used to identify the factors that affected the students' attitudes towards the compulsory Chinese course for Mathayom 1. All the students surveyed were required to take the course when they were in Mathayom 1.

3.3.2 Data Collection

The questionnaires were distributed to the respondents in the first week of January 2008. As there were two sample groups, the research asked three teachers of the Department of Foreign Language, Datdaruni School to distribute the questionnaires to a total of 90 students who took the elective Chinese course, and 190 of those who did not. Before distributing the questionnaires, the teachers explained the purpose of the study to the respondents. All of the questionnaires were collected before the classes ended.

3.4 DATA ANALYSIS

The data obtained from the survey were analyzed by the Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) program for Windows version 12.0, in order to derive frequency, Percent, mean, standard deviation, and the hypotheses was tested by using

Chi-Square Test. All the findings derived from the survey were analyzed in order to answer the research problems and clarify the hypotheses.

Frequency Distribution and Percentage were used to describe the general information of the respondents in the first part of the questionnaire. Problems and suggestions of the respondents on the compulsory Chinese course they attended in Mathayom 1 derived from the last part of the questionnaire were also described by "frequency" and "Percent."

Arithmetic Mean and Standard Deviation Attitudes of the respondents towards the compulsory Chinese course for Mathayom 1, in terms of course content, teaching materials and teaching aids, teachers and teaching style, and application of knowledge in the second part of the questionnaire were described by "mean" and "standard deviation."

Chi-Square Test was used to find out (1) the relationship between grades that the relationship between grades that the respondents received from the compulsory Chinese course for Mathayom 1 and their decision to take the elective Chinese course in the academic year 2007, (2) the relationship between peers taking the elective Chinese course in Mathayom 2 and the respondents' decision to take the course, and (3) the relationship between peer recommendations and the respondents' decision to take the elective Chinese course in Mathayom 2.

The interval scale was the highest score minus the lowest one and divided by the numbers of intervals. Based on the 5-point Likert's rating scale, the interval of the scale was calculated using the formula below:

$$\text{Interval Scale} = \frac{\text{Maximum} - \text{Minimum Value}}{\text{Number of Interval}}$$

$$= \frac{5-1}{5} = 0.8$$

Therefore, mean ($\overline{X}$) will be interpreted as follows:

1.00 – 1.80	very low degree of satisfaction
1.81 – 2.60	low degree of satisfaction
2.61 – 3.40	moderate degree of satisfaction
3.41 – 4.20	high degree of satisfaction
4.21 – 5.00	very high degree of satisfaction

In summary, this chapter described the population and sampling, the research instrument, research design, procedures used in data collection, and data analysis.

The findings of the study are presented in the next chapter.