

IMPROVING LEARNERS' PRODUCTIVE SKILLS IN ENGLISH LANGUAGE TEACHING THROUGH PROJECT-BASED LEARNING AT FOREIGN TRADE UNIVERSITY – HCMC CAMPUS

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ABSTRACT

This article presents the results of a study on the current application of Project-Based learning (PBL) in the teaching of English productive skills to students at the Foreign Trade University - Ho Chi Minh City Campus and how students can improve them. The research also provides insights into the expectations of students and entrepreneurs on that matter. The research group used the 5-point Likert scale in a questionnaire to collect data from students and interviewed FTU - HCMC's English teachers and entrepreneurs to give further suggestions. Wilcoxon signed-rank test was used to analyze whether or not there is a significant difference in students' English productive skills before and after trying PBL. This study found a significant difference in speaking skills of FTU - HCMC students before and after participating in PBL activities. The learners improved their comprehension, range and ability to deliver their ideas to the target reader for writing skills. However, no difference was found in their content, cohesion, and accuracy. The information collected from interviewing the teachers and entrepreneurs supported the implementation of PBL in schools. Overall, PBL is encouraged in educational settings in this research, especially in the field of Business or Economics.



Dang Thi My Dung (M.A. in TESOL, University of Canberra, Australia) (MBA, University of Bolton, UK) has been an English lecturer of Department of Foreign Languages, Foreign Trade University, HCMC Campus for nearly fifteen years. She has actively involved in teaching the courses of Business Communication, English language skills, Translation – Interpretation, English for Specific Purposes (English for Banking and Finance, English for Business Administration, English for Accounting, English for International Business, English for Marketing,...), Business Correspondence, International Business Contracts, etc. She has been working as a part-time interpreter for more than five years. Currently, she is a PhD student of University of Bolton (UK). Her research interests focus on English Language Teaching and Banking and Finance.

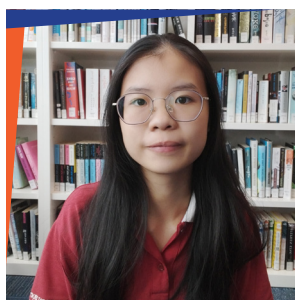
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Vu Thi My Hao is the final-year student whose major in International Finance at Foreign Trade University - HCMC. She has been participating in doing scientific research for three years on various topics such as customer behavior, credit risk management and language learning skills. Currently, she is working at Bao Viet Corporation as a Learning and Development intern. Besides, she has been working as a part-time English tutor for more than two years. Her research interests are mostly in language learning skills.

She is also interested in customer behavior psychology, soft skills (compromise, presentation, and empathy), and financial products.

Phan Thi Nhat Phuong is a senior at Foreign Trade University - HCMC, majoring in International Finance. She has done research for two years in many subjects, especially involving in English Language Teaching and Learning, corporate finance, and credit risk management. She is a Business Banking Credit Intern at United Overseas Bank Vietnam at present.



Pham Nguyen Khanh Thuong is a senior in International Finance at Foreign Trade University - HCMC. She has been actively involved in doing scientific research for two years, along with her peers and lecturers. Her research focuses on English teaching methods to risk management in banking system. Currently, she is an intern at HSBC - Global Payment Solutions Department whose main responsibility is cash management solutions for clients.

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