

Title and subtitle:

VIETNAMESE LEARNERS STUDYING ENGLISH AND AUSTRALIAN LEARNERS STUDYING VIETNAMESE: IS THERE ANY DIFFERENCE?

Authors' names

Pham Phu Quynh Na (Ph.D)

Institutional affiliations:

MTC Training Solutions

E-mail address: ppquynhna@yahoo.com

Abstract

Given the fact that Vietnamese learners and Australian learners come from two different cultures, it is expected that there will be substantial differences in learning strategies and learning performance between Vietnamese learners of English and Australian learners of Vietnamese. Both groups of subjects are adult learners who started to learn the foreign language at the beginning levels. The Vietnamese learners came from ESL adult classes who are funded by Australian government to study English in LLNP (Language, Literacy and Numeracy) program. The Australia learners are adult learners of Sydney Community College, who are fee-paying students learning Vietnamese in night-time classes.

The first part of the paper will explore the difference in learning behaviours and strategies between these two groups of learners. The paper is based on the author's observation on the behaviours of these two groups of students in classroom to trace whether the differences are rooted from pragmatic/cultural transference and cultural barriers.

The second part of paper looks at the common errors these two groups of students made to investigate whether language transference is the cause of the errors and whether there is any similarity or differences between these two groups of students.