

Exploring English Listening Difficulties of Taiwanese EFL students: An Analysis of New TOEIC

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ABSTRACT

This is a research for a Master Degree thesis, which aims to access and analyze EFL learners' listening difficulties in Taiwan. In the study, there were 120 English majored students (30 students per year), at a university in the central Taiwan, participating in the study. The participants took an approximate 45-minute New TOEIC listening test and then immediately followed the survey of the awareness of their own listening difficulties. The results of the listening test demonstrate that the Taiwanese EFL learners performed significantly less efficient in inference making (listeners listening experience) and details memorizing (memory) than the other factors (i.e. interpreting gist, recognizing speakers' accents, organizing context, understanding words and recognizing similar sound). The results of the survey show that, in the students' beliefs, the abilities of "lexicon" and "recognizing individual sounds" (linguistic knowledge) are the most difficult listening tasks for them. Consequently, it shows that there is a significant gap between learners' self-awareness and their real performance. These two results were brought into a further discussion with linguistic perspectives.

Keywords : listening inference making, details memorizing, the awareness of listening difficulties, listening performance, words with similar sound, interpreting gist

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