

## Abstract

The research on the teaching and learning of Foreign Languages (Learner Component) in 17 provinces in the Northern region of Thailand was conducted to ascertain the general situation of foreign language teaching and learning in the region. The data for the study were obtained from questionnaire responses of 277 foreign language learners studying at the tertiary level during the academic year of 2004.

It was found that the majority of the respondents showed a positive attitude towards foreign language education and recognized the significance of foreign language education for improvement of class performance, preparation for further education, and future employment. Although the findings indicated that the respondents were successful in their classroom performance, it was shown that they were inadequately prepared for language use in real situations, whether in daily transactions, future academic endeavors, or future careers. The skills that respondents needed to improve the most were speaking and listening.

It is therefore concluded that the aim of foreign language education for most foreign language learners is mainly for examination purposes. Moreover, they are inspired by instrumental motivation not integrative motivation. It is recommended that further studies regarding learners' classroom activities and behaviors be conducted in order to help them achieve not only effective cognitive competence but also capable performance in a foreign language.