

## IMPROVING THE DEVELOPMENT OF SPEAKING SKILL FOR NON- NATIVE SPEAKERS.

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**Abstract:** Speaking is one of the four macro skills to be developed as a means of effective communication in both first and second language learning contexts. In the English as a Foreign Language (EFL) pedagogy environment, how to increase speaking competence and confidence for undergraduate students tends to be a crucial question among instructors. This concern led to a qualitative research design as an action study in a regular course employing a task-based approach. The findings indicated that confidence, creativity of topics, and speaking competence were the key aspects of improvement when speaking to the audience.

**Keywords:** English speaking development; factors enhancing EFL/ESL speaking skills.

Speaking is one of the four macro skills necessary for effective communication in any language, particularly when speakers are not using their mother tongue. As English is universally used as a means of communication, especially in the internet world, English speaking skills should be developed along with the other skills so that these integrated skills will enhance communication achievement both with native speakers of English and other members of the international community. Because of the significant role of speaking in action, Bailey (2005) and Goh (2007) detailed how to enhance the development of speaking by means of syllabus design, principles of teaching, types of tasks and materials, and speaking assessment

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In the Thai context of learning English as a Foreign Language (EFL), instructors regularly ask the question why the majority of undergraduate students are unable to speak English confidently, especially for communication in real situations

with international speakers. One among many reasons to take into consideration might be a lack of confidence in terms of anxiety about making errors as stated by Trent (2009) and in other related studies. Basically, most Thai undergraduate students have studied English for approximately 8-10 years before entering the tertiary level. Based on the question of how to increase the speaking confidence and competence of undergraduate students, an initial informal interview was conducted with a group of EFL university students on the factors expected to enhance their speaking skills. Development of confidence and occasions to speak were among the key responses

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Many foreign-born professionals are looking for work, to advance in their career and speak up and out for the causes they believe in. Non-native speakers of English can experience difficulties in delivering their message when speaking to a group of people on stage, in a board room or during one-on-one conversations. Non-native speakers might hear things like “I don’t understand what you are saying” or “You have a heavy accent”. If you are a non-native speaker of English struggling with your accent, here are 7 tips you can use to improve your English speaking skills and change the way you communicate:

Record what you are saying during your next presentation and listen to it. . When you record yourself, you will pick up on things that you might not have noticed before. Ask a native speaker of English to listen to it. Identify the words that are hard

to hear or understand. Practice pronouncing these words and using them in a sentence. This will help you improve your presentation skills.

Take accent reduction classes to improve your pronunciation so others can understand what you are saying. When you sound clear and articulate, others will listen. An Accent Reduction Course will help you reduce your accent, build confidence and get your point across clearly.

Improve English pronunciation to make sure you speak clearly, and people understand what you are saying. The more you speak like a native speaker, the easier it is for the locals to understand you.

Get a speaking partner who can help you improve English communication skills by helping you see and hear the things you are not picking up on. Someone who can call you out when you say a word wrong, aren't pronouncing things correctly or using the wrong grammar. Ask for feedback anytime you are speaking to get better at communicating. If you speak too fast it slurs your words together and on top of your accent it can be hard to digest what you are saying. Remember slow down, pause, and enunciate your words. The findings in this section were derived from interviews conducted with the course participants. Building up confidence in speaking to an audience was mainly reported as a factor that strengthened speaking performance. The tasks based on speaking for special communication in a variety of situations designed into the course also helped participants to prepare for speaking, and once each speaking task was well-prepared, this preparation became an effective strategy to minimize anxiety, and thus maximize speaking confidence. When speaking English in an EFL context was taken into consideration, it was not surprising that the study revealed that confidence played an important role. Promoting speaking confidence, together with appropriate task design, was recommended for the English skills development of EFL/ESL learners. Other out-of-class factors that enhanced participants' speaking included frequent listening to English materials, such as listening to music, watching movies, listening to the radio, watching television programs, and accessing multimedia websites. Previous studies supported the finding that speaking and listening skills were usually intertwined in terms of language learning and development. In addition, suggestions for EFL learners' speaking improvement included a variety of course activities, encouragement for more exposure to listening through media, and seeking opportunities to speak in real situations. Moreover, practice and exposure to both listening and speaking activities in real world situations appeared to be a practical method to promote speaking confidence.

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