

CHAPTER V

Conclusion

Globalization has encouraged the local entities to think beyond their nations. As the private sector corporations are gaining ground and becoming more competitive due to the ever changing world of economy and regional integration, the ability to use English language effectively is very much required to remain employable. Communication skills are very much needed for one's professional growth. The ability to express fluently in both written as well as oral form of the language is very much essential for the career growth. The very fact that English is becoming the most commonly used language in the corporate world; the knowledge of English has also become one of the most important employability skills. Due to the ASEAN integration, there is an urgent need for Thai prospective workers to address their weak English proficiency so that they can stand in an advantage position in the labor market or face threat of losing out in a matter of few years to come.

In order to prepare students and professionals in response to ASEAN integration, it is imperative that Thailand provide them with opportunities to improve their mastery of the English language. With English competency, the employment and promotion possibilities for a Thai professional, with comparable knowledge and skills, will no longer be limited to his own country but will also expand to the nine other ASEAN member states.

The general importance of language-related human capital becomes apparent with empirical evidence on the labor market effects. For both developed and developing countries, studies demonstrate a positive effect of literacy on wages and employment probabilities that go beyond the

effect of associated formal education. This micro evidence is accompanied by macro evidence linking the economic growth to literacy rates as a crucial driver of economic development.

The specific importance of English language in the labor market has been fueled by ongoing globalization. International trade in goods and services, tourism, and migration flows increase the importance of English language skills. Foreign language skills are crucial in reducing search and information costs, as well as establishing long run business relations. This is especially true for English as the commonly accepted lingua franca in international trade. Proficiency in English languages is rewarded by employers especially jobs that are related to service, tourism, and trade sector.

Taking into account the responses by the subjects of this study, it is clear that graduates from the university are struggling in the local labor market due to their low level of English skills. An implication of this study for educational institution is that future labor force success in improving English proficiency partly lies in the revitalization of English language teaching. English language should not be seen by institutions of higher learning as just a mere subject. Rather, it should be seen and treated as a vital factor used in giving the students a competitive edge in the labor market. The emphasis should be on functional English usage courses. The syllabus should focus on practical oriented exercises and real life situations than mere study of grammar and the rules.