

English Communicative Skill Development Needs of Thai EFL Teaching Staff in a Private University in Bangkok

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ABSTRACT

With the rising demand of pursuing international education in Thailand from abroad, the university of this study tries to respond to this trend by asking the basic question of “What is the current situation regarding English communicative skills of EFL teaching staff at the target university?” If there is a gap between the target proficiency and the existing one, “What corrective actions should be implemented to close all those gaps?”

Therefore, this study has been shaped with a clear purpose and intention. This study has three aims: (1) to study the “needs” of the teaching staff, (2) to explore the “lacks” of the teaching staff, and finally (3) to present the “wants” of the teaching staff of the target university in English communicative skills. English communicative skills here refer to reading, writing, listening, and speaking skills. This study adopts the research framework proposed by Hutchinson and Water (1987) in their needs analysis approach in combination with a guide from Kaewhansa’s research (2021). The nature of the study is a quantitative analysis mixed with a focused group of deans in this university to derive valid and reliable instruments.

The questionnaire was the main instrument used for this study. A total of 74 valid questionnaires sampled via purposive sampling were used in the statistical analyses. The research results showed that the teaching staff perceive themselves as having fair levels of overall English communicative skills. The research also found that they are deficient in listening and speaking skills. This finding proves that they are only using English communicatively for “routine” tasks not for academic tasks. Moreover, the research also provides more insights into the “needs”, “lacks”, and wants of the teaching staff in this university. Pedagogical implications and recommendations are also presented in the study.

Keywords: English Communicative Skills, Teaching Staff, A Thai Private University