

**THAI NGUYEN UNIVERSITY  
SCHOOL OF FOREIGN LANGUAGES**

**LE HAI YEN**

**A STUDY ON FACTORS AFFECTING ENGLISH SPEAKING  
SKILLS OF THE 10<sup>TH</sup> GRADE ETHNIC MINORITY STUDENTS  
AT VAN HOA I HIGH SCHOOL**

(Nghiên cứu những yếu tố ảnh hưởng tới kỹ năng nói tiếng Anh của học sinh  
dân tộc thiểu số khối 10 ở trường Văn hóa I)

**M.A THESIS**

**Field: English Linguistics**

**Code: 8220201**

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(APPLICATION ORIENTATION)**

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**Supervisor: Dr. Nguyen Thi Hong Chuyen**

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## DECLARATION

I hereby certify that this research entitled “*A study on factors affecting English speaking skills of the 10th grade ethnic minority students at Van hoa I High School*” was conducted and then submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Master of English Linguistics. This paper was original and has not been submitted for any degree at any other universities or institutions.

*Thai Nguyen, September 23<sup>rd</sup> 2019*

**Signature**

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I would like to send my gratitude to all those who have supported and contributed to the accomplishment of this study.

Firstly, I thank my parents, all the family members and friends for their encouragement that enabled me to complete the study. They gave me the powerful energy to overcome the stress of working days on the study.

Secondly, I am greatly obligated to my supervisor, Dr. Nguyen Thi Hong Chuyen for her expert guidance. She enthusiastically supported me during my completion of this MA thesis. Ms. Chuyen was the one who read all my draft copies, listened to my ideas, and hurried me to keep up with the research proposal timetable. Moreover, she made some important suggestions which greatly contributed to the final improvements..

Finally, I wish to extend my sincere gratitude to all the enthusiastic participants at Van hoa I High School who contributed valuable data for the study. Their outstanding cooperation helped to fulfill this study.

*Thai Nguyen, September 2019*

## ABSTRACT

Nowadays, English is considered as an international language all over the world. If students are good at English, they can improve their opportunities to broaden knowledge, and get well-paid jobs in the future. However, out of the four language skills, speaking is considered as the most important but difficult aspect to master. This study was conducted to find out the major factors that prevent the students from achieving good English speaking skills. The study was carried out at Van hoa I High School, Thai Nguyen City, Vietnam. The participants of the research were 51 grade 10th students and 6 English teachers at this school. The researcher aimed to a) explore the learners' speaking problems; b) find out the main factors causing them; c) give out some useful and effective suggestions for the learners, teachers and school to improve the students' oral skills. In order to fulfill those purposes, questionnaires, interviews and observations were used as the main research instrument to collect data. The findings proved that there were two main kinds of factors that affected the learners' speaking skills called *internal factors* and *external factors*. The internal ones related to the factors coming from the students themselves, such as anxiety, lack of self-confidence. Meanwhile, the external factors were from the outside aspects which were mainly about the linguistic factors like lack of vocabulary, poor grammar, and weak pronunciation. Additionally, the study also suggested some recommendations to improve the learners' oral skills. For example, in order to minimum the impact of grammatical mistakes to their speaking performance, the learners should outline what sentence structures, tenses and other aspects of grammar they would need for their speech before speaking or teachers should balance the time on the importance of teaching speaking skills and other language skills as well as grammar.

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## LIST OF TABLES, FIGURES, DIAGRAM AND ABBREVIATIONS

### List of abbreviations

EFL: English as a Foreign Language

MOET: Ministry of Education and Training

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