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KESSARA KRISANALOM : THE EFFECT OF ROLE PLAY ON STUDENTS' ATTITUDES, ACHIEVEMENT AND SELF-CONFIDENCE IN SPEAKING ENGLISH. THESIS ADVISORS : MAURICE M. BROUGHTON M.A., DHANAN CHANTRUPANTH M.A. 108 p. ISBN 974-661-456-8

This study is an investigation of the effect of role play on students' achievement and self-confidence, and role play's effects on students' attitudes towards speaking English.

The subjects for this study were 50 M.5 students studying in the Science-Mathematics programme at Chonburi "Sukkhobot" School. They were divided into two groups. One group was taught English through role play and the other was taught English with the usual classroom practice of teacher-centered instruction. The research instruments were an oral test, a language learning behaviour questionnaire and an attitudinal questionnaire. The t-test was used to compare the experimental and the control groups. The results of the study were :

1. students studying through role play exhibited more self-confidence in speaking than those studying through the usual classroom practice of teacher-centered instruction.

2. student attitudes to learning English were enhanced positively by role play activities.

3. students had positive attitudes towards role play as they perceived it as practical and enjoyable to practise speaking.

In conclusion, role play was found to be effective in creating positive attitudes to language learning and in improving students' proficiency in spoken English. Consequently, students' communicative competence increased, especially with regard to oral language skills.