

Pattarajit Siengsawang 2006: An Investigation of Needs and Opinions of the Academic Writing in the MA/ESP Program at Kasetsart University. Master of Arts (English for Specific Purposes), Major Field: English for Specific Purposes, Department of Foreign Languages. Thesis Advisor: Ms. Chamaipak Maiklad, Ph.D. 135 pages. ISBN 974-16-2010-1

The main aim of this research was to explore the academic writing needs of MA/ESP Program at Kasetsart University. It was hoped the data would reveal the needs of academic English writing for MA/ESP students at Kasetsart University and opinions and suggestions for the academic writing course.

The present study employed a qualitative approach utilizing an interview. The participants consisted of 23 MA/ESP students, ESP 4 and ESP 5, at Kasetsart University. The data were analyzed based on qualitative approach.

This study determined that both groups of MA/ESP students share specific needs and objectives in academic writing in English. The needs to perform are academic-related tasks such as preparation of a thesis, assignments, essays and reports. Students need to master specific types of writing skills in order to satisfy the degree requirements of the ESP program. Therefore, many areas need to be investigated to balance EAP and general English language proficiency for students, in order to ensure maximum effectiveness in expanding their knowledge of general writing to academic writing.

The findings of this study provide a useful resource for curriculum development and material design for an academic writing course for MA/ESP students. The skills developed in this course would allow students to better satisfy the demands for academic writing within their degree program. The study findings also provide useful information for course designers and ESP teachers, to introduce, revise, or develop effective and efficient English academic writing courses and materials for the students.

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Thesis Advisor's signature

