

Purposes

This study was aimed at developing a language test which could differentiate two broad levels of English proficiency of Thai students and at examining the relationships between language proficiency and factors related to the learners, i.e., levels of study (Matayomsuksa 3) and Matayomsuksa 6), types of schooling (government and private), individual schools, programs of study (science and arts,) GPA, sex, and age.

Procedures

The sample consisted of 2799 students from 17 schools in Bangkok. Two pragmatic tests (one in the visual mode and the other in the auditory mode) were used. Each test consisted of two parts. The first part was for the lower level and second part was for the more advanced level. The data analysis was carried out by the SPSS program.

Findings

The data analysis indicated that the instrument showed high reliability and validity. It predicted 82 per cent correctly at the first level and 72 per cent correctly at the second. The optimal level at the first stage of language acquisition was set by the performance of the students of Matayomsuksa 3. They were expected to score 60 per cent for the test of the first level. Similarly, the optimal level at the second stage of language acquisition was set by the performance of the Matayomsuksa 6 students. They were expected to score 50 per cent for the test of the second level.

The correlation coefficient between language skills in the visual and auditory mode was .743. The factors associated with the learners were also found to be significantly related to language proficiency, accounting for 58 per cent for the visual mode and 46 per cent for the auditory mode. The best predictor was the levels of study. Other good predictors were individual schools, age, and GPA. Types of schooling, sex, and programs explained less than 3 per cent. The results of this study support the pragmatic theory stating that language proficiency and extralinguistic factors are inseparable.

Project Title	The relationships between the English Entrance Examinations and the Foundation English Achievement Tests of Chulalongkorn University	
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