ARTICULATION AND SUBSTITUTION OF /θ/ AND /ð/ AMONG MALAYSIAN STUDENTS AT UNIVERSITY COLLEGE SEDAYA INTERNATIONAL (UCSI)

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ABSTRACT

This study aims to examine the articulation and substitution of $/\theta/$ and $/\eth/$ sounds among students at the University College Sedaya International (UCSI). This study shows the differences in gender, social class and educational background in the production of the dental sound in English. Thirty participants took part in this study and they were categorized according to gender, social class, location of the schools and SPM result. They were given a list of words with (th) sound and each one was asked to produce the (th) sound in front of the researcher and 5 of each male and female participant's pronunciation of the (th) sound have been recorded. The findings of the study show that, majority of the female participants were able to produce the (th) sound correctly, however, majority of the male participants were not able to produce the (th) sound. It reveals that most of the male participants substituted the (th) sound to $/d/$, $/t/$, $/f/$ and $/v/$ sounds. The result also shows that, most of the male participants scored very well in the English paper in the SPM examination but they were not aware of the production of the (th) sound. Since the participants in the study were only limited to the students of University College Sedaya International (UCSI), the researcher recommends that further investigation be made and must include bigger samples to validate the result.