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PONGSAK SAKDA : A STUDY OF THE RELATIONSHIPS AMONG SYNTACTIC KNOWLEDGE, LEXICAL KNOWLEDGE AND LISTENING COMPREHENSION IN ENGLISH OF FIRST-YEAR NURSING STUDENTS, MAHIDOL UNIVERSITY. THESIS ADVISORS : MAURICE M. BROUGHTON, M.A., ANCHULEE SUWANDEE, Ph.D. 82 P. ISBN 974-664-707-5

This study investigates the relationships among syntactic knowledge, lexical knowledge and listening comprehension in English of first-year nursing students attending Mahidol University. It also aims to formulate an equation to predict listening comprehension performance of the subjects by using syntactic and lexical knowledge as the predictors.

The subjects of the study were 87 first-year nursing students in 1999 academic year from the Faculty of Nursing, Siriraj Hospital and the School of Nursing, Ramathibodi Hospital, taking their first-year courses at the Salaya campus, Mahidol University. The research instruments comprising *The Grammar Test*, a standardized test of the Oxford Placement Test 1, a vocabulary test and a listening comprehension test constructed by the researcher, were employed to collect data. The correlational analyses (Pearson's r) and a related statistical device in this family – multiple regression – were then applied to analyze the data obtained; and all statistical calculations were computed via SPSS for Windows release 9.05.

The results of the statistical analyses indicate significant positive relationship between syntactic knowledge and listening comprehension ($r = .363$), and between lexical knowledge and listening comprehension ($r = .456$). With regard to the proportion of total variation in listening comprehension that is explained jointly by syntactic and lexical knowledge, both word recognition and knowledge of syntactic structures contribute just over a quarter of total variance (27%) to listening comprehension. The multiple regression equation to predict listening comprehension (LC) by using syntactic knowledge (SK) and lexical knowledge (LK) as the predictors in the formation of raw score is:

$$\text{Predicted LC} = 7.595 + 0.367 \text{ SK} + 0.407 \text{ LK}$$

And the equation in the formation of standard score is:

$$Z_{\text{predicted LC}} = 0.259 Z_{\text{SK}} + 0.386 Z_{\text{LK}}$$

To conclude, although knowledge of vocabulary and syntactic structure are important components of listening proficiency, they are not enough to make EFL learners good listeners. There are several factors considered vital in facilitating listening comprehension. Listening is a complex skill that deserves the attention of learners and teachers alike.