

*Pasaa*

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*Pasaa* appears twice a year, in March and October. Contributions should be submitted by January 1st for the March issue, and by July 1st for the October issue. Articles should be typed on single sides of quarto paper, and with double spacing. They may be in English or in Thai, but if in Thai a short abstract in English is required. No payment will be made for any contribution, but authors will receive 20 offprints of their articles. Any contribution falling within the scope of the bulletin (outlined in the editorials in previous issues) will be considered, and questions on problems on which teachers would like expert guidance will be welcomed. In all cases contributions must be signed with the author's real name. Copyright will remain with the Chulalongkorn University Language Institute.

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The address given by Professor Kasem Suwanagul  
Minister of the Office of University Affairs  
at the opening of the National Conference on English for Academic Purposes  
held at the Chulalongkorn Information Centre, April 24-26, 1978

*The Representative of the British Council, English-teaching colleagues, ladies and gentlemen :*

It is a great pleasure to have the honour of welcoming you all to this Conference in my capacity as Minister of the Office of University Affairs. It is regrettable that our numbers had to be limited, but gratifying to know so many people wanted to attend that this had to be the case. The fact that numbers had to be restricted reflects the healthy attitude towards the teaching of English which has developed recently, and the desire to cooperate in this field which was so manifestly obvious in the Seminar held in Chiangmai in May, 1974.

The Conference in Chiangmai was held because it was clear that attitudes towards the teaching of English were changing radically, and it was felt there should be some discussion between institutions at the tertiary level concerning this. The aims were fairly modest and concerned teacher training, policy regarding the teaching of English with respect to other subjects, the administration of departments involved in the teaching of English, the methodology involved in teaching the language, and the standards attained.

Since the seminar in Chiangmai 4 years ago, the aspects of education which were presented and discussed have been reconsidered, and in many instances, suggestions which were made there have been implemented. As a result of the seminar, many institutions have been reorganized structurally, while others have developed new programs and courses of study, many of these in the field of English for Academic Purposes.

It is felt, therefore, that the moment is opportune for all of us who are concerned with the teaching of English for Academic Purposes to get together, review the present situation and what progress has been made, and put matters in perspective if it is found necessary - both inside and outside the Conference Hall.

I was thus extremely pleased to learn that The British Council was willing to host this Conference along with Chulalongkorn University; without their invaluable support, the Conference might not have taken place.

The sponsors of this Conference hope we will have a chance to discuss together how best to teach English to students who need the language to pursue their major course of study. This, for example, may be one of the sciences, business, law, or medicine. In each of these fields the English used tends to be subject-specific at the professional level. Or is it? This may be one point worth considering. But whether it is or not, the techniques involved in teaching reading and communication have to be discussed as these skills are of paramount importance.

However, more generally, we hope that after this conference, just as after the 1974 seminar in Chiangmai, discussion and cooperation between us all will increase, and ideas will be exchanged. Perhaps this conference will be a catalyst, resulting in follow-up workshops which enable teachers in the same field, but from different institutions, together in small groups in order to discuss material preparation and exchange ideas.

I would like to add, however, that the British Council is not the only organization interested in promoting the teaching of English, nor is Chulalongkorn University the only institution in this country devoting its utmost to this field. Cooperation between us all is essential - not only in the form of an exchange of academic ideas, but in the form of a real desire to work together. Let this Conference on English for Academic Purposes be the start of a joint effort to this end, to be followed by many others in the future.

Again, I'm very happy to welcome you all. Thank you.

## INTRODUCTION

In 1974, CIEL (Central Institute of English Language) held a Conference in Chiangmai on English for Specific Purposes, with the active support of the British Council. This Conference was arranged because it was widely felt that a new approach should be made to the problem of students at tertiary level who need English to help them pursue their studies. The Conference dealt with techniques for teaching English for study purposes and attendant administrative reorganization, the teacher training necessary to implement the new methodology, and evaluation procedures.

Since that time there have been many developments in the field, and a great increase in the number of institutions developing materials specifically for this kind of English teaching.

Accordingly it was felt that a National Conference on English for Academic Purposes (EAP) would provide a valuable opportunity for practitioners and interested observers to get together, exchange ideas and set up channels of communication for future seminars and workshops.

The British Council and Chulalongkorn University Language Institute co-sponsored the National Conference in EAP from April 24-26, 1978, and the Conference was held at the Chulalongkorn University Information Centre. Invitations were sent out to all universities and other major tertiary level institutions and relevant government departments to read a paper if they wished.

In the event, papers were read by lecturers from Chiangmai, Chulalongkorn, Mahidol and Silpakorn Universities, King Mongkut's Institute of Technology, the Asian Institute of Technology and the Department of Technical and Economic Cooperation. An international flavour was added by papers from the Regional Language Centre, Singapore, and the British Council, Madras, India.

About 170 participants and observers attended the Conference, from government departments, and educational institutions all over Thailand.

One of the most exciting aspects of the Conference was the amount of teaching materials presented by the speakers to supplement and exemplify their papers. This ensured that all participants were fully able to appreciate the nature of the work being done, and that they carried away with them a tangible record of the Conference.

This edition of *Pasaa* is devoted to the paper presented at the Conference. All the papers have been revised and shortened for reasons of space.

During the questions and subsequent discussions after each paper, a number of topics were touched on. Many people were concerned about the standard of English in secondary schools, and with how the schools could help to prepare their students to study academic subjects in English. There was some confusion about the terminology in current EAP development, not only amongst the participants but also the speakers. Most of the speakers were using a functional-notional approach to their work, but the validity of this was often criticized. Not all participants felt that focussing on meaning at the expense of form at a relatively early stage provided the strongest base for development.

Turning to the materials in EAP courses, there was discussion on how much the students' attention should be directed to conscious language analysis of the materials. The subject matter raised some questions. Many believed it should be authentic, drawn from the relevant field, but others preferred either to adapt according to their theoretical and pedagogical approach or write specially designed passages.

There was considerable uncertainty as to how EAP courses could be tested, and, from a wider perspective, how to evaluate the courses, materials, and teachers, especially in the light of student's observed needs.

Opinions varied on the use of Thai in the classroom, and the minimum acceptable level of pronunciation.

Looking towards the future, it was hoped that other conferences and seminars would take place, though there was some dispute as to their form: for example whether they should consist of papers followed by discussion, or of workshop sessions. It was widely felt that further coordination and information exchange should take place, and it was hoped that CULI would be able to take on an increasingly national role to fulfil this aim.

## EDITORIAL COMMENTS

At the time of the organisation of the Conference, it was not clearly known what each of the speakers would talk about. Therefore they were asked to speak in a somewhat arbitrary order. The papers published in this edition, however, are not sequenced in their original order of presentation at the Conference. Rather, the editors have attempted to group the papers with reference to theme although the individual papers do not lend themselves easily to any single neat classification.

The papers have been divided into three main areas: (I) developments in English for academic purposes in India and Thailand; (II) basic and applied research pertinent to the local EAP situation; and (III) descriptions of course and materials design coupled with sample course materials, which constitute a large proportion of the Conference materials. The papers in this last group are juxtaposed according to the institution which the speakers represented since in some cases the papers from the same institution seem to follow logically from one another.

The Conference at which these papers were given marked an important step forward in the teaching of English at the tertiary level in Thailand. The sponsors hope that as a result of this Conference, cooperation and exchange of ideas and materials will develop further to the mutual benefit of all involved in the teaching of English for academic purposes.

Suraprom Puangmali  
Tom Cowin

Bangkok  
September 29, 1978