

RESEARCH ABSTRACTS

Thesis Title : An Analysis of the English Proficiency Test for Graduate Students, Thammasat University, Academic Year 1983
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Year : 1984
Grant : Institutional Research, Thammasat University

Purposes

This research aims to analyze the structure and the test items of the English Language Center's Graduate English Proficiency Test Form 2 (GEPT). Another objective is to study what aspects in the cognitive domain are evaluated by the GEPT within the framework of Bloom's Taxonomy, and lastly, to study the general characteristics of the variables and their relationships with the scores on the test battery.

Procedures

The research tools are the GEPT and the questionnaires prepared by the research group. The GEPT was administered as a screening test to the candidates for graduate study at Thammasat University for the 1983 academic year. The systematic sampling of the test papers yielded 1,912 samples. The questionnaires were answered and returned by 352 candidates who were admitted to study in the graduate programs in the same academic year.

Findings

The study shows that most of the test items are discrete-point items, which test the English proficiency mainly at the knowledge and understanding levels in Bloom's Taxonomy. The item analysis shows that the GEPT is a highly reliable test with the reliability index at .915 (KR 20) and 68 out of a total of 100 items have difficulty and discrimination indices within acceptable ranges ($P = .20$ to $.80$; $r = .30$ and above). The study of the questionnaires indicates the relationships between a number of variables and the test scores.

It has been recommended that the University's administrators should define the objectives for its language admission test so as to provide the test writers with clear guidelines for the improvement and construction of later test batteries. Another recommendation concerns the revision and standardization of the existing GEPT. More studies of certain variables in the questionnaire are also recommended.

Thesis Title : A Follow-up Study of Bachelor of Arts Graduates Majoring in English, Faculty of Liberal Arts, Thammasat University
The Researcher: : Amara Poovatanasedj
Year : 1985

Purposes

The purposes of this research were, first, to study the process of entering the job market and the job distribution of Thammasat University graduates majoring in English; second, to study the application of knowledge and experience gained from courses to their fields of work; and finally, to study the opinions expressed by the graduates concerning the curriculum.

Procedures

The subjects consisted of 169 Bachelor of Arts graduates who majored in English at Thammasat University, Faculty of Liberal Arts during the academic period B. E. 2522-2526. A questionnaire was used as an instrument for collecting data and was responded to by 71.31 percent of the graduates. The data obtained from the graduates who responded was analyzed in terms of percentages.

Findings

The major findings were as follows:

1. 72.19 percent of the graduates used their own abilities in obtaining their present job. The source of information leading to job placement was mainly from the mass media (36.69%).
2. 49.11 percent of the graduates worked in privately-owned companies. 65.9 percent of the graduates' work was relevant to their field of study such as secretarial work (18.34%), teaching (12.43%), airline business (6.51%), foreign relations (4.73%), correspondence (2.96%), and public relations (2.37%).
3. Most graduates integrated the four language skills in their work.
4. Most graduates agreed that of the required departmental courses, those in Listening-Speaking (37.28%) and Structure (37.73%) were the most useful and the courses from the Department of Linguistics were more useful than those from the Department of English Language and Literature.

Recommendations

1. The curriculum should be improved by adding courses concentrating on English for Specific Purposes and by providing professional experience for the students.
2. There should be extra-curricular activities in order to encourage the students to see the importance of preparing themselves for their future careers.
3. There should be regular follow-up studies of the students majoring in English.

Thesis Title : The Syllabus and Teaching of English for Graduate Students at Thammasat University

The Researchers : Kusumal Rajatanan
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Year : 1984

Grant : Institutional Research, Thammasat University

Purposes

(1) the study of the needs of graduate students and faculty in teaching and learning English; (2) the survey of graduate English course syllabi at tertiary institutions in Thailand, the United States and England, and (3) the proposal for the improvements and development of the existing graduate English courses at Thammasat University.

Procedures

The research into the curriculum and curriculum development in general, English language course design, and English courses for graduate students at tertiary institutions both in Thailand and abroad have been carried out in order to adapt and improve the courses at Thammasat University. Three sets of questionnaires have been distributed to 3 groups of the population to be sampled, namely, the students, lecturers in different faculties, and lecturers of the English department. Apart from this, interviews have been conducted with the Vice-Rector for Academic Affairs, the Board of the Graduate School, students and lecturers.

Findings

- (1) The objective in learning and teaching English at the graduate level is to assist students in their study and research.
- (2) Reading is the most widely used skill whereas listening, speaking and writing are used to a certain extent.
- (3) Besides General English, English courses at the graduate level should incorporate English for Academic Purposes, Study Skills taught in English and English for occupational Purposes, and
- (4) Course improvement should be tailored to the student's individual course of study.