

# **A CORRELATIVE STUDY OF MOTIVATION FOR LEARNING CHINESE ACCORDING TO ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT AND PARENTAL ENCOURAGEMENT AMONG GRADE FOUR TO GRADE SIX STUDENTS AT LADPRAO BILINGUAL SCHOOL (LBS), BANGKOK, THAILAND**

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**Abstract:** Parental encouragement has been shown to have a positive relationship with students' learning motivation and their academic achievement. This study examined the level of the students' Chinese learning motivation, the student's perception of parental encouragement and the relationship among parental encouragement, Chinese learning motivation and academic achievement. The researcher used a questionnaire as the main instrument for data collection. One hundred and thirteen students at Ladprao Bilingual School (LBS) grades four to six in the academic year 2014 participated in this study. The collected data were analyzed by mean, standard deviation, and Pearson-Moment Correlation. The findings indicated that the level of the students' Chinese learning motivation was high. Also, the students had a relatively high level of the perception of parental encouragement. The findings showed that a significant relationship existed among the students' Chinese learning motivation and academic achievement, students' perception of parental encouragement and Chinese learning motivation, students' perception of parental encouragement and academic achievement. Recommendations for both practice and future research are provided.

**Keywords:** Motivation for Learning, Academic Achievement, Parental Encouragement, Second Language Acquisition, Learning Theories.

## **Introduction**

Family members' behaviors, lifestyles, learning attitudes, educational levels, as well as parents' educational methods and expectations for their children's education and other factors influence students' interests in learning and have long-term effects on children's learning (Chen, 2010). For young children, family is the cradle and parents and older siblings are their first teachers. Parents' words and acts have both direct and more subtle influences on their children. Family environment is important for a child's healthy growth. The family is the primary environment for students to grow. Therefore, the family environment is critically important for children to grow healthily.

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