

A Study of Effect of Dramatic Activities on Improving English Communicative Speaking Skill of Grade 11th Students

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Abstract

This paper aimed to reexamine the current EFL communicative speaking skill in high school level in Thailand due to the coming of the entry to ASEAN at the end of the year 2015. Thai students need to be well prepared for workforce in the future since English is used as the working language in ASEAN. The purposes of this paper were to study the effect of dramatic activities on improving English communicative skills of grade 11th participants and to examine students' opinions towards the use of dramatic activities in their speaking class. The duration of experiment was 21 hours within 7 weeks. The research instruments were lesson plans using dramatic activities, English communicative speaking test and a questionnaire measuring students' opinions towards the teaching based on dramatic activities. The findings were that the English communicative speaking skill on grade 11th students after attending the teaching class using dramatic activities was significantly higher than before attending the teaching and the students' opinions towards dramatic activities on speaking were highly positive.

Keywords: dramatic activities, English communicative speaking skill, English speaking teaching

1. Introduction

In a global society currently, English is an international language spoken throughout the world and it plays important role in the people's ways of life. From the influence of information technology and communication, English becomes so important because it is the means of communication, knowledge seeking from various sources including career (Wonglekha, 2010). Now there are 53 nations using English as an official language (Martin, 2002). Moreover, Graddol, a British linguist, did his research entitled, "English Next" for British Council and mentioned that the trend for English learners will increase continually and expect that in the 10-15 years ahead (in the years of 2015-2030) there will be 2 billion learners worldwide; that means the population of the earth realizes the importance of English in the globalization because it is the key in searching for knowledge and communication.

English is not only important globally but also regionally like ASEAN regions, it becomes more important stating in the ASEAN Charter article 34 (Senate, 2012) stating that "The working language of ASEAN shall be English" that means English is used as the means for communication among ASEAN nations in terms of government sectors as well as other organizations related both in government and private sectors; therefore, English is the first priority for the people of ASEAN to create such relationship without borders in terms of geography and culture, and the world of competitiveness. English becomes a second language as important as the first language of each nation.

The Ministry of Education in Thailand has focused the development of learners' capacities in higher secondary school students from grade 10-12 especially in foreign languages particularly English enabling learners to communicate (Office of Basic Education, 2010) including the policy designation of the year of speaking English 2012 as English Speaking Year 2012 (Khruajanyod, 2011). From the needs of using English for communication, the development of English curriculum is a must by promoting the instruction emphasizing on more