

Reflections on the Extra English Speaking and Listening Course: The Case of University of Economics and Finance, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam

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Bridging the gap between students' current English proficiency levels and the expected ones is one of the steps many universities in the world have taken to help their students meet English language proficiency requirements. University of Economics and Finance (UEF), Ho Chi Minh City, offered an extra English listening and speaking course with the same purpose. This paper describes a survey looking at the students' and teachers' preliminary reflections on this course. The findings are as follows: (1) The students found this course very useful in helping them improve their basic English listening and speaking skills; (2) Half of the students in this course said that they participated in the course for a long-term goal—to be able to communicate with others in English; (3) The use of the mother tongue—Vietnamese—in an English class for low-level students was necessary; and (4) There is need for the use of two series of coursebooks—one for the regular course and another for the extra course. The paper ends with the implications for English language curriculum development and evaluation and the recommendations for further studies.

Key words: *Extra English course, curriculum development and evaluation, second language acquisition, use of L1 in English classrooms*