

Abstract

This study entitled, “An Interactive Functional Analysis of Conversations in Burmese University Level English Textbooks” looks at whether the conversations in the two sets of conversation textbooks (English Spoken Course Level-2 written by Burmese writers and the Interchange series written by native speakers of English) used in Burmese university level EFL classrooms, reflect natural conversation or not and to what extent they can help the learners to be able to produce a more robust and effective conversation. In order to see if the conversations from the above mentioned textbooks reflect natural conversations or not, the communicative purposes of the books, predominant goals of the dialogues and the management flow of the conversation are analyzed from the perspective of interactive functions (applied speech acts) and dominant exchange structure strategy (four processes in negotiating meaning). The English Talk Day Data is used as a yard stick in evaluating the communicative goals found in the textbooks to examine, to what extent the textbook conversations reflect transactional and interpersonal communicative goals. The research discovers that the textbooks are fairly interpersonal but still limited, de-emphasizing suasive goals and rather weak on the management of the conversation flow. Other issues are considered such as cultural related issues, propaganda issues and direct translation issues in the Burmese written textbook.