ABSTRACT

Macao is a multilingual place and students are currently being exposed to different English varieties at school due to different origins of their teachers. There are some other potential English varieties as well, such as Chinese English. It is said that learners' positive attitudes towards the second language will affect their motivation in learning the language (Gardner, 1982). Therefore, this study explores the Macao secondary students' attitudes towards the English varieties of Cantonese English, Philippine English and Chinese English to find out which is the most preferred variety to be the medium of instruction at school.

Research data were collected from 267 students from three secondary schools of different sections. They evaluated nine speakers of the three English varieties while they were listening to the recordings of the reading passage recorded by the speakers. The reading passage contained the typical features of the three varieties and the speakers were evaluated on the status and the solidarity scales. The results show that Cantonese English was rated positively on the solidarity scale but not as positively on the status scale. Chinese English was shown to be the students' least preferred variety on both the status and the solidarity scales. Philippine English, however, was rated highly on both the status and the solidarity scales, and thus considered to be a suitable medium of instruction.