THE LEARNING AND TEACHING OF SECOND FOREIGN LANGUAGES FOR LANGUAGE MAJORS: THE CASE OF CHINESE AND ENGLISH IN HO CHI MINH CITY UNIVERSITY OF EDUCATION

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1. Background
2. Research questions
3. The survey & limitations
4. Results & Analysis
5. Conclusion
6. Q & A
1. BACKGROUND
BACKGROUND

• The world: Globalisation

• Vietnam:
  ✓ rapid economic growth
  ✓ ‘Vietnam wants to be a friend with everyone’
  ✓ Decision 1400/QD-TTg: Project 2020
• Document 91/DHSP-DT (01/04/2013) for foreign language majors upon graduation:
  ✓ Major foreign language: 5/6 (CEFR C1)
  ✓ Second foreign language: 4/6 (CEFR B2)
BACKGROUND

• Foreign language departments in HCMCUE:
2. RESEARCH QUESTIONS
1. Is it possible for the students to meet the expected graduation requirements?
2. What are the students’ and teachers’ view of the classes and the satisfaction with the facilities?
3. How can the situation be improved?
3. THE SURVEY & LIMITATIONS
THE SURVEY

• Online with links spread via Facebook
• 5 questions with versions for students and teachers
• Number of responses:
  o 92 students
  o 06 teachers
LIMITATIONS

• Small scale research
• Limited number of participants, especially teachers (06)
• 5 questions cannot cover every issues
4. RESULTS & ANALYSIS
1. WHAT LANGUAGE DO YOU LEARN/TEACH FOR THE SECOND LANGUAGE MODULES AT HO CHI MINH CITY UNIVERSITY OF EDUCATION?
Chinese is most favoured by the students

- Rising prestige
- Close geographical, historical, cultural and economic relations between Vietnam & China
- Most students in the English Department choose to study Chinese
2. IN YOUR OPINION, WHICH LANGUAGE SKILLS ARE MORE FOCUSED ON IN YOUR CLASS?

**Students**

- Listening: 18
- Speaking: 29
- Reading: 59
- Writing: 67

**Teachers**

- Listening: 4
- Speaking: 5
- Reading: 4
- Writing: 4
• A gap in the views of the teachers (Ts) and students (Ss)
  • Ss: most time for Reading & Writing
  • Ts: a balance between the skills
3. IN YOUR OPINION, IS IT POSSIBLE FOR STUDENTS TO REACH THE GRADUATE’S FOREIGN LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY LEVEL?

### Students

- Yes: 8
- No: 49
- Do Not Know: 35

### Teachers

- Yes: 1
- No: 5
- Do Not Know: 0
• Ts and Ss: impossible to reach the required level
• Many Ss are ignorant of the outcome
4. IN YOUR OPINION, DO THE UNIVERSITY FACILITIES MEET YOUR EXPECTATION FOR LEARNING/TEACHING SECOND FOREIGN LANGUAGES?
• General trend: neutral & dissatisfied

• Ts are less negative towards the facilities
5. In your opinion, how can we ensure the achievement of the expected language proficiency level?

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<tr>
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<th>Students</th>
<th>Teachers</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Spending more time on communicative skills (65)</td>
<td>Improving learning methods (All)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Improving learning methods (50)</td>
<td>Improving facilities (5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Providing extra materials (44)</td>
<td>Providing extra materials (3)</td>
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<td>Motivating the students; renovating the examination format with additional parts of Speaking and Listening; re-arranging the learning time</td>
<td>Renovating the examination format; changing the textbooks; organising placement tests</td>
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REMARKABLE SUGGESTIONS

• New textbooks and materials with more communicative practice

• Improve the facilities

• Ts: placement tests
5. CONCLUSION
IS IT POSSIBLE FOR THE STUDENTS TO MEET THE GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS?

NO

× 4 modules (240 periods) from the beginning: not enough

× Ss and Ts’ views regarding the skills teaching time: different

× Facilities: not quite satisfied
HOW TO IMPROVE THE SITUATION

• Be realistic & practical in setting the graduation outcome

• More CLT: more suitable for learning (Richards and Rodgers, 1986:72) & better chances to study than grammar-based approach (Richards, 2006: 12).
HOW TO IMPROVE THE SITUATION

• Apply technology: blogs, social network pages, forum, MOOCs

• Extra curricular activities: speaking clubs, eloquence contests…
REFERENCES


Vietnam’s Prime Minister (2008) *Decision on ratifying the project ‘Foreign languages teaching and learning in the national education system from 2008 to 2020’*, 1400/QD-TTg, Hanoi: Prime Minister.
6. Q & A

You have Questions
We have Answers