

Thesis Title: A SURVEY OF ENGLISH NEEDS FOR ACADEMIC USE OF NURSING
STUDENTS AT KUAKARUN NURSING COLLEGE

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Abstract

The purpose of this study is to identify the academic English needs of nursing students at Kuakarun Nursing College. Information was sought regarding language uses, problems, wants or expectations in term of content and methodology for the English course.

The procedure for collecting the data involved administering questionnaires to four groups of informants. Two groups consisted of nursing students and the other two were composed of teachers at Kuakarun Nursing College. One student group was made up of 173 fourth year students studying for a diploma in the Public Health Nursing and Midwifery Program whereas the other was composed of 125 fifth year students taking the One-Year Extension Course for a diploma in Nursing Science (equivalent to a bachelor's degree). One teacher group consisted of 73 full-time teachers and the others consisted of 63 part-time teachers.

The findings indicate that nursing students generally have academic English language needs and problems ranging in degree from little to great. According to all groups of informants, reading and translating are the skills greatly needed. In the opinion of both student groups, listening, speaking and writing are also great needs while both teacher groups consider listening and writing as moderate needs and speaking as a little need.

In the view of all groups of informants, listening, speaking and translating are great problems. Both groups of students regard writing as a moderate problem and reading as a little problem. Both groups of teachers think that writing is a great problem. Full-time teachers rate reading as a great problem but part-time teachers rate it as a moderate problem.

With regard to the English course, informants of all groups generally want a great improvement in terms of content, methodology and time such as content useful to the profession, more students' participation in classroom activities etc.

Given the results of the present investigation, a tentative interpretation might be that the present English program at Kuakarun Nursing College has not adequately prepared students to cope with their academic tasks in English and more work has to be done to improve the situation.