

# Relationship between Motivation and Students' English Learning Achievement: A study of the Second – year vocational certificate level Hatyai Technical College Students

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## Abstract

Among the factors influencing students' learning, motivation is thought to be an important reason for different achievement. The purposes of this study were (i) to find out the levels of motivation in students with high and low achievement, (ii) to investigate the differences and similarities in motivation of students with high and low achievement, (iii) to investigate the relationship between motivation and students' achievement. The subjects were 140 second-year vocational certificate students in electronics technology program and building construction program, Hatyai Technical College in the first semester of the Academic Year 2015. The instruments used for data collection were a questionnaire and an in-depth interview. The data from the returned questionnaire were statistically analyzed by using the SPSS program for percentage, frequency, mean, standard deviation, *t*-test and correlation coefficient. Findings from this study indicated that the motivation of students with high and low achievement were at high levels. There were no significant differences of motivation between the high and low achievement group. The correlation between motivation and their English learning achievement was significantly correlated with each other ( $r=.184$ ,  $p<0.05$ ). The participants mentioned that they have studied English in order to be successful in their future education and career and instrumental motivation was found to have more impact on students than integrative one. In conclusion, motivation has positive relationship with students' English learning achievement. The findings could be useful for researchers and teachers in improving students' achievement by conducting effective teaching and learning strategies to develop students' motivation.

**Key words:** Motivation, Instrumental motivation, Integrative motivation, Students' achievement, High achievement group, Low achievement group

## Background

With the rapid progress of information and communication technology during recent decades, a vast amount of knowledge has been spreading through the borderless world. In the