

English as a Lingua Franca Elicited in ASEAN Accents

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Abstract : This study explores attitudes towards ASEAN plus ONE (namely ASEAN plus China) accents of English as a Lingua Franca. The study draws attention to features of ASEAN's diversity of English and specifically examines the extent of which the English accent in ASEAN countries of three of the ten members plus one were perceived in terms of correctness, acceptability, pleasantness, and familiarity. Three accents were used for this study; Chinese, Philippine and Thai. The participants were ninety eight Thai students enrolled in a foundation course of Suan Dusit Rajabhat University, Bangkok Thailand. The students were asked in questionnaires to rank how they perceived each specifically ASEAN plus One English accent after listening to audio recordings of three stories spoken by the three different ASEAN plus ONE English speakers. SPSS was used to analyze the data. The findings of attitudes towards varieties of English accent from the 98 respondents regarding correctness, acceptability, pleasantness, and familiarity of Thai English accents found that Thai accent was overall at level 3 ($X = 2.757$, $SD = 0.33$), %Then Philippines accents was at level 2 ($X = 2.326$, $SD = 16.12$), and Chinese accents w2as at level 3 ($X 3.198$, $SD = 0.18$). Finally, the present study proposes pedagogical implications for teaching regarding awareness of 'Englishes' of ASEAN and their respective accents and their lingua cultural background of instructors.

Keywords : English as a lingua franca, English accents, English as an international language, ASEAN plus one, ASEAN English varieties

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