

การวิเคราะห์ข้อผิดพลาดในป้ายประชาสัมพันธ์ภาษาอังกฤษในพื้นที่ อำเภอเมืองจังหวัด
กำแพงเพชร

An Analysis of Errors in English Signboards in Muang Kamphaengphet

ประดิษฐ์ นารีรักษ์*

Pradit Nareerak

บทคัดย่อ

การวิจัยครั้งนี้มีจุดมุ่งหมายเพื่อ 1. วิเคราะห์ข้อผิดพลาดในป้ายประชาสัมพันธ์ภาษาอังกฤษในอำเภอเมืองจังหวัดกำแพงเพชร และ 2. เพื่อค้นหาทัศนคติของครูชาวต่างชาติที่มีต่อการใช้ภาษาอังกฤษในป้ายประชาสัมพันธ์กลุ่มตัวอย่างประกอบด้วยป้ายประชาสัมพันธ์ภาษาอังกฤษซึ่งรวบรวมภายในอำเภอเมืองกำแพงเพชรจำนวน 36 ป้าย แล้วนำมาวิเคราะห์ข้อผิดพลาดคือข้อผิดพลาดจากการแทรกแซงของภาษาแม่และข้อผิดพลาดภายในภาษาและช่วงพัฒนาการ และสัมภาษณ์ทัศนคติของครูชาวต่างชาติที่มีต่อการใช้ภาษาอังกฤษในป้ายประชาสัมพันธ์ วิเคราะห์ข้อมูลโดยการหาค่าความถี่ ค่าร้อยละและวิเคราะห์เนื้อหา ผลการวิจัยพบว่า 1) มีข้อผิดพลาดทางภาษาอังกฤษทั้งหมด 327 ครั้งซึ่งแบ่งออกเป็น 17 ชนิด ข้อผิดพลาดที่พบสูงที่สุดคือการใช้เครื่องหมายวรรคตอน ร้อยละ 14.68% รองลงมาได้แก่ข้อผิดพลาดในการใช้คำศัพท์ ร้อยละ 14.37% ข้อผิดพลาดในการใช้ตัวอักษรพิมพ์ใหญ่ ร้อยละ 14.07% ข้อผิดพลาดในการใช้คำบุพบท ร้อยละ 10.09% ข้อผิดพลาดในการใช้โครงสร้างกริยา ร้อยละ 8.87% ข้อผิดพลาดในการใช้คำนำหน้านาม ร้อยละ 8.26% ข้อผิดพลาดในการใช้คำนาม ร้อยละ 7.34% ข้อผิดพลาดในการสะกดคำ ร้อยละ 6.42% ข้อผิดพลาดในการใช้คำสรรพนาม ร้อยละ 3.36% ข้อผิดพลาดในการใช้กริยา ร้อยละ 2.45% ข้อผิดพลาดในการใช้คำสันธานและข้อผิดพลาดในการละคำนำหน้านาม ร้อยละ 2.14% ข้อผิดพลาดในการใช้คำเชื่อมในประโยคและข้อผิดพลาดในการละเครื่องหมายวรรคตอน ร้อยละ 1.83% ข้อผิดพลาดในความสอดคล้องระหว่างประธานและกริยา ร้อยละ 1.53% ส่วน ข้อผิดพลาดในการใช้คำขยายนามและการเรียงลำดับคำมีข้อผิดพลาดน้อยที่สุด ร้อยละ 0.31%. เมื่อข้อผิดพลาดถูกแบ่งเป็นสาเหตุหลักๆ ตามข้อผิดพลาดที่เกิดจากการแทรกแซงของภาษาแม่และข้อผิดพลาดภายในภาษาและช่วงพัฒนาการ ผลปรากฏว่าข้อผิดพลาดภายในภาษาและข้อผิดพลาดช่วงพัฒนาการมีความผิดพลาดสูงที่สุด ร้อยละ 93.88% ส่วนข้อผิดพลาดที่เกิดจากการแทรกแซงของภาษาแม่ ร้อยละ 6.12% 2) ทัศนคติของครูชาวต่างชาติที่มีต่อป้ายประชาสัมพันธ์ภาษาอังกฤษพบว่า ความผิดพลาดเล็กน้อยบางประการก็ทำให้เกิดความสับสนในความหมายของประโยคและได้เสนอแนะว่า ควรตรวจแก้ไขข้อผิดพลาดเล็กน้อยรวมถึงการสะกดคำให้ถูกต้องสมบูรณ์ก่อนนำไปติดประกาศเพื่อประชาสัมพันธ์ข้อมูล

คำสำคัญ : การวิเคราะห์ / ข้อผิดพลาด / ป้ายประชาสัมพันธ์

ABSTRACT

The purposes of the research were 1. to analyze errors on English signboards in Muang district, Kamphaengphet province, and 2. to find out and explain the opinions of foreign teachers towards the use of English on the signboards in Kamphaengphet. The samples in the study were 36 English signboards collected within Muang district, Kamphaengphet province. They were analyzed to find out error causes: interlingual errors and intralingual and developmental errors. The interview on the opinions of the foreign teachers towards the English signboards was also conducted. The data were analyzed using frequency, percentage, and content analysis. The findings of the study revealed that 1) there were 327 errors found in the English signboards which could be classified into 17 different types. The errors in the use of punctuations had the highest percentage at 14.68%, followed by errors in the use of vocabularies at 14.37%, errors in the use of capitalization at 14.07%, errors in the use of preposition at 10.09%, errors in the use of verb construction at 8.87%, errors in the use of articles at 8.26%, errors in the use of noun at 7.34%, errors in the use of misspelling at 6.42%, errors in the use of pronoun at 3.36%, errors in the use of verb at 2.45%, errors in the use of conjunction and errors in omission of articles at 2.14%, errors in run on sentence and errors in omission of punctuation at 1.83%, errors in the use of subject and verb agreement at 1.53%, and the errors in the use of adjective and the errors in the use of word order had the least frequency at 0.31%. When the errors were classified into the major causes based on interlingual errors, Intralingual and developmental errors, they revealed that Intralingual and developmental errors had the most frequency (93.88%), followed by Interlingual errors (6.12%). 2) Regarding the opinions of the foreign teachers towards the English signboards, it revealed that some small mistakes may cause confusing in the meaning of the sentence, and they all agreed that the mistakes and the spelling errors should be carefully checked and corrected before posting for the public.

Keywords : Analysis / Errors / Signboard

Rationale of the study

English language plays an important role in Thai education and society in many forms of communication. People who do not know English often lose a good opportunity to access useful information and other job positions with high salary. Business transaction and communication need those who have good knowledge in English. Therefore, many schools and universities develop the curriculums that aim at teaching their students in English in order to prepare them for the future career after their graduation.

Thailand has been a part of ASEAN Economic Community (AEC). So, English has become a language for communication between and within people and organizations in AEC as all members have agreed that English will be the main language for education, business,

investment, tourism and other activities. Therefore, Thai people as the ASEAN members should develop themselves particularly in English language, ASEAN languages, and other languages for communication in the community (Ministry of Education, 2015: 21). In addition, the Ministry of Education has a strategic plan to raise knowledge and skills of teachers, administrators and educational personnel in English language and any other ASEAN languages so that they can apply it for daily communication and their concerned career (Ministry of Education, 2015: 34-35).

It will be a challenge for Thai people to adjust themselves to English language which is undeniable that it is very important in Thai society and ASEAN community in the near future. Therefore, the communicative method in the form of advertisement sign, shop sign, location sign, and service sign must be written in clear and perfect English for clear understanding for those who are not Thai and do not understand Thai language.

Kamphaengphet is a small quiet province with many natural and cultural attractions, and it a part of UNESCO World Heritage Historic Town of Sukhothai and Associated Historic Towns. When tourists visit Sukhothai historical park in Sukhothai province, some of them often come to visit Kamphaengphet province. Therefore, information signboards such as advertisement sign, shop sign, location sign, and service sign are useful for the tourists. Unfortunately, after observing the English signboards around Muang district, Kamphaengphet province, it is found that many of them have some mistakes due to misspelling, word order, or even grammatical structure, which may lead the tourists to misunderstand the intended message and get wrong information.

This indicated that Thai people who learn English as a foreign language often face the problems, particularly in writing because they lack complete knowledge of the second language and its rules. In addition, they often combine their mother tongue or first language structure with the structure of the second language which actually is different from their mother tongue. The different structure of Thai language and English cause Thai people easily make some grammatical errors. Brown (1980, p.165) said that an error is noticeable grammar from the adult grammar of native speaker, reflecting the interlanguage competence of the learners. According to Richard (1974, p.124), the errors occur because of many things that can be grouped as follows: 1) Interlingual errors occur due to the use of elements from one language while speaking or writing another, 2) Intralingual and developmental errors reflect the errors during the learning process of the second language at a stage when the learners have not really acquired the knowledge. In addition, errors are also caused by the difficulty or the problem of language itself. Richard also classified intralingual errors into four categories including over generalization, ignorance of rule restrictions, incomplete application of the rules, and false concept hypothesized or semantic errors. River (1970, pp.243-244) said that those who learn English must have knowledge in writing, spelling, structure, words or word

groups, but the learners often have problems about words choice, grammar structure, punctuation, and writing skills.

The writing skill is not an easy task for Thai people because the English structure is different from Thai language, and they often use their background knowledge of their mother tongue to write in English, and this is one of the problems in their writing. Thai people often use their background knowledge of mother tongue to learn a foreign language. This is one of the factors that cause them automatically produce errors especially in writing because they might misunderstand that the structure of English language and Thai language might be the same.

In the view of the above, the researcher is interested in conducting research about the errors in the English signboards in Kamphaengphet province. The results of this study can be used as a guideline for those who create the public relations signboards in English to introduce their organization or to promote their products.

Research Objectives

1. To analyze errors in English signboards in Muang district, Kamphaengphet province.
2. To investigate the opinions of foreigners towards the use of English on signboards in Muang district, Kamphaengphet province.

Scope of the Study

The data on which the analysis is based were collected within the area of Muang district of Kamphaengphet province.

Methodology

The English signboards were collected by note taking and photographing from the Kamphaengphet Historical Park, the University, the local shops, the artificial football fields, the shopping malls in the area of Muang district, Kamphaengphet province, then they were analyzed to find the errors, and the types of errors found were identified, classified, and ranked according to the frequency that they occurred. All types of errors were analyzed and classified into the error causes defined by Richards (1974) : interlingual errors and intralingual and developmental errors. At the last stage, the data obtained from interviewing twelve foreign teachers were analyzed and presented in a descriptive style.

The Findings

For the findings, a total of three hundred and twenty-seven errors were found in thirty-six English signboards, and they can be classified into 17 different types as shown in the table below.

Frequency and Percentage of the grammatical errors.

No	Type of errors	Number of errors	Percentage
	Interlingual errors	20	6.12
	- Errors in the use of word order	1	0.31
	- Errors in run on sentences	6	1.83
	- Errors in omission of articles	7	2.14
	- Errors in in omission of punctuations	6	1.83
	Intralingual and Developmental errors	307	93.88
	- Errors in the use of verb construction	29	8.87
	- Errors in the use of pronoun	11	3.36
	- Errors in the use of adjective	1	0.31
	- Errors in the use of subject and verb agreement	5	1.53
	- Errors in the use of preposition	33	10.09
	- Errors in the use of conjunction	7	2.14
	- Errors in the use of noun	24	7.34
	- Errors in the use of verb	8	2.45
	- Errors in the use of capitalization	46	14.07
	- Errors in the use of vocabularies	47	14.37
	- Errors in the use of misspelling	21	6.42
	- Errors in the use of articles	27	8.26
	- Errors in the use of punctuations	48	14.68
	Total	327	100

From the table, it shows that the errors in the use of punctuations had the highest percentage at 14.68%, followed by errors in the use of vocabularies at 14.37%, errors in the use of capitalization at 14.07%, errors in the use of preposition at 10.09%, errors in the use of verb construction at 8.87%, errors in the use of articles at 8.26%, errors in the use of noun at 7.34%, errors in the use of misspelling at 6.42%, errors in the use of pronoun at 3.36%, errors in the use of verb at 2.45%, errors in the use of conjunction and errors in omission of articles at 2.14%, errors in run on sentence and errors in omission of punctuation at 1.83%, errors in the use of subject and verb agreement at 1.53%, and the errors in the use of adjective and the errors in the use of word order had the least percentage at 0.31%.

When all the errors were classified into interlingual errors and Intralingual and developmental errors, they showed that intralingual and developmental errors were found 307 times or at 93.88%, while interlingual errors were found only 20 times or at 6.12%.

Intralingual and developmental errors occur when the writers have not really acquired significant knowledge of the target language. Since a lot of English signboards were used to analyze, so some examples of Intralingual and developmental errors can be identified here.

1. Errors in the use of punctuations

On the signboard of Wat Pa Laeng:

There was stucco modelling on the pedestal which displayed the feature of the Buddha image. In this sentence, a comma should not be placed after the word 'of', so the sentence should be corrected as. There was stucco modelling on the pedestal which displayed the feature of the Buddha image.

On the signboard of Wat Nat Jet Sein:

The Vihara had a high rectangular base and was made of laterites, with stairway on three sides. In this sentence, a comma should not be placed after 'laterite', so the sentence should be corrected as. The vihara had a high rectangular base and was made of laterite with stairway on three sides.

On the signboard of Wat Phra Si Ariyabot:

The front of Paitee base. is a pedestal with lion sculptures and guardians. There should not have a period (.) after the underlined word, so the sentence should be: The front of Paitee base is a pedestal with lion sculptures and guardians.

2. Errors in the use of verb construction

On the signboard of Wat Pa Laeng:

The principal Chedi was bell-shaped and lower base was large and square. The verb in this sentence is a past form; it should be written in a present form, so the sentence should be corrected as: The principal Chedi is bell-shaped and the lowest base is large and square.

On the signboard of Wat Chang Rob:

The round bell-shaped chedi situated on an octagonal base decorated with sculpture. This sentence should be written in passive voice, so it should be corrected as: The bell-shaped Chedi is situated on an octagonal base decorated with sculpture.

On the signboard of Wat Awat Yai:

The temple is built around 15th -16th century. The sentence should be written in past tense and change the verb, so the correct sentence should be: The temple was built around 15th -16th century.

3. Errors in the use of pronoun

On the signboard of Wat Chang Rob:

The square base is 31 metres wide at each side decorated with fully furnished lime sculptures of 68 elephants showing only there front half. The pronoun 'there' in the sentence is wrong, it should be corrected as: The square base is 31 metres wide at each side decorated with fully furnished lime sculptures of 68 elephants showing only their front half.

On the signboard of Wat Ma Khet:

A front porch is connected to the Vihara, and there are four stairways on the front and back of Vihara. The last word 'Vihara' of the sentence should be a pronoun, so the sentence should be corrected as: A front porch is connected to the Vihara, and there are four stairways on the front and back of it.

4. Error in the use of articles

On the signboard of Wat Pa Mued:

This temple is located in a Aranyik (forest) area of the city of Kamphaeng Phet. In this sentence, we should change the article 'a' to 'an' because the article 'an' must be placed before a singular countable noun which begins with a vowel sound, so the correct sentence should be: This temple is located in an Aranyik (forest) area of the city of Kamphaeng Phet.

On the signboard of Associated Cities:

Sukhothai was a capital of the first kingdom of Siam in the 13th and 14th Century. In the underlined word, the article 'the' should be placed before a particular noun, so the sentence should be corrected as: Sukhothai was the capital of the first kingdom of Siam in the 13th and 14th Century.

5. Error in the use of adjective

On the signboard of Wat Pa Laeng:

The principal Chedi is bell-shaped and lower base is large and square. In this sentence, a superlative adjective is needed before a noun 'base', so the correct sentence should be: The principal Chedi is bell-shaped and the lowest base is large and square.

6. Errors in the use of subject and verb agreement

On the signboard of Wat Chag Rob:

There are 1 staircase at each of the 4 sides. The verb 'are' in this sentence does not agree with the singular subject (1 staircase), so the sentence should be edited as: There is 1 staircase at each of the 4 sides.

On the signboard of Bags Drop:

Makro reserve the rights not to be responsible for loss and damage to your property. The subject in this sentence is singular, but the verb is plural. They do not agree with each other, so we should add -s at the end of the verb to make it plural and agree with the subject, so the correct sentence should be: Makro reserves the rights not to be responsible for loss and damage to your property.

On the signboard of Rules and Regulations of Football field:

We reserves the rights to stop and cancel the game at once. In this sentence, the verb does not agree with the plural subject 'We', so we must delete -s at the end of the verb (reserve), so the correct sentence should be: We reserve the right to stop and cancel the game at once.

7. Errors in the use of preposition

On the signboard of Wat Pa Laeng:

The front of the Chedi had two stairways. In this sentence, there should not have “of” in front of the Chedi, so the sentence should be corrected as: The front Chedi has two stairways.

On the signboard of Muang Kamphaeng Phet:

The ancient site of Muang Kamphaeng Phet and Muang Nakhon-Chum was registered as a national ancient site by Department of Fine Arts during 8th March 1935. In this sentence, we should change the preposition ‘during’ to ‘on’ because ‘during’ is used within the period of time, while on is used to specify the dates or days. So, the correct sentence should be: The ancient site of Muang Kamphaeng Phet and Muang Nakhon-Chum were registered as a national ancient site by the Department of Fine Arts on 8th March 1935.

8. Errors in the use of conjunction

On the signboard of Wat Chang Rob:

The large principal chedi is a round bell-shaped. The sentence should be corrected and add a conjunction ‘and’ to connect the two adjectives, so the correct sentence should be: The large principal Chedi is round and bell-shaped

On the signboard of Wat Pa Laeng:

The Vihara is a rectangular hall and low base. With a stairway at the front of Vihara. In this sentence, the conjunction ‘and’ is placed in a wrong position, so we can change the sentence and join two nouns with the conjunction ‘and’. The correct sentence should be: The Vihara is a rectangular hall with a low base and a stairway at the front.

9. Errors in the use of noun

On the signboard of Wat Pa Mued Nok:

The temple is surrounded by laterite wall. In this sentence, the word ‘wall’ should be a plural form, so the correct sentence should be: the temple is surrounded by laterite walls.

On the signboard of Subordinate Chedis:

Their foundation are square and made of laterite. The word ‘foundation’ should be a plural noun form, so the sentence should be corrected as: Their foundations are square and made of laterite.

On the signboard of Rules and Regulation of Football field:

We reserve the rights to stop and cancel the game at once. The word ‘right’ in this sentence should be a singular noun, so the sentence should be corrected as: We reserve the right to stop and cancel the game at once.

In the signboard of Swimming pool:

Pet are allowed into the pool. The word ‘Pet’ in the sentence must be a plural noun, so the sentence should be edited as: Pets are not allowed in the pool.

10. Errors in the use of verb

On the signboard of Wat Kru Si Hong:

The original name of the temple is not know. In this sentence, the verb 'know' is wrong form of verb, it should be past participle 'known', so the correct sentence should be: The original name of the temple is unknown.

On the signboard of Wat Awat Yai:

The octagonal shaped chedi with 16 metres width of each side supported the square with the 5 redents in each corner is behind the vihara. The word 'supported' in the sentence should be changed to present participle form 'supporting', so the correct sentence should be: The octagonal-shaped Chedi with 16 metres width on each side supporting the square with 5 angles in each corner is behind the Vihara.

On the signboard of Swimming Pool:

Please don't wearing bead any ornaments in swimming Pool. We should change the word 'wearing' to 'wear' because after auxiliary verb (don't) the main verb must be in a base form of a verb, so the correct sentence should be: Please don't wear any ornaments in the swimming pool.

11. Errors in the use of capitalization

On the signboard of Sukhothai and Associated Cities:

Sukhothai was a capital of the first kingdom of Siam in the 13th and 14th Century. We should change a capital letter C in Century to a small one, so the correct sentence should be: Sukhothai was the capital of the first kingdom of Siam in the 13th and 14th century.

On the signboard of Wat Phra Non:

There are many significant constructions in buddhavasa area. In the underlined word, we should change the letter b to B, so the correct sentence should be: There are many significant constructions in Buddhavasa area...

On the signboard of Swimming Pool:

Please Ware Swmming Suit and Have Shower Before Using the Pool. The beginning of every word in the sentence is written with the capital letters which make the sentence look strange, so the sentence should be rewritten as: Please wear a swimming suit and take a shower before using the pool.

12. Errors in the use of vocabularies

On the signboard of Wat Kamphaeng Ngam.

Next to the vihara is the central round bell-shaped chedi with square pedestal. and another 6 chedis. We should place the word 'other' instead of 'another' to modify a plural noun, so the correct sentence should be: Next to the vihara is the central round bell-shaped chedi with square pedestal, and other 6 chedis.

On the signboard of Wat Kongchai:

The principle constructions within the temple consist of 9 rooms. The word construction should be placed with structures, so the sentence should be corrected as: The principal structures within the temple consist of 9 rooms.

13. Errors in the use of misspelling word

On the signboard of Muang Kamphaeng Phet:

The city wall of Muang Kamphaeng Phet was strongly built of laterites in order to repel the Burmese enemies. The word 'enimies' in the sentence is misspelt, so it should be correct as: The city wall of Muagn Kamphaeng Phet was strongly built of laterites in order to repel the Burmese enemies.

On the signboard of Wat Singh:

It was decorated with lion scalpture and guardian. The 'scalpture' in the sentence is misspelt, it should be corrected as: It was decorated with lion sculptures and guardians.

On the signboard of Swimming Pool:

No food Allowed Into the pool Premise. The word 'Premise' in the sentence has wrong spelling, it should be corrected as: No food and drinks are allowed in the pool premises.

You have to look after your kids white they are using the pool. The word 'white' is wrong, it should be edited: You have to look after your kids while they are using the pool.

The interlingual errors occur due to the use of elements from one language while speaking or writing another. They were found 95 times or at 29.05%. See some of the examples of the interlingual errors from this study.

14. Errors in omission of articles

On signboard of Rules and Regulations:

Smoking is prohibited in all areas except smoking area. There should have an article "the" before the word smoking, so the sentence should be edited as: Smoking is prohibited in all areas except in the smoking area.

On the signboard of Muang Kamphaeng Phet:

There was a fort Situated at 4 corners of the city wall, ... There should have an article "the" before the underlined word '4 corners', so the sentence should be corrected as: There was a fort situated at the 4 corners of the city wall,...

On the signboard of Muang Kamphaeng Phet:

The ancient site of Muang Kamphaeng Phet and Muang Nakhon-Chum was registered as a national ancient site by Department of Fine Arts on 8th March 1935. There should have an article "the" the underlined word 'Department', so the sentence should be corrected as: The ancient site of Muang Kamphaeng Phet and Muang Nakhon-Chum were registered as a national ancient site by the Department of Fine Arts on 8th March 1935.

15. Errors in omission of punctuations

On the signboard of Wat Nat Jet Sein:

First the front of the temple was the vihara with seven subordinate Chedis. In this sentence, there should have a comma after the word 'First', so the correct sentence should be: First, the front of the temple was the Vihara with seven subordinate Chedis.

On the signboard of Wat Mondop:

On the basis of architectural style it is conjectured that Wat Mondop was built about the..... In this sentence, a comma should be placed after the word 'style', so the correct sentence should be: Based on the architectural style, it is conjectured that Wat Mondop was built about the.....

On the signboard of Wat Nak Jet Sein:

Second inside of the temple was Vihara, the principal Chedi and three subordinate Chedis. In this sentence, there should have a comma after the word 'second', so the correct sentence should be: Second, the inside of the temple was the Vihara, the principal Chedi, and three subordinate Chedis.

On the signboard of Wat Rim Tang:

The principal ancient sit is the laterite vihara surrounded with the temple enclosure which built by laterite square post in a row arrangement. There should have a comma to separate the clauses, so the correct sentence should be: The principal ancient sit is the laterite vihara surrounded with the temple enclosure, which is built of laterite square post in a row arrangement.

16. Errors in run on sentences

On the signboard of Wat Kru Si Hong:

The original name of the temple is not known the name "Wat Kru si Hong" being recent the site occupies 64,200 square metres. The sentence is fused together, so we can change the sentence as: The original name of the temple is not known, but its name "Wat Kru Si Hong" is recently called. The site occupies 64,200 square metres.

On the signboard of Muang Kamphaeng Phet:

There was a fort situated at 4 corners of the city wall, with 10 gateways, Along the west of the Ping riverside, Muang Kamphaeng Phet was and ancient city constructed along the city moat braced along Ping river and Klong Suan Mark. The correct sentence should be: There was a fort situated at the 4 corners of the city wall with 10 gateways. Along the west of the Ping riverside, Muang Kamphaeng Phet was an ancient city constructed along the city moat braced along Ping river and Klong Suan Mark.

17. Error in the use of word order

On the signboard of Wat Phra Si Ariyabot: Reconstructed:

Entrance pavilion. The words in this phrase are placed in a wrong order; it should be corrected as: Pavilion Entrance.

The opinions of foreign teachers towards the English signboards in Kamphaengphet revealed that they agreed that there were a lot of small mistakes such words, articles, punctuation, agreements etc. on the signboard, but they did not have any problems to understand the information on the signboards, while some of them said that only few sentences made them confused of the meanings of the sentences.

For example, the signboard of the swimming pool showed that there were many sentences made them laugh because of a small mistake such as “Pet are allowed into the pool”. They humorously said that if I had a snake, I might have been able to take it to swim with me in the pool. The wrong spelled words such as ware, white, and allowed were not a problem for understanding the whole sentence because they could guess that the word ‘ware’ is ‘wear’, ‘white’ is ‘while’ and ‘allowed’ is ‘not allowed’. However, they said that they understood its meaning and the true purpose of the sentence, although there was a small mistake in the sentence.

The signboards collected from the historical park made the foreign teachers more confused than the other signs because there are a lot of errors on the signboards, especially misspelling and other small mistakes. However, the foreign teachers said that the errors on the signboards did not create any problems for understanding the whole information and the intended purpose of the writing on the signboard.

The foreign teachers also suggested that all the signboards should be simplified. The mistakes and the spelling errors should be carefully checked and corrected before posting for the public to avoid the misunderstanding and to know the real purpose of the signboards.

Discussion

In this study, seventeen types of errors were found in English signboards written by Thai writers. It showed that the writers’ proficiency to apply the rule of English grammar was still inefficient because a lot of errors were found in their writing. The writers produced 327 errors on the English signboards. The five most frequently errors found in this study were errors in the use of punctuations (14.68), followed by errors in the use of vocabularies (14.37%), errors in the use of capitalization (14.07), errors in the use of preposition (10.09%), and errors in the use of verb construction (8.87%), respectively. When compared to the study of Sermsook, Liamnimitr, and Pochakorn (2017), it revealed that the most frequently found errors were punctuation, articles, subject-verb agreement, spelling, capitalization, and fragment, respectively. In the study of Promsupa, Varasarin, and Brudhiprabha (2017), the three most frequently committed errors were singular/plural errors, article errors, and preposition errors, respectively. Even though the most frequent errors of

each study were different, it could be assumed that the errors were commonly made by the writers when they produced English sentences, including the errors in this study. The writers of the same language knowledge did not need to have the same errors. Also, the same writers might make the different errors when they write English.

Regarding the results of an analysis in error sources, interlingual errors and intralingual and developmental errors were the major sources of the errors. The interlingual errors were only found in 20 cases (6.12%), while the intralingual and developmental errors were found in 307 cases (93.88%). The interlingual errors caused the writers who were not competent in English to rely on knowledge of their first language when they produced English sentences. It revealed that the writers sometimes were confused about the structure of two languages; L1 structure and the target languages structure, which caused them to apply structure incorrectly. One example of error in the punctuation omission in this study was ‘First the front of the temple was the vihara with seven subordinate Chedis’. The error occurred in this sentence because a comma was omitted. Another example of error in the article omission was ‘Smoking is prohibited in all areas except smoking area’. The error occurred in this sentence because the writer omitted the definite article ‘the’ where it should be placed before the words ‘smoking area’. For the intralingual and developmental errors, it is clearly seen that the writers made a lot of errors in writing English on the signboards, this is because the writers did not thoroughly realize the rule of English grammar and the elements of the English structure. In addition, some specific rules of English might be rather confusing, and this causes the writers to ignore the restricted rules of English language. The inadequacy of knowledge, incomplete application of rules, and carelessness were among the major possible causes of the error occurrence.

Recommendations for further research

The English signboards are very important tools to provide information for the tourists who visit places or attractions in Kamphaengphet province. So, the information on the signboards must be clear and correct, and the readers must completely understand the purpose of the writing. To emphasize, the writers should carefully check words and the grammatical structures before writing and posting the English signboards for the public.

For further research on analysis of the errors, the data can be collected from many sources such as local product labels and OTOP product labels in Kamphaengphet province. The result of the study can help the local people and the communities have the correct information and appropriate language before posting the instructions or important information on their products.

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