ABSTRACT

The purposes of this study are to investigate the students' problems in learning the foundation English course in relation to instructor, learner, curriculum and textbook, and administration; to compare the problems among different faculties; and to find possible solutions to the problems.

The population comprised 10 instructors and 434 undergraduate students from the faculties of Humanities and Social Sciences, Education, Science and Technology, and Management Science, who took the foundation English course at Nakhon Sawan Rajabhat University in semester 2/2007. The sample groups were 244 undergraduate students selected from the population by way of cluster random sampling. The instruments used for collecting data were an interview and a questionnaire.

The findings are as follows:

1. The students' problems in learning the foundation English course related to instructor, learner, curriculum and textbook, and administration:

The students from Humanities and Social Sciences and those from Science and Technology have instructor problems at low level, but the students from Education and Management Science faculties have instructor problems at moderate level. The students from Science and Technology have learner problems at low level, while those from the other faculties have learning problems at moderate level. The students from Humanities and Social Sciences, Education, and Management Science have curriculum and textbook problems at moderate level. While the students from Science and Technology have the same problems at low level. In addition, the students from Science and Technology have low level of administration problems, whereas the remaining students have the problems at moderate level.

2. A comparison of the students' problems among the four faculties reveals that there is no significant difference at the .05 level.

3. The solution to the instructor problems can be done by using team teaching, authentic materials, and the Internet; the solution to the learner problems by using easy

English, using synonyms and explanations provided in the text; the solution to the curriculum and textbook problems by considering the learners' needs, and by having the students design their own curriculum; and the solution to the administration problems by reducing class size, holding staff meeting regularly, conducting prediction study, and using technology.