

**THAI NGUYEN UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL OF FOREIGN LANGUAGE**

NGUYEN THI THU TRANG

**AN INVESTIGATION OF INFORMATION AND
COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY (ICT) TOOL TO
ENHANCE PRONUNCIATION ABILITY
FOR ADULT LEARNERS**

**(Nghiên cứu về công cụ công nghệ thông tin trong việc nâng cao
khả năng phát âm cho người học người lớn)**

M.A. THESIS

Field: English Linguistics

Code: 8220201

THAI NGUYEN – 2019

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(APPLICATION ORIENTATION)**

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Code: 8220201

Supervisor: Dr. Ngo Van Giang

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DECLARATION

I certify that the minor thesis entitled “**An investigation of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) tool to enhance pronunciation ability for adult learners**” is my own study in the fulfillment of the requirement for the Degree of Master of Arts at School of Foreign Language, Thai Nguyen University.

Thai Nguyen, May 2019

Signature

Nguyễn Thị Thu Trang

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ABSTRACT

This research aims to investigate an ICT tool, MyET in this study, in relation with the improvement of pronunciation ability for non-major English students at Thai Nguyen University (TNU). An action research was conducted at New Edu English Centre with the participation of 20 students from TNU. Questionnaires were delivered before and after the experimental period to investigate the current situation of students' learning pronunciation, their difficulties and factors that influence the process of pronunciation learning, their perspectives on the use of the ICT tool in pronunciation learning. Next, participants were invited to put MyET tool on a weekly basis to practice their pronunciation in six consecutive weeks and report the results to the researcher. Pre-test and post-test were also delivered to compare and evaluate the impact of MyET on student pronunciation ability after the experimental period. The outcomes of the study show that ICT application had positive influence on students' pronunciation as well as helped enhance students' motivation for learning pronunciation. Yet, limitations of this research are associated with research scope, time constraints and the research subject.

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents the introduction of the study with content of rationale which is reasons for choosing this title, aims of the study, scope of the study, significance of the study and organization of the study.

1.1. Rationale

In the current trend of globalization, the demand on language skills for the workforce is becoming more urgent. Good English language proficiency has remained one of the crucial elements which not only contributes to the success of a job application, especially in developed areas in Vietnam but also better prepare language learners for the future of a global citizen that they may become. For these reasons, a great number of researchers, authors and teachers have kept trying researching and applying different teaching methods with a view to creating the most effective learning environment for learners. Obviously, the fast-paced development of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in language teaching and learning is also to serve this purpose. Many studies have been conducted to investigate the impacts of ICT applications on enhancing language skills such as speaking, writing, listening, vocabulary and grammar. Learning is a continuous activity in whole life of learners to change their expectations by looking for knowledge from traditional approaches. From then on, they will have to be willing to find out knowledge from new sources (Jo, S.F. 2013). “Skills in using ICT will be an indispensable prerequisite for these learners” (Jo, S.F. 2013, p.112). Regarding the pronunciation issue in English language teaching, it is a fact that in recent decades, the changes in perspectives on second language learning and teaching have led to a shift in the focus of language programs. Specifically, communicative language teaching (CLT) has become the dominating approach instead of form-focused one in the past. Despite that fact, pronunciation has remained a focus of English language teaching as comprehensible pronunciation gives English language learners the communicative empowerment - effective