

CHAPTER FOUR

RESULTS

This chapter reports the results of the study. The data collected from 50 respondent are summarized in table form with descriptions. The study is aimed at finding out the needs of the officers at the Office of the National Security Council of Thailand in studying English. The results shown below consist of two parts; the first part is general background of the respondents and the second part is their needs in studying English.

4.1 GENERAL BACKGROUND

The respondents in the study were 50 officers at Office of the National Security Council Thailand. In this part, the data of gender, age, education, experiences in studying English and overall English ability are show.

Table 1. Gender of Respondents

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	29	58.0
Female	21	42.0
Total	50	100.0

According to the table, most of respondents were male (58.0%) and the rest were female (42.0%). This is because, there are more male officers than female officers serving in the NSC.

Table 2. Age of the Respondents

Age(years)	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Less than 25	4	8.0
26-30	10	20.0
31-35	12	24.0
36-40	10	20.0
more than 40	14	28.0
Total	50	100.0

Table 2 shows that the majority of the officers in this study were aged over 40 (28.0%). The next greatest numbers were aged between 31-35 (12%). There were 4 officers aged less than 25 years old (8.0%).

Table 3. Highest Education of Respondents

Highest Education	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Mattayom 6	0	0
Vocational Degree	1	2.0
Higher Vocational Degree	2	4.0
Bachelor's Degree	24	48.0
Master's Degree	23	46.0
Total	50	100.0

Table 3 indicates that the biggest number of officers, that is 24 officers (48%) hold a Bachelor's degree. Twenty-three officers (46%) obtained a Master's degree with 4% Diploma and 2% Certificate levels.

Table 4. Experience in Studying English of Respondents

Experience in studying English	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Less than 5 years	9	18.0
5-9 years	10	20.0
more than 10 years	31	62.0
Total	50	100.0

Table 4 shows that many of the officers (62%) had experience in studying English more than 10 years. A smaller number of officers (20%) and (18%) had studied English for 5-9 years and 9% less than 5 years.

Table 5. Opinion of Their Own English Background by Respondents

English background knowledge	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Poor	15	30.0
Fair	21	42.0
Good	13	26.0
Very Good	1	2.0
Total	50	100.0

According to table 5, 42%, of the officers rated their English knowledge and skills as fair and 30% thought they were poor whereas 13% rated their English as good and 1% rated their English as very good.

Table 6. Methods used to Improve English Skills in Daily Life

Methods	Frequency	Percentage (%)
None	14	28.0
Watch TV news in English	10	20.0
Listen to English radio broadcasts	7	14.0
Listen to English songs	8	16.0
See English soundtrack movies	5	10.0
Surf website in English	5	10.0
read English journals/newspaper	1	2.0
Total	50	100.0

Table 6 shows that 28% of the officers never improve their English in their daily lives. However, the most popular method used to practice English of the officers is watching TV news in English (20%) followed by listening to English songs (16%), listen to English radio broadcasts (14%), seeing English soundtrack movies and surf website (10%), and the least popular method used is to read English journals/newspapers (1%).

4.2 NEEDS IN STUDY IN ENGLISH

Table 7. Needs in Studying English

Needs in studying English	Frequency	Percentage (%)
No need to study	4	8.0
Need to study because of work	15	30.0
Need to study because of interest	31	62.0
Total	50	100.0

According to table7, most respondents need to study English but the majority want to study English because of their personal interest (31%) whereas 15% need to study because of work and 4% have no need to study English.

Table 8. English Skills Needed to Improve

English skills	Weighted Scores	Rank
Listening	80	1
Speaking	78	2
Reading	74	3
Writing	72	4

Table 8 shows that most of the officers need to practice all skills but with listening skills ranked first, followed by speaking, reading and writing skills respectively.

Table 9. Time Period for an English Classes

Time	Frequency	Percentage (%)
4 days/week	7	14.0
4 days/week	4	8.0
3 days/week	21	42.0
2 days/week	12	24.0
1 day/week	6	12.0
Total	50	100.0

Table 9 indicated that 42% of officers thought they needed to practice English 3 days a week.

Table 10. Daily Time Period for English Courses

Language used	Frequency	Percentage (%)
5 hours/day	2	4.0
4 hours/day	1	2.0
3 hours/day	3	6.0
2 hours/day	30	60.0
1 hours/day	14	28.0
Total	50	100.0

From table 10, we can see that most respondents (60%) agreed that studying English for 2 hours per day is most appropriate.

Table 11. Language Used by Instructor

Language used	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Using only English	18	36.0
Using mostly English and Thai when necessary	24	48.0
Using mostly Thai and English when necessary	7	14.0
Using only Thai	1	2.0
Total	50	100.0

According to table 11, most of the officers (48%) prefer their instructors to use mostly English but Thai when necessary. The next largest number needs their instructors to use only English (36%) and the lowest number preferred the instructors to use only Thai (2.0%).

The results of table 12 to table 15 are shown by mean scores and standard deviations. The scale and mean scores can be interpreted as follows:

Scale	Mean range	Level of needs
1	1.10 - 1.50	no need
2	1.51 – 2.50	little need
3	2.51 – 3.50	moderate need
4	3.51 – 4.50	extensive need
5	4.51 – 5.00	very extensive need

Table 12. Mean Rating of Types of Listening Activities Preferred in English Courses

Listening Activities	Mean	S.D.
Listen to daily conversation	4.20	1.050
Listen to TV/VDO news	3.90	0.909
Listen to academic lectures	3.80	1.069
Pronunciation	3.86	1.030
Listening to English songs	3.28	1.051
Watching English soundtrack movies	3.70	0.931

Table 12 shows that most of the officers preferred practicing listening to daily conversation (4.20), listening to TV news/VDO (3.90), pronunciation (3.86), listening to academic lectures (3.80), and listening to English soundtrack movies in English course. Listening only to English songs is moderately needed.

Table 13. Mean Rating of Types of Speaking Activities Preferred in English Courses

Speaking Activities	Mean	S.D.
asking and answering questions for work	4.28	1.011
daily conversation	4.20	1.030
presentation	3.88	0.872

Table 13 indicates that the speaking activities extensively needed to be practiced are asking and answering questions (4.28), followed by daily conversation (4.20), and presentation (3.88).

Table 14. Mean Rating of Types of Reading Activities Preferred in English Courses

Reading Activities	Mean	S.D.
Speed reading	3.32	0.957
Reading for main idea	4.24	0.916
Critical reading	3.86	0.904
Getting the meaning of words from context	3.78	0.910
Reading English newspapers	3.86	0.881
Reading English academic books	3.68	0.891

According to table 14, the need level for reading activities of officers most extensively need is reading for the main idea (4.24), followed by reading English newspapers, critical reading (3.86), getting the meaning of words from context (3.78), and reading English academic books (3.68). Only speed reading was moderate needed.

Table 15. Mean Rating of Types of Writing Activities Preferred in English Courses

Writing Activities	Mean	S.D.
Reviewing grammatical structure	4.06	0.843
Taking notes from lectures	4.12	0.799
Taking notes from textbooks	3.74	0.876
Writing essays	3.82	0.850
Writing official letters	4.08	0.944
Writing e-mail	3.84	0.842

According to table 15, for writing activities all officers most need are taking notes from lectures (4.12), followed by writing official letters (4.08), reviewing grammatical structure (4.06), writing e-mail (3.84), writing essays (3.82) and taking notes from textbooks (3.74).

Table 16. Personal Preference for Types of Class Activities

Activities	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Individual	10	20.0
Groups	32	64.0
Pair	6	12.0
Whole class	2	4.0

Table 16 shows that the majority of officers (64%) prefer to do activities in groups followed by individual (20%), in pairs (12%) and as whole class (4.0%).

Table 17. Preferred Materials in Studying English

Materials	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Tape recorder	1	2.0
VDO/VCD	21	42.0
Picture/posters	4	8.0
Newspapers/magazines	11	22.0
whiteboard	13	26.0

Table 17 indicated that 42% of the officers prefer learning English by using VDO/VCD, 26% prefer studying with whiteboard, 22% like to study with newspapers/magazine, 4% want to learn English with picture/posters, and 2% with tape recorder respectively.

Table 18. Preferred Topics of Studying English

Topics	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Culture	8	16.0
History	11	22.0
Politics	14	28.0
Tourism	11	22.0
Sports	5	10.0
Food	1	2.0

According to table 18, the highest percentage of officers (28%) wants to study English concerning politics and the two groups of (22%) want to discuss historical and tourism topics, followed by culture (16%), sports (10%) and food (2%).

Table 19. Preferred Activities

Activities	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Language games	9	18.0
Drilling	36	72.0
Role play	1	2.0
Singing English songs	4	8.0

According to table 19, the most highly preferred activity is drilling practice 72%, (18%) like language games, whereas (8%) prefer singing English songs, and role play (1%).