

Thesis Title A Survey of Problems and Practices
 of Teaching English in Large Classes

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ABSTRACT

Large classes seem to be a considerable cause of English teaching problems in many parts of the world, including Thailand. Teachers in secondary schools in particular have to encounter the educational policy of increasing the number of students for each class and extending the period of compulsory education. This study has been carried out to survey the problems related to large classes and the possibility of remedying those problems. Thus, teachers of

English in 95 secondary schools under the Department of General Education were chosen to assess the actual situation in large classes by questionnaire in two forms: Form A for the head of the English subject and Form B for the teachers in both lower and upper secondary levels. The result of the survey showed that large class size is a particular problem that can be remedied by the policy of increasing the number of teachers, so that, the number of students in a classroom is 21-30, which as teachers judge to be the optimum number. The difficulties resulting from the actual class size are the teachers' workload, controlling the class, giving students' individual attention and learning achievement. The physical constraints are the number of periods of teaching and teaching different courses in different levels. The survey showed that teachers mostly used grammar-translation, audio-lingual and communicative approaches eclectically. Techniques in which teachers can control procedures and materials and the familiar teaching aids are frequently used in large classes. School policies needed to remedy the problems are judged to be beyond the control of individual teachers.