

Thesis Title            A Survey of Opinions on Preferred  
Learning Styles and Course Materials  
in English of First-Year Nursing  
Students, Mahidol University, in the  
Academic Year of 1989

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#### ABSTRACT

This study was an investigation of the Nursing students' opinions on preferred learning styles and on present English course materials. The instruments used in this study were questionnaires administered to 159 first-year students in the Faculty of Nursing Science, Mahidol University, in the academic year of 1989. The subject group represented 67.9 % of the total population of 234 students. The results of the study were as follows:

1. The majority of the students were female and between 19 and 21 years of age. Approximately 43 % of the students began studying English in the fifth grade, and about 45 % earned a GPA between 2.5 and 3.4 in the first-year English course.

2. Among four teaching methods discussed in the study, though the students indicated a highest preference towards the Functional-Notional approach and the least preference for the Grammar Translation method, the differences among the preference means were not statistically significant.

3. Two types of background, length of time spent in studying English and first-year GPA in the English course, were found to affect the preferences of the students at the .05 level of significance. Students who had 11 years or over of English language study significantly preferred Audiolingual and Communicative methods, when compared to those who had 6 to 10 years of study. Students whose GPA was high showed a significantly greater preference for Audiolingual method than those who had low GPA.

4. A few improvements in the present English course materials need to be made in terms of more contents, exercises and activities, more emphasis on listening, speaking, and reading skills, and more use of various teaching aids.