Aviation English and its Usage at the Macau International Airport

by

Sharon Hong S. H.

A Thesis submitted to the Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Master of Arts

University of Macau

June, 2004

Table of Contents

1. Introduction.....7

1.1 Introduction to ESP.....7

1.2 The History of Aviation English.....8

1.3 General Problems of Aviation Language.....11

1.4 Aviation English in Macau.....12

1.5 Purpose of this Study.....13

1.6 Limitations of this Study.....14

1.7 Overview of this Study.....14

2. Review of Literature.....15

2.1 Characteristics of Aviation English.....15

2.2 Status of English as the International Aviation Language.....25

2.3 Communication Problems of English in Aviation.....27

2.4 Other Communication Problems in Aviation English.....34

2.5 Research on Aviation Communications.....38

3. Methodology......46

3.1 Subjects.....46

3.2 Data Collection and Stages of Data Collection.....50

3.2.1 Instruments and Materials.....50

3.2.2 Procedures.....53

4. Results and Discussion.....56

4.1 Problems of Using English as an International Aviation Language.....56

4.1.1 Problems Identified by the Pilots.....57

4.1.2 Problems Identified by the Macau Controllers.....64

4.2 Effect of English Proficiency on the Use of Aviation English.....67

4.3 Use of First Language in Aviation English.....71

4.4 Adherence to ICAO Standard Phraseology.....74

4.5 Communications Containing More Than Three Aviation Topics.....75

5. **Conclusion**.....81

5.1 Conclusions to the Research Questions.....81

5.2 Implications and Suggestions for the Airport Administration Authority.....84

References.....88

Appendices.....94