

# **A COMPARISON OF COMMUNICATION APPREHENSION WHEN USING THAI AND ENGLISH OF THAI TEACHERS OUTSIDE BANGKOK, THAILAND**

**Sucharat Rimkeeratikul<sup>1</sup>**

<sup>1</sup>Assoc. Prof. Dr., Thammasat University, Thailand

## **Abstract**

Teachers are supposed to lead students and manage the class effectively so that students can learn very well. More specifically, when students learn their second language (L2), teachers are supposed to be their role models. In this study, L2 refers to the English language. However, communication apprehension (CA) levels of English as the Second Language (ESL) in either the first language (L1), which is Thai or L2 (English) might be an obstacle for some teachers. McCroskey (1977) defines communication apprehension as "an individual's level of fear or anxiety associated with real or anticipated communication with another person or persons". Communication apprehension construct has been one of the most studied in the field of interpersonal communication and also in many other various fields. The most obvious effects of communication apprehension are internal discomfort, avoidance or withdrawal from communication situations. Communication apprehensive people are unlikely to be successful in whatever careers they are holding. Generally, the role of teacher is similar to that of leader as in most situations teachers are required at least a moderate degree of communication with other people. Thus, low talkers are perceived to be poor teachers. Moreover, researchers have found that CA levels in L2 are likely to be higher than those in L1. As a result, in this study, CA in L1 and CA in L2 among Thai teachers outside the capital of Thailand, Bangkok, were investigated. In addition, CA in L1 and CA in L2 were compared through the application of t-test.

**Keywords:** CA in L1, CA in L2, ESL Teachers, Outside Bangkok, Thailand