THAI STUDENTS' LEARNING OF ENGLISH SUBJECT-VERB AGREEMENT

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ABSTRACT

Thai students always find it particularly difficult to understand the concept of subject-verb agreement when studying English. In Thai, this grammatical difficulty does not exist, and it is therefore difficult to introduce to learners that have Thai as their native language. Such a problem leaves the question of which approach of teaching should be applied when it comes to teaching subject-verb agreement.

This study based on the texts of 100 Thai first, second, and third year students at an international college of whom 45 were interviewed. The aim is to find out how the students reflect on their own written work with a focus on subject-verb agreement with a particular focus on the third person singular s.

The results show that the 45 interviewed students claim that they never reflect on grammar in their spontaneous writing, and that they never consciously try to apply rules that they have studied in classroom through being offered grammatical explanations. Instead they make their grammatical choices intuitively, using their procedural knowledge.

Key Words: English learning, subject-verb agreement, Thai students, procedural knowledge, learner awareness.