

Bless you! Why? : A Case Study of Thai English learners' Understanding of Basic English Pragmatics as a Foreign Language

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A successful conversation does not only require semantic meaning, but also pragmatic meaning. To fully understand and be able to appropriately communicate, a language user needs to interpret what is not explicitly stated by putting the situational context to good use in clarifying ambiguous words, phrases, or sentences. Dubiously, Thai English learners at undergraduate level are able to interpret English pragmatic, even basic daily English expressions. Therefore, this study aims to disclose Thai English learners' level of English proficiency, focusing on their understanding of basic English expressions with underlying pragmatic meaning. For the data collection, 100 university undergraduate students are employed as the participants. A set of questionnaire is acted as a test to subconsciously elicit students' understanding in the implied meaning of pragmatics. Findings then highlight the actual ability of students in understanding pragmatic meanings. This study hopes to illuminate the importance of pragmatics along with teaching and learning pragmatics to ELT in Thai classroom context.