

ABSTRACT

English Language Use of Thai Government Officials in the Ministry of Education

by

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This research attempts to study the English language use of the foreign relations officers in the Ministry of Education; to survey the English language skill most used and required in the Foreign Relations Section; to investigate the language ability of the officers; and to determine the appropriate language proficiency for their positions. The questionnaires were distributed to 72 foreign relations officers. The Chiefs of the Sections were also interviewed using additional questions concerning the language training policy of the Ministry. Sixty questionnaires were collected. The data was analyzed by the computer program SPSS for Windows. The findings indicate that reading is the most frequently used skill in their current job, followed by writing, speaking, listening and translating skills. Writing skill is regarded as the second most used skill in their current job. However participants indicated that it is the most important skill to improve, especially the skill for writing projects, speeches and academic texts. Translating skill is the least used skill. The findings also reveal that the subjects' language ability is not adequate

for their work requirements. The language ability of the officers was measured at level 3 for all skills, however, the language skill required for their work is level 4. The interview result from the Chiefs of the Sections indicates that the organization should help improve the capability of the officers by setting up training courses to enhance their English language skills.