

ABSTRACT

The purpose of this thesis was to investigate satisfaction regarding English language learning in Macao by surveying 280 students in their final months of secondary school. Data were collected in four secondary schools in Macao, two of which were community schools and two religious schools. The study examined the overall satisfaction of graduating students with regard to English studies in primary, lower secondary and upper secondary school. Four general aspects of satisfaction with English instruction were examined in this research investigation, namely: 1) attitudes toward English, 2) satisfaction with English lessons, 3) satisfaction with English teachers, and 4) satisfaction with activities in English lessons. Another purpose of the research was to explore similarities and differences when comparing the degree of satisfaction of various respondent groups: 1) students of religious versus community schools, 2) male students versus female students, and 3) arts students versus science students.

Findings of this research investigation revealed that students were generally satisfied with the four aspects of English instruction investigated. However, school type, gender and academic stream were factors related to student satisfaction. Students of religious schools tended to have higher satisfaction than students of community schools. Female students were likely to have higher satisfaction than male students. Arts students were found to have higher satisfaction than science students. Of the three factors mentioned, school type seemed to be the most influential factor affecting student satisfaction. Findings related to grammar instruction, amount of conversational practice, and student interest in texts and activities helped the researcher to identify possible problems and need for improvement. Hopefully, the results of this study can contribute to the improvement of quality English instruction in Macao.