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Subject of Research Project: English as A Lingua Franca and English-medium Instruction: A Comparative Study on Practices and Perceptions in The Japanese and Thai Higher Education Institutions

This project attempts to investigate English as a lingua franca (ELF) use among lecturers and students in English medium instruction (EMI) programs in the Japanese and Thai Higher Education Institutions (HEIs); to identify perceptions of university students on the ELF use in EMI programs in the Japanese and Thai HEIs; to compare the ELF use among the lecturers and students in the Japanese and Thai HEIs; and to compare the perceptions of university students on the ELF use in the Japanese and Thai HEIs. This survey study which is a cross-sectional study employs a mixed-methods approach. Purposively, Japanese HEIs institutions where have academic collaborations with the institution of the researcher were chosen based on availability of EMI programs in the Humanities discipline. Thus, there were both Japanese and Thai undergraduate students and lecturers invited to the study.

The key findings reveal that (1) the Japanese students tended to be humbler to mention that their speaking, listening, and writing skills as well as vocabulary knowledge were at satisfactory level. On the other hand, the Thai students were confident that their English language skills were slightly better. (2) Most Japanese, and Thai students agreed that English belongs to whoever uses it and recognized that different people and cultures use English differently. (3) More than a half of them asserted that the English that they use has its own characteristics with influence of the national language. (4) However, both groups recommended their universities to offer them more language support, particularly academic writing. They had also similar opinions that their lecturers should have native-like language proficiency to teach all courses in English, and their lecturers should also take an English language proficiency test. (5) In addition, both Japanese and Thai lecturers confirmed that English still plays a vital role in terms of more job opportunities for the young people who aim to work for international organisations or even the local companies. (6) Both groups also pointed out that native-speakerism is not prevalent among EMI lecturers. They believed that effective communication is more important than speaking English like native English speakers. (7) Most lecturers thought that English belongs to any users regardless of lingua-cultural backgrounds. (8) The Japanese lecturers believed that in the future, English language will still be inferior to Japanese language whereas the Thai lecturers predicted that English would become more important in education, particularly the tertiary level.

In summary, this project demonstrates how English is used in ELF academic settings in those EMI programs in the Japanese and Thai HEIs where the sociolinguistic reality of English is recognized.

Publication of the Results of Research Project:

Verbal Presentation (Date, Venue, Name of Conference, Title of Presentation, Presenter, etc.)

N/A

Thesis (Name of Journal and its Date, Title and Author of Thesis, etc.)

1. Rajprasit, K. English and English medium education: Japanese students and lecturers' perspectives (in preparation and to be submitted to a journal in 2023)
2. Rajprasit, K. Studying English medium instruction programs in non-Anglophone universities: Japanese and Thai exchange students' hands-on experiences (in preparation to be submitted to a journal in 2023)

Book (Publisher and Date of the Book, Title and Author of the Book, etc.)

N/A