

3636026 SCLG/M : MAJOR : APPLIED LINGUISTICS ; M.A. (APPLIED LINGUISTICS)

KEY WORDS : VOCABULARY PROFICIENCY / VOCABULARY TEST / NATURAL SCIENCE CONTEXT / SEX DIFFERENCES

PANITDA REANJAROENSUK: AN INVESTIGATION INTO THE ENGLISH VOCABULARY PROFICIENCY IN A NATURAL SCIENCE CONTEXT OF FIRST YEAR ARTS AND SCIENCE ORIENTED UNIVERSITY STUDENTS.

THESIS ADVISORS: BOOSAKORN VIJCHULATA, Ph.D., NIRAMOL PACHINBURAVAN, Ph.D., KENNETH M. ROSHONG, M.A. 76 p. ISBN 974-662-091-6

The main purpose of this study is to investigate and compare English vocabulary proficiency in a natural science context of first year university students from an arts or science background.

The subjects were 615 first year university students who were randomly selected from the faculties of Medical Science, Arts and Science at Chulalongkorn University, Mahidol University, Kasetsart University and Silpakorn University in the 1997 academic year.

The instruments used in this study were a multiple choice English vocabulary in a natural science context test, a short background questionnaire and a set of interview questions.

The results of test administration were statistically analyzed by using the SPSS PC+ computer program. One-Way ANOVA, t-test and the Student-Newman-Keuls procedure were employed. The findings follow.

Among the three groups of students, the test mean score of the Medical Science group (38.5202) was the highest; the test mean score of those from the Arts group (31.4675) was second; the test mean score of those from the Science group (23.6765) was the lowest.

There was a significant difference in vocabulary proficiency among the three groups of students (from the Faculty of Medical Science, the Faculty of Science and the Faculty of Arts) at  $P\text{-value} < 0.01$ .

There were no significant differences in vocabulary proficiency between male and female students within each faculty. On the contrary, when the test mean scores of male and female students of all three faculties taken as a whole were compared, there was a significant difference in vocabulary proficiency between them at  $P\text{-value} < 0.01$ . The test mean score of male students (32.6308) was higher than that of female students (30.1446).