

English as Lingua Franca in Southeast Asia: Shifting Attitudes and Negotiated Identities

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The opening of the country's borders within the ASEAN region, together with the promotion of increased student mobility and of international linkages, would result to even greater exposure of Filipino students to students, teachers, and researchers from different parts of the world, the majority of who are speakers of English as a Lingua Franca (ELF). ELF refers to a means of communication between people who came from different first language backgrounds (Jenkins, 2012). Recognizing the vital role of ELF in the ASEAN community, this study explores and understands our very own students' attitudes towards ELF. With the growing number of students from the ASEAN Plus Three countries coming to the university, it is crucial that due attention is paid to the study of UPLB students' attitudes towards ELF, as these attitudes may also reflect their attitudes towards ELF speakers. Also, as more and more opportunities for international cooperation and linkages come into the country, brought by ASEAN Integration 2015, it is also just as important to examine the identity(ies) revealed by our own students when engage in communication with foreign counterparts. In this regard, a selected population of the UPLB BA Communication Arts students is selected to take part of the study. The student-participants are asked to answer a survey questionnaire and a portion of that population is again invited to take part on the verbal-guise test and the interview. Results of the study present pedagogical implications to the teaching of English as a Lingua Franca.