

Sudaporn Chatpiyanont 2014: A Study of Speech Acts and Language Transfer of Thai Secondary School Students. Master of Arts (Applied Linguistics), Major Field: Applied Linguistics, Department of Linguistics. Thesis Advisor: Ms. Umaporn Sangaman, Ph.D. 148 pages.

The purposes of this research were to study types of speech act choices of students; to compare speech act choices with their frequency used between males and females; and to study language transfer used in students' speech acts.

The data used in this study was collected from the result of the discourse completion test (DCT) from 100 secondary school males and 100 secondary school females using simple random sampling. The data was grouped according to Parker and Riley (2004)'s types of speech acts and their language transfer was also analyzed in the aspects of pragmatic transfer.

The study revealed that only eight out of 16 Parker and Riley (2004)'s types of speech acts were found in this study. Seven of 8 types of speech acts were used by both males and females. Only one type of speech acts was used in male students only. Pragmatic transfer was also found in this study. There are transfer of loan words, transfer of collocations, and transfer of cultural word used which made the students' choices of speech acts differ from the preferable choices of native speakers.

Since the order of the male and female students' types of speech acts were the same in every type of speech acts except apologizing speech act, the sexual factor has no influence on the students' choices of speech acts in overall aspect but in details, it does. In addition, the result on pragmatic transfer also supported that native language has influence on the use of a second language.

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Thesis Advisor's signature