

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 BACKGROUND

The opportunities to use English in real life situations can affect the success in studying English as a foreign language and affect the motivation to study English in the classroom.

Fewer opportunities for Thai students to use English in real life can lead to their failure, decrease their motivation to study English, and their confidence to communicate in English. Most of them are good at grammar, but when they have to communicate or use English in their real life situations, they fail to produce and understand the language. There is a difference between knowledge about language, and skill in using it (Bygate, 1988).

Though many Thai students study English according to the curriculum requirements, but many of them as well focus on the ability to communicate and understand English in order to have good careers and continue higher study in many fields, so they need to be fluent in using all four skills of English. This can be achieved through the real human interaction and the exposure to the real world language situations including all types of media..

To know the situations, the frequencies, media and the language skills involved when the students are exposed to their real life can help EFL teachers design appropriate course syllabuses and teaching materials.

1.2 STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

This study aims to answer the following research questions:

1. How often do students use English in real life situations?
2. What language skills do they use most in real life situations?
3. In what situations do students use English the most?
4. What are their attitudes toward using English in their real life situations?

1.3 OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

1. To study the frequency that students use English in real life.
2. To investigate the language skills they use the most in such situations.
3. To find out in what real life situations the students use English.
4. To survey the attitudes of the students towards using English in various real life situations.

1.4 SCOPE OF THE STUDY

1. Gender is not a factor affecting the study.
2. The study is conducted with the students of the General Management Program at the academic year 2006. The total population is 228 students.

1.5 DEFINITIONS OF TERMS

Students refer to the students who are studying in the General Management Program of RMUTTO (Chakrabongse Bhuvatath Campus)

RMUTTO refers to Rajamungala University of Technology Tawan-Ok.

Attitude refers to the feelings or their personal bias towards using English in real life situations.

Real life situations mean interactions with English-speaking foreigners, and interactions with the English media. This focuses on four skills; listening, speaking, reading and writing. Using English in classrooms is not considered in this study.

1.6 SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

1. The findings will be useful for the English Language Division to plan effective instructions for the students of the General Management Program
2. The instructors of English in the General Management Program will be aware of their students' language uses and develop appropriate teaching materials and instructions to fulfill the students' language use in various situations.

3. The findings can be used as guidelines for teachers in order to establish positive attitudes among students towards learning English.

1.7 ORGANIZATION OF THE STUDY

The study of “ Opportunities for Students of Chakrabongse Bhuvatath Campus who majoring General management to Use English in Real life Situations” is divided into five chapters as following:

Chapter 1 includes the introduction, background, statement of the problem, objectives of the study, definitions of terms, scope of the study, and the significance of the study.

Chapter 2 deals with a review of literature related to the study.

Chapter 3 explains the research methodology used in conducting this study. It includes the subjects materials and data analysis.

Chapter 4 presents the results of the study and the interpretation of the research finding.

Chapter 5 contains a summary of the study, a summary of the findings, discussions and recommendations for further research.

1.8 BASIC ASSUMPTIONS

1.8.1 It is assumed that all subjects will respond to the questionnaire based on their own experience.

1.8.2 It is assumed that all subjects will provide factual information requested in the questionnaire.