

## ABSTRACT

This study looks at an intensive training program for students who are intending to take the O-Net and A-Net exams for entry into universities in Thailand. The study describes an improvement of students in the pre-test, intermediate test, and post-test and use of materials and techniques in what are commonly called cram schools.

The study was conducted at Abacus Language School, Bangkok, using pre-test, post-test, observations, Video tape recordings, and the resulting data were transcribed and analysed. Another group was studied in Khon Kaen, at the same Abacus Language School, and this was intended to be used as a control group for the experimental group. The course ran for a period of three months.

Based on the analysis of data, it could seem that classroom interaction was crucial in terms of language learning and this is particularly true for cram schools.

The preparedness and the effectiveness of the teacher can have a profound effect on the improvement of the skills obtained by the students. The Khon Kaen group, which was used as a control, was not fully studied in the end as the teacher in question had given the answers from the pre-test and this obviously affected the post-test. But what is interesting about this study is that cram schools seem to have a place in society here as students do improve their English skills over a relatively short period of time and therefore do obtain access to the universities.