

THE BENEFIT OF USING CODE-SWITCHING IN TEACHING ENGLISH FOR LAO STUDENTS DOING A COURSE IN VIETNAM

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ABSTRACT

Thanks to ASIAN integration trend, many students come from other countries to Vietnam for pursuing their studies. The demand to use one efficient language for teaching is very essential. In practice, English is likened to a global language or in other word it can be thought as “lingua franca’ now, so it is employed as a medium of instructions in these classrooms where foreign students, who have enrolled without sitting for the English placement test, are doing their courses in Vietnam. In order to make up for the deficiency in level of English proficiency, code switching is considered as one best solution to this problem. In this limited view of the paper, it will pay special attention to the benefits of allowing code switching in the classrooms where Lao students study English in Vietnam university. It is found out that code switching plays an important role in the teaching of language on the onset to attract the attention of the learners, however, it should be gradually reduced according to the learners’ advancement in English proficiency level. It can be concluded that code switching among English, Vietnamese and Lao is an effective approach to improve the English proficiency of Lao students.

Keywords: Code-Switching, Bilingualism, Second Language Acquisition.