Abstract

This study explores the discussion process of out-of-class group speaking tasks which aims to investigate the nature and the quality of student-student speaking interaction during the process of cooperative group discussing. 24 subjects of this study were from the Business Chinese Department of Assumption University in Thailand, who enrolled the course of Chinese Advanced Listening and Speaking in the first academic year of 2010. Data was collected by audio recording the students' group discussion process.

Findings of the study showed student work highly cooperatively. The lower ability students frequently participated in the group discussing. The higher ability students play a more important role during the working process. The higher ability students were able to assist the learning of their lower ability peers, especially on promoting understanding tasks, meaning making, pronunciation correcting and interpreting. The study also found that the students' interaction lacked exploratory talk about the tasks.

It provides the evidence that mixed language level students can study together successfully, but teachers should give more guidance on cooperative working skills.

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