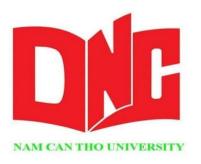
# NAM CAN THO UNIVERSITY FACULTY OF FOREIGN LANGUAGES



### TRAN THI NGOC CHAU

# FACTORS AFFECTING ENGLISH MAJORED STUDENTS' SPEAKING SKILLS AT NAM CAN THO UNIVERSITY

**BACHELORS' THESIS** 

**Program: English Studies** 

Code: 7220201

**Can Tho, 2025** 

# NAM CAN THO UNIVERSITY FACULTY OF FOREIGN LANGUAGES

## TRAN THI NGOC CHAU 214503

# FACTORS AFFECTING ENGLISH MAJORED STUDENTS' SPEAKING SKILLS AT NAM CAN THO UNIVERSITY

BACHELOR'S THESIS
PROGRAM: ENGLISH STUDIES
CODE: 7220201

SUPERVISOR HO XUAN HUONG, M.A

Can Tho, 2025

#### VIETNAMESE ABSTRACT

Mục đích của nghiên cứu này nhằm tìm hiểu các yếu tố ảnh hưởng đến kỹ năng nói của sinh viên chuyên ngành tiếng Anh tại trường Đại học Nam Cần Thơ đặc biệt tập trung vào cả hai yếu tố bên trong và bên ngoài. Để đạt được mục đích nghiên cứu, sử dụng phương pháp tiếp cận kết hợp phương pháp, dữ liệu định lượng được thu thập thông qua một bảng câu hỏi có sự tham gia của 77 sinh viên chuyên nghành ngôn ngữ Anh và dữ liệu định tính từ các cuộc phỏng vấn tường thuật với 8 người tham gia. Từ dữ liệu cho thấy sự hạn chế về vốn từ vựng (M = 3,64) là thách thức bên trong quan trọng nhất, tiếp theo là độ chính xác (M = 3,54) và độ trôi chảy (M = 3,53), còn lại là yếu tố tâm lý (M = 3,13) được coi là ít quan trọng hơn. Các yếu tố bên ngoài, đặc biệt là các yếu tố ngữ cảnh (M = 3,79) được đánh giá cao hơn một chút so với các phương pháp giảng dạy (M = 3,70). Theo các phát hiện của nghiên cứu nhấn mạnh đến nhu cầu về các chiến lược sư phạm cân bằng tích hợp việc tăng cường vốn từ vựng, thực hành giao tiếp thực tế và các hoạt động xây dựng sự tự tin.

**Từ khóa:** Kỹ năng nói, các yếu tố, độ chính xác, sự lưu loát, từ vựng, rào cản tâm lý, phương pháp giảng dạy, sinh viên chuyên ngữ, sinh viên chuyên ngành tiếng Anh.

#### **ENGLISH ABSTRACT**

This study investigated the factors affecting English-majored students' speaking skills at Nam Can Tho University, focusing on internal factors and external factors. To meet the study aims, a mixed methods design was employed; the quantitative data collected through a questionnaire involved 77 senior English majors and qualitative data from semi-structured interviews with eight participants. The data reveal that vocabulary limitations (M=3.64) are the most significant internal factors, followed by accuracy (M=3.54) and fluency (M=3.53), with psychological factors (M=3.13) perceived as less critical. External factors, particularly contextual elements (M=3.79) were rated slightly higher than instructional methods (M=3.70). The study's findings underscore the need for balanced educational instructions that integrate vocabulary enhancement, communicative practice in real-time and confidence-building activities.

**Keywords:** Speaking skills, factors, accuracy, fluency, vocabulary, psychological barriers, instructional methods, , English majored students.

#### **DECLARATION**

The thesis "Factors Affecting English-Majored Students' Speaking Skills at Nam Can Tho University" is conducted under the supervision of Mrs. Ho Xuan Huong, M.A, a lecturer at Nam Can Tho University.

I hereby declare that the information presented in this study is the result of my own work, except where citations are provided. The thesis has not been accepted for any degree and is not concurrently submitted to any candidature for any degree or diploma.

Can Tho, May 2025

Tran Thi Ngoc Chau

#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

My completed research was conducted with the dedicated support of teachers of the Faculty of Foreign Languages as well as students majoring in English at Nam Can Tho University. With all my heart, I want to thank everyone who helped me complete this thesis.

I would like to acknowledge my supervisor, Mrs. Ho Xuan Huong. I thank her for her dedicated encouragement and feedback that helped me finish my thesis. I am incredibly grateful for her advice and generous support throughout this process. All of her suggestions and guidance were extremely helpful for my current and future projects. I am sincerely grateful for all her help and kind words. Additionally, I extend my thanks to Ms. Dao Thi Thai and Ms. Tran Minh Khuyen for supporting me in the process of collecting data in the classrooms. Special thanks to Mr. Duong Minh Tuan for guiding me on how to use SPSS.

I would like to extend my appreciation to Nam Can Tho University, where I received plenty of exciting knowledge in the best study environment with modern facilities and quality education. My special thanks to my family for their endless love and strong support economically as well as regular encouragement in every step to bring me to the present stage.

Finally, thank you to the students majoring in English Language studying at Nam Can Tho University for enthusiastically supporting me by answering the questionnaire as well as spending some time participating in the interview. Their kind assistance, encouragement, and support provided me with strength and lifted me from all the troubles of my entire life.

Tran Thi Ngoc Chau

## **TABLE OF CONTENTS**

VIETNAMESE ABSTRACT	i
ENGLISH ABSTRACT	ii
DECLARATION	iii
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	iv
ABBREVIATION	. viii
CHAPTER 1	1
INTRODUCTION	1
1.1 BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY	1
1.2 STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM	1
1.3 SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY	2
1.4 ORGANIZATION OF THE STUDY	2
CHAPTER 2	4
LITERATURE REVIEW	4
2.1 DEFINITIONS OF SPEAKING SKILLS	4
2.2 LEARNING SPEAKING SKILLS IN THE VIETNAMESE CONTEXT	5
2.3 KEY COMPONENTS OF SPEAKING SKILLS	5
2.3.1 Accuracy	6
2.3.2 Fluency	6
2.3.3 Vocabulary	6
2.4 CHALLENGES FACED BY ENGLISH-MAJORED STUDENTS	6
2.4.1 Limited exposure to authentic language use	6
2.4.2 Psychological barriers	7
2.4.3 Difficulties in learning to speak English encountered by Vietnamese	
students	8
2.5 FACTORS AFFECTING SPEAKING SKILLS	
2.5.1 Factors affecting accuracy	8
Instructional methods	9
Language exposure and input	9
Challenges in achieving accuracy	10
2.5.2 Factors affecting fluency	10
Importance of practice and authentic communication	11
Psychological factors	11

2.5.3 Factors affecting vocabulary	. 11
Explicit vs. implicit vocabulary instruction	. 12
Role of reading and exposure	. 13
Challenges in vocabulary acquisition	. 13
2.6 INTERRELATIONSHIP BETWEEN ACCURACY, FLUENCY, AND VOCABULARY	14
2.6.1 The role of vocabulary in accuracy and fluency	. 14
2.6.2 The dynamic interaction of accuracy, fluency, and vocabulary across proficiency levels	15
2.7 RELATED STUDIES	. 15
2.7.1 Overseas studies	. 15
2.7.2 Studies in Vietnam	. 17
2.8 RESEARCH GAP	. 18
CHAPTER 3	. 19
RESEARCH METHOD	. 19
3.1 RESEARCH AIMS	. 19
3.2 RESEARCH QUESTIONS	. 19
3.3 RESEARCH DESIGN	. 19
3.4 PARTICIPANTS	. 20
3.4.1 Participants for the questionnaire	. 20
3.4.2 Participants for the interview	. 20
3.5 RESEARCH INSTRUMENTS	. 20
3.5.1 Questionnaire	. 20
3.5.2 Semi-structured interviews	. 21
3.6 DATA COLLECTION	. 22
3.6.1 Piloting the questionnaire	. 22
3.6.2 Administering the questionnaire	. 22
3.6.3 Administering the semi-structured interviews	. 23
3.7 DATA ANALYSIS	. 23
3.7.1 Data collected from the questionnaire	. 23
3.7.2 Data collected from semi-structured interviews	. 24
CHAPTER 4	. 26
RESULTS	

4.1 FACTORS AFFECTING THE PARTICIPANTS' SPEAKING SKILLS ENGLISH	
4.1.1 Results from the questionnaire	
4.2 INTERNAL FACTORS AFFECTING SPEAKING SKILLS IN THE	
ENGLISH LANGUAGE	26
4.3 EXTERNAL FACTORS AFFECTING SPEAKING SKILLS IN THE	
ENGLISH LANGUAGE	31
4.4 RESULTS FROM THE INTERVIEW	35
CHAPTER 5	38
DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION	38
5.1 DISCUSSION	38
5.1.1 Internal factors affecting speaking skills	38
5.1.2 External factors influencing speaking development	39
5.1.3 Proposed solutions	40
5.2 CONCLUSION	41
5.3 IMPLICATIONS	42
REFERENCES	44
APPENDIXES	53
APPENDIX 1: INTERVIEW QUESTIONS	53
APPENDIX 2 : QUESTIONNAIRE	55
APPENDIX 3: INTERVIEW TRANSCRIPTION	
APPENDIX 4	80

### **ABBREVIATION**

NCTU: Nam Can Tho University

EFL: English as a Foreign Language

TDTU: Ton Duc Thang University

ELT: English language teaching

ELLs: English language learners

CLT: Communicative Language Teaching