Implementing a Mother Tongue-based Multilingual Education Curriculum in the Teacher Production Process in Thailand’s Southernmost Provinces

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Research Introduction

University, School and Family / Community
This presentation describes a three year project (2013-2016) supported by the European Union with the goal of “Institutionalizing Mother Tongue-Based Multilingual Education (MTB-MLE) in Thailand’s Deep South”
Research Questions

“A significant question is how to keep educational development sustainable in the area after the research phase is completed.”

1. How to transfer MLE knowledge from Mahidol University (which started MTB MLE project in 2008) to the teacher production process of Yala Rajabhat University?

1. How to institutionalize MLE in Thailand’s southernmost provinces?
Knowledge Transfer

“Training of trainers” workshop curriculum developed with Mahidol University for YRU staff

- 18 day workshop
- 15 YRU staff trained in MTB MLE
- YRU staff empowered to be trainers and supervisors for YRU education students.
Training for undergraduate students

- 6 workshops for 4th year students
- 24 days for early childhood education majors, 20 days for other education majors (general primary, science, Thai, English, social studies)
- 5th year students complete 1 year teaching internships in MLE schools (30/year, 3 cohorts)
Workshops for current teachers

- 6 in-service workshops
- 24 days total for early childhood teachers; 20 days for teachers of other subjects
- Participants earn 3 graduate credits
Workshops for school directors and local education officials

- 3 day workshop
- field trip to MTB MLE school
Workshop Topics

- Ethnic language and culture
- Principles of MTB-MLE
- Thai-based Patani Malay Script
- MTB-MLE Instructional Materials
- Teaching Methods Focusing on Brain and Language Development
- Curriculum, Lesson plans, and Assessment
Goals of the YRU MLE Center

- Conduct research
- Provide MLE training for teachers and school directors/local education officials
- Develop instructional materials
- Provide a library and archive of instructional materials (can be checked out by teachers)
Key Outcomes of the Project Included:

- YRU developed MTB-MLE courses for three different groups: undergraduate education students, current teachers, and current school directors/local education officials
- The YRU MTB-MLE Center was established as a resource center for the region
- 15 YRU staff members were trained in MTB-MLE principles
- 90 YRU 5th year undergraduate education students completed their 1-year teaching internships in MTB-MLE primary schools. They also conducted research and created new MLE materials.
While these outcomes relate to an institutional program, it is also important to understand the impact of MLE training on individual teachers. Although none of the 90 MLE interns have been hired by MLE schools, they have applied MLE teaching techniques in the government or private schools where they now work, and their supervisors have been impressed. Thus the impact of MLE teacher training has gone beyond the 15 pilot schools to improve education in the region.
YRU supported the expansion of the teaching intern program for the 3rd – 5th cohorts (30 students per cohort)

168 undergraduate students volunteered to be MLE teaching interns for 2017-18. Due to the lack of MLE schools, most students will only be able to practice for a short time in an MLE school before moving to a “normal” school for the year.

A new course, “Multilingual Education for Early Childhood” is now a required core subject for all 2nd year early childhood education majors

Continuing materials development
Teaching materials development
คำนำ
วรรณกรรมเรื่อง ภีมแมว แมว เป็น วรรณกรรมประเภทเพลงนิทาน ซึ่งสร้างมาจากเรื่องต้านทานที่การอ่าน ต้านอาธรรม จิตใจ และสังคม และต้านสุนัขที่เข้าาม เหมาะสำหรับเด็กประถมวัย อายุ 3-5 ปี

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Future Goals

- To support the expansion of MTB-MLE by producing MLE teachers and supporting model MLE schools.
- To advocate for government recognition of MTB-MLE as a specialization for teachers (like science, math, Thai language, and English language specializations)
- To promote the MTB-MLE Center as a resource for schools and education personnel throughout the Deep South
- To support curriculum development for MTB-MLE teachers on the Bachelor, Master and Doctoral Degree Levels
- To be a resource for MLE in other parts of Thailand and internationally