

The Off-Campus Strategy in Teaching Thai as Foreign Language: A Case Study of Chinese Students Studying in Khon Kaen University

16-17 October 2014

Faculty of Economics
Matej Bel University, Banská Bystrica

Mr. Itsarate Dolphen

itsdol@kku.ac.th

**Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences,
Khon Kaen University, Khon Kaen 40002,
Thailand**

The Off-Campus Strategy in Teaching Thai as Foreign Language: A Case Study of Chinese Students Studying in Khon Kaen University

Introduction

Research Data and Data Collection

Methodology

Results

Conclusion

Introduction

- English is not only taught as a foreign language for Thai students in Khon Kaen University (KKU), Thai is also instructed as a foreign language for foreign students who are from China, Japan, Vietnam, Lao PDR, Singapore and even from Western countries.

- Learning new languages is not difficult but teaching language effectively is more difficult.

The Objectives of the Study

- to observe and describe how the off-campus strategy increases the ability of learning Thai language and culture.
- how the indigenous knowledge of the local Thai-native speaking people plays a crucial role in developing the ability of learning language of Chinese students.

Research Data and Data Collection

observation and in-depth interviews

28 Chinese students

10 Local Thai native speakers

Methodology

- The Chinese students will be taught in Thai both in classroom and off-campus.
- The off-campus strategy is proposed as a learning technique in learning Thai culture.
- Within 10 months in Khon Kaen University, they have participated in two major festivals as Loi Krathong festival and Songkran festival
- At least one time a month, they learnt Thai language and culture by the off-campus activity.

Learning Thai as a Foreign Language

- There are so many language families spoken in Thailand but only Tai languages are spoken widely.
- Only the Central Thai or standard Thai is taught in school and promoted as the national and official language of Thailand.
- The Chinese students who are from Xi'an International Studies University are learning Thai in Khon Kaen University as foreign language. They had an opportunity to study Thai in Khon Kean University for 10 months. .

Results

1. The knowledge of Thai language or Thai language proficiency
2. The knowledge of Thai culture
3. The attitude to learning Thai culture

Table 1: Self-evaluation of Chinese Students in regard to Thai language proficiency before and after visiting Khon Kaen University

Questions	Excellent (5 points)		Good (4 points)		Satisfactory (3 points)		Poor (2 points)		Worst (1 point)	
	*Bef	*Af	Bef	Af	Bef	Af	Bef	Af	Bef	Af
1) How many Thai words do you know?	0	2	1	20	17	4	10	2	0	0
2) How can you speak Thai fluently and correctly?	0	3	2	21	16	2	10	2	0	0
3) How good is your Thai accent?	0	3	4	17	12	6	10	2	2	0
4) How well do you understand Thai accent in normal speed?	0	8	5	18	13	1	10	1	0	0
5) How well do you understand when you read Thai text books or articles?	0	6	5	20	18	2	5	0	0	0
6) How correctly do you spell Thai words?	0	5	7	19	14	3	7	1	0	0
7) How well do you response in Thai fluently with a Thai-native speaker?	0	4	4	18	11	5	11	1	2	0
8) How well do you give your opinion or criticize any topic in Thai?	0	4	2	19	14	4	10	0	2	1
9) How well do you understand Thai expressions and slangs?	0	2	2	19	7	6	14	0	5	1
10) How good is your Thai language proficiency to be rated?	0	3	2	18	11	6	15	0	0	1

Fig. 2: Self-evaluation of Chinese students in regard to Thai language proficiency after visiting Khon Kaen University

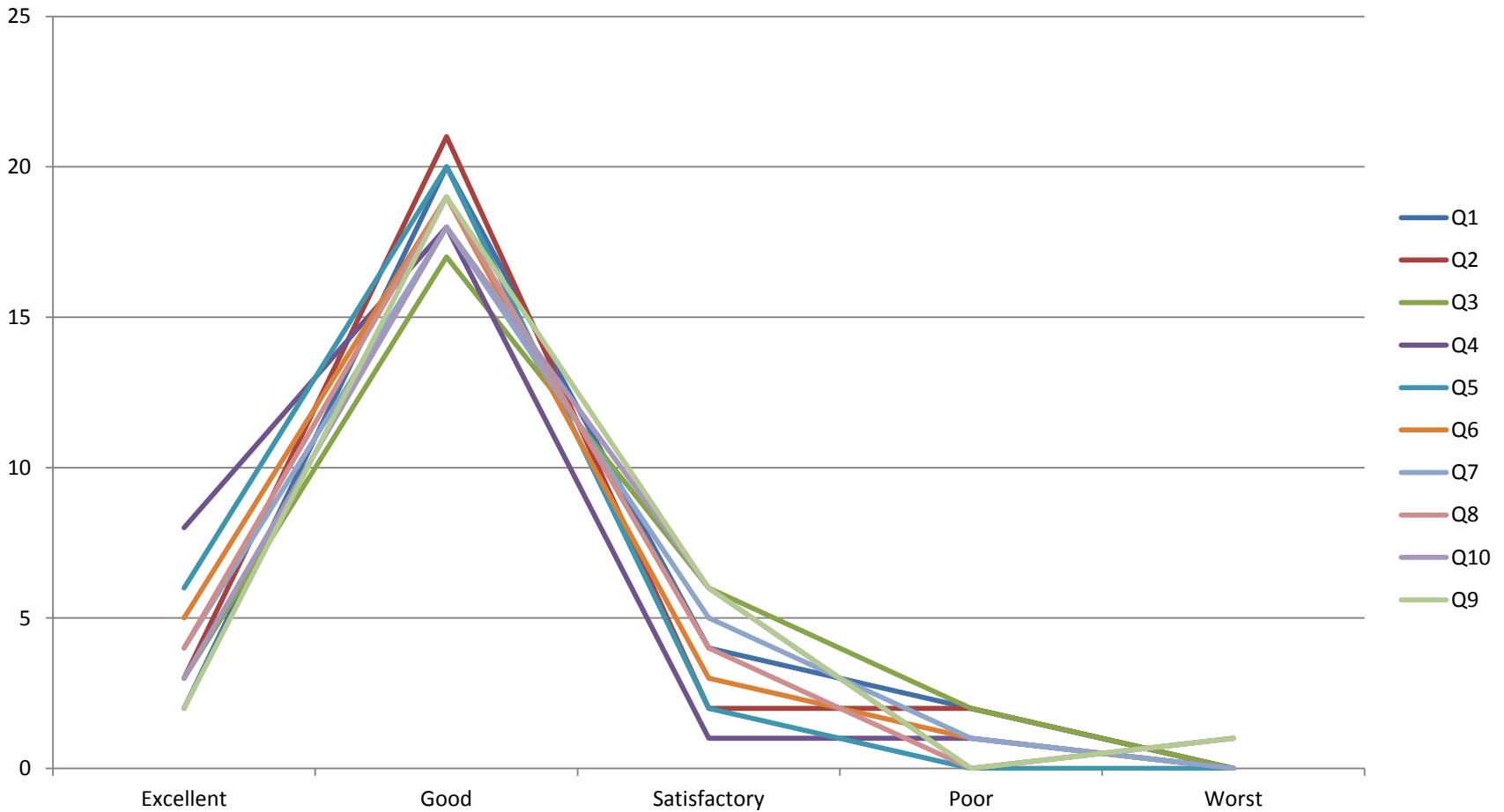


Table 2: Self-evaluation of Chinese students in regard to the knowledge and attitude of learning Thai culture before and after visiting Khon Kaen University

Questions	Excellent (5 points)		Good (4 points)		Satisfactory (3 points)		Poor (2 points)		Worst (1 point)	
	Bef	Af	Bef	Af	Bef	Af	Bef	Af	Bef	Af
1) How much do you know about Thai tradition and culture?	0	4	3	20	12	4	11	0	2	0
2) How much do you know about Thai ways of life?	0	6	3	21	13	1	11	0	1	0
3) How much do you know or are familiar with habit/behavior/ Thai ways of life?	0	6	2	19	10	3	14	0	2	0
4) How much do you appreciate Thai culture?	0	11	7	16	10	1	11	0	0	0

Fig. 3: The off-campus learning activities of Chinese students



Fig. 4: Self-evaluation of Chinese students in regard to the attitude of learning Thai culture before visiting Khon Kaen University

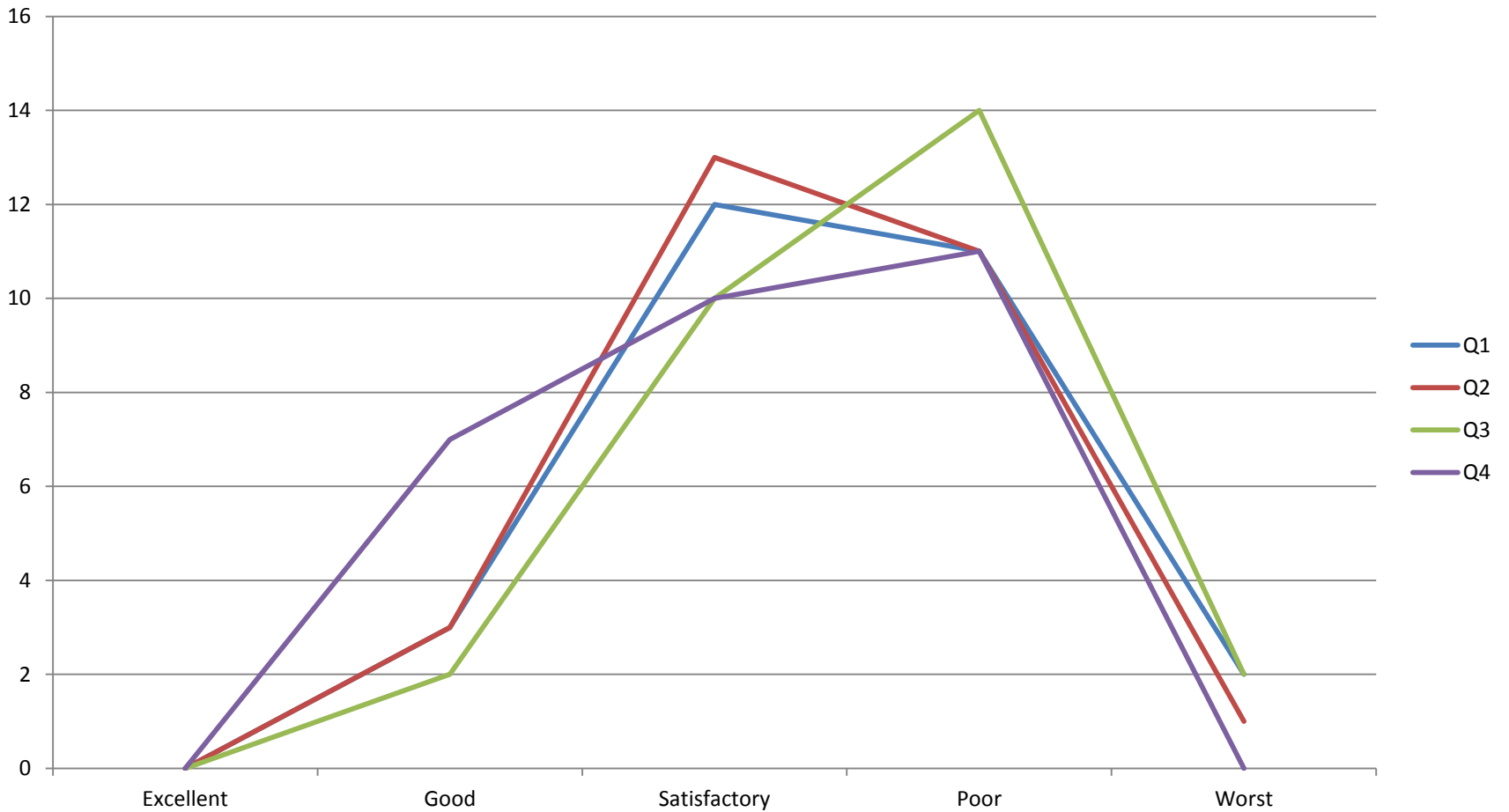
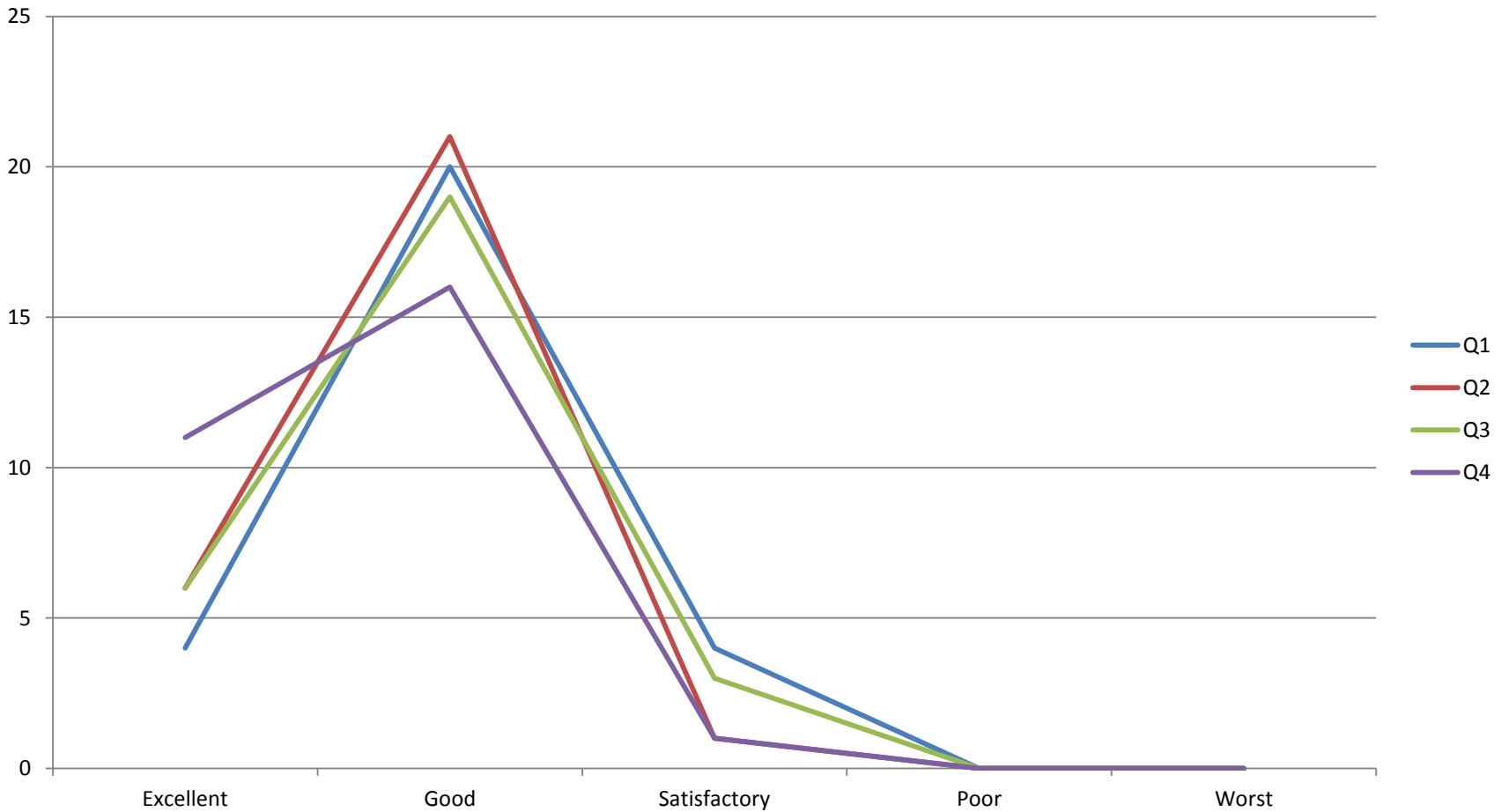


Fig. 5: Self-evaluation of Chinese students in regard to the attitude of learning Thai culture after visiting Khon Kaen University



Conclusion

Teacher can put the off-campus activity in a language learning class either for short periods or full program. It is good for students not only for changing the atmosphere of learning language but also giving a good opportunity to develop all four skills of using language in real situations.

Reference

- DICKINSON. L. 1996. *Self-Instruction in Language Learning*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- LEWIS. M. 1999. *How to Study Foreign Languages*. Malaysia: Macmilian Press Ltd.
- NUNAN. D. 1994. *The Learner-centered Curriculum*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- SCHELLEKENS. P. 2007. *The Oxford ESOL Handbook*. China: Oxford University Press.
- TOMLINSON. B. 2003. *Materials Development in Language Teaching*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- YALDEN. J. 1995. *Principles of Course Design for Language Teaching*. The United States of America: Cambridge University Press.

Thank you for your attention

