
Research

Three Case Studies of High Achieving Learners of English

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The purpose of this case study was to explore some facilitating factors which contribute to students' excellent performance in English. These factors were : family background, study background, classroom learning behavior, personality, attitude towards and interest in English, and finally I.Q. level. The samples of this case study were three first year students who were studying Foundation English II in the second semester of the academic year 1989 at Chulalongkorn University. They were recognized as highly competent in reading and writing in English, all having received the average of 4.00 in English in their high schools. They also received A's in Foundation English I, or had passed the CULI Exemption Test. In addition, they got 85% or above and were ranked first, second, and third in their Foundation English II mid-term test. Data were collected from different study tools, namely an I.Q. test and three sets of questionnaires asking about the students' history, the problems they thought they had, and their learning strategies. They were also interviewed for personal information, some of the data were obtained from their peers, their parents, and observation of their classroom participation.

The findings can be summarized as follows:

1. The samples had special personality traits which contributed to their excellent performance in English. The most vivid one was their strong intrinsic motivation which was largely due to past experiences and their existing environment. They were also very patient, especially in doing long and repeated tasks.
2. Their I.Q. levels were considerably high.
3. They could cope with the problems encountered.
4. They had a strong interest in English ever since they were young, and, as Foundation English II students, they were very attentive.

Most of the results, however, are far from being conclusive on theoretical terms. Further consecutive studies on this topic are being conducted.

A CALL FOR PAPERS AND AN INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE

in
The International Conference
on
**Explorations and Innovations in
ELT Methodology**

Hosted by
Chulalongkorn University
Language Institute
Bangkok, Thailand

OBJECTIVES

The aims of the Conference are as follows:

- i) to share views on innovations and explorations in English language teaching methodology,
- ii) to disseminate information concerning new approaches, designs and techniques used for ELT,
- iii) to explore every conceivable avenue to maximize the possibility of achieving the goals of English language teaching and learning, and
- iv) to generate both theoretical concepts and practical ideas that are conducive to the advancement of English language teaching and learning.

THEMES

- i) Approaches, designs and techniques of ELT
- ii) Current ELT research
- iii) Conceptual and technological advancement in ELT
- iv) Reappraisal of the applicability and usefulness of past methodological practices
- v) New challenges in ELT methodology

GUEST SPEAKERS

Some of the guest speakers include :

- Dr. Henry Widdowson, the University of London
- Dr. Douglas Brown, San Francisco State University
- Dr. Sandra Savignon, University of Illinois
- Dr. Christopher Candlin, Macquarie University
- Dr. David Nunan, Macquarie University
- Dr. N.S. Prabhu, National University of Singapore
- Dr. Jack Richards, City Polytechnic of Hong Kong

PROCEDURE FOR SUBMISSION OF PAPERS

A 200-word abstract together with a 50-word curriculum vitae should be sent to CULI, post-marked no later than 1 September 1991

The Conference Committee will inform proposers by 30 September 1991 whether their proposals have been accepted.

The complete texts of papers selected for the Conference should be sent to CULI no later than 31 October 1991. If they are not received by this date, the committee reserves the right to withdraw them from presentation.

REGISTRATION FEE

Pre-registration

Overseas speakers	US \$	100
Overseas participants	US \$	150
Local speakers	TH \$	500
Local participants	TH S	800

(post-marked by 1 November, 1991)

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