

THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN PRIMARY 5 AND 6 STUDENTS' PERCEPTIONS OF PARENTAL ENCOURAGEMENT AND THEIR ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT IN MANDARIN LEARNING AT AN INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL, BANGKOK

Jingji Zhang¹

Richard Lynch²

Abstract: This research investigated the relationship between students' perceptions of parental encouragement and their academic achievement in Mandarin learning at an International School, Bangkok during term 2, and 2014-2015. The study focused on three objectives. The first was to identify the level of student perception of parental encouragement to learn Mandarin in primary 5 and 6. The second was to identify the level of student academic achievement in primary 5 and 6 Mandarin learning. The third was to determine if there was a significant relationship between primary 5 and 6 students' perceptions of parental encouragement and their Mandarin academic achievement. In order to collect data, the researcher employed a parental encouragement questionnaire adapted from Gardner's Attitude/Motivation Test Battery (AMTB). For the students' academic achievement in learning Mandarin, the researcher used the students' Mandarin academic achievement scores at the end of term 2 in school year 2014- 2015. The findings indicated that there was a significant relationship between primary 5 and 6 students' perceptions of parental encouragement and their academic achievement. The article concludes with recommendations for practice and for future research.

Keywords: Parental Encouragement, Academic Achievement, Mandarin, Primary 5-6 Students.

Introduction

Parental encouragement plays a significant role in children's education. Parental support is considered a critical strategy for improving student performance. This research investigated the relationship between students' perceptions of parental encouragement and their academic achievement in Mandarin learning at an International School, Bangkok during term 2, and 2014-2015.

Objectives

Three objectives informed the study design, procedures and findings, as follows.

- 1 To identify the level of student perception of parental encouragement to learn Mandarin in primary 5 and 6 at an international school in Bangkok.

¹ M.Ed. Candidate in Curriculum & Instruction, Graduate School of Human Sciences, Assumption University, Thailand
jingjulep@gmail.com

² Assistant Professor, Graduate School of Human Sciences, Assumption University, Thailand
richardlynch@alumni.usc.edu