

Thesis Title An Investigation of the Current Status of and
 Problems in Implementing Computer-Assisted Language
 Learning in State Universities in Thailand and
 Recommendations for Future Development

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ABSTRACT

The intention of this study was to investigate the status of and problems in implementing Computer-Assisted Language Learning (CALL) in state universities in Thailand and to make recommendations for future development. The subjects of the study were heads of English departments and English language teachers in offices responsible for basic English courses in fourteen state universities. The total number of subjects was 186. The instruments employed were two sets of mailed questionnaires. The questionnaires were assumed to have content validity after being criticized by authorities and revised according to their comments and suggestions coupled with the implications of the pilot study. The reliability of the study was confirmed by internal consistency checking of answers of the questionnaires, and by means of statistics: t-test and Alpha coefficient.

The findings of the present study can be summarized as follows:

Among those participating in this study, only one university had already implemented CALL. The computer was used in three types of activities: used as an educational tool in English classes; provided for students' self-access study; and provided for students' remedial study.

That teachers did not have a clear understanding about the nature of CALL caused problems in its implementation. There were also problems of inadequate budgets and a need for support from administrators. In addition, many mentioned a preference to wait for better CALL programs.

All fourteen universities indicated that they had a future plan for CALL implementation. However, only the university that already used it had an expansion plan for CALL during the period of the 7th National Development Plan (1992-1996), while other institutions reported that they were at the preparation stage for CALL.

Significant recommendations obtained from the informants were that: there should be CALL training for better understanding of CALL's nature; budget allocation should be solved and properly planned; the computer was best suited for self-access and remedial study; and cooperation among educational institutions in purchasing and developing CALL software should be established.

Suggestions, based on results of the present study, for implications in the preparation of CALL implementation are:

CALL seminars/training should be arranged for manpower development. The training should include contents on the nature of CALL; how to integrate it into language classes; how to manage it; and types of activities.

There should be support from administrators in terms of budgets, opportunities to get more information on CALL, and cooperation from the computer center of each university.

Cooperation among universities should be established in developing, purchasing, and sharing CALL software for their mutual benefit. A CALL center should be set up to act as a focal point in this cooperation.