

CHAPTER VI

CONCLUSION AND IMPLICATION

6.1 Introduction

This research study begins with a huge curiosity to investigate distinctive features of standard English used by Thai people. Based on the concepts of world Englishes and nativisation, the study aims to pinpoint the possibility for the existence of Thai English as one of English varieties.

General features of Thai English, usually mentioned in other studies, are complexity, full of information, indirectness, and lengthy sentences. Therefore, these bring to the general hypotheses of this study that Thais may prefer a high use of noun modifiers and as a consequence, complex sentences can be observed. The distinctive characteristics of Thai English are also hypothesised as the transfer from Thai language, culture and norms of communication.

This chapter, then, starts with main answers to the three research questions. Conclusions of overall findings are to be exhibited and explained in terms of cultural frameworks. Next, implications from the findings are discussed. And last, suggestion for further study is provided.

6.2 Findings overview

Main discussion of this section deals with the answers to the research questions (RQ). Also, hypotheses related to each question are also revisited.

RQ1: Are English feature articles in magazines published in Thailand and in Britain different in terms of:

- 1.1 the use of noun modifiers***
- 1.2 sentence constructions***

H1: Englishes used in feature articles in magazines published in Thailand and in Britain are different in terms of the use of noun modifiers and sentence constructions.

To provide a clear answer to this question, table 4.3 and 4.4 (illustrating information of noun modifiers) and figure 5.1 (illustrating information of sentence constructions) are provided again.

Table 4.3 Overall findings and comparison results of premodifiers between TEA and BEA

Types		TEA		BEA		Et	Eb	χ^2
		HN = 2027 f	%	HN = 2632 f	%			
Words	adjective	556	74.33	617	67.88	509.90	662.10	7.07 *
	noun	144	19.25	197	21.67	148.36	192.64	0.18
	-s genitive	34	4.55	60	6.60	40.90	53.10	1.77
	others	0	0.00	1	0.01	0.44	0.56	0.02
Total		734		875		699.6	908.4	2.83
Phrases	phrases	14	1.87	34	3.74	21.32	27.68	3.45
	Total	14		34		21.32	27.68	3.45
Premodifiers		748	100	909	100	720.9	936.1	1.74

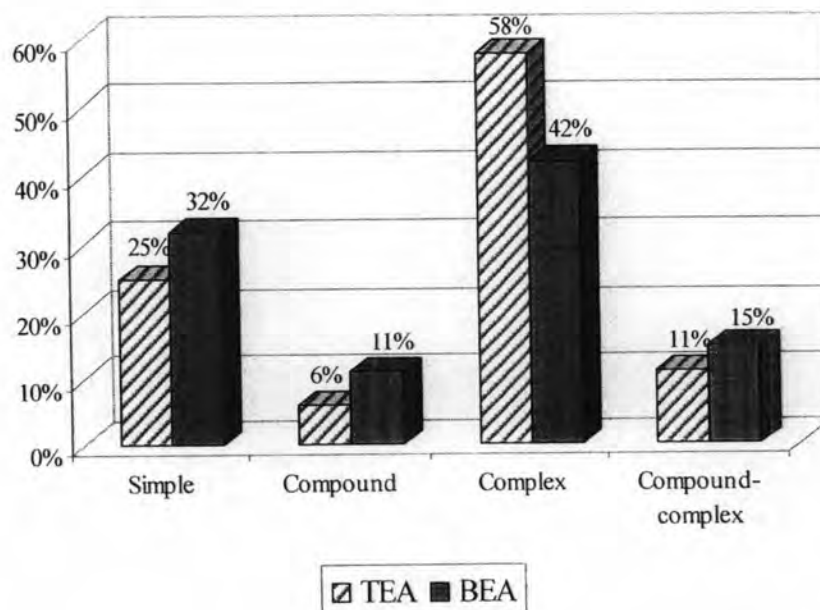
$p < 0.05$, chi square cut off point = 3.84

Table 4.4 Overall findings and comparison results of postmodifiers

Types		TEA		BEA		Et	Eb	χ^2
		HN = 2027 f	%	HN = 2632 f	%			
word	Adjective	10	1.23	9	1.20	8.27	10.73	0.33
	Noun	25	3.08	28	3.72	23.06	29.94	0.16
	others	10	1.23	5	0.66	6.53	8.47	2.40
Total		45	5.54	42	5.59	37.85	49.15	2.07
phrase	prepositional phrase							
	<i>of-phrase</i>	187	23.00	188	25.00	163.15	211.85	5.91 *
	<i>other prep. phrase</i>	230	28.29	227	30.19	198.83	258.17	8.38 *
	other phrase	42	5.17	54	7.18	41.77	54.23	0.00
Total		459	56.46	469	62.37	403.75	524.25	13.14 *
clause	relative clause	170	20.91	154	20.48	140.96	183.04	10.23 *
	ed-participle	43	5.29	26	3.46	30.02	38.98	9.18 *
	ing-participle	28	3.44	24	3.19	22.62	29.38	1.86
	to-infinitive	68	8.36	37	4.92	45.68	59.32	18.44 *
Total		309	38.01	241	32.05	239.29	310.71	35.43 *
Postmodifiers		813	100	752	100	680.89	884.11	45.03 *

$p < 0.05$, chi square cut off point = 3.84

Figure 5.1 Distribution of sentence constructions in TEA and BEA



note: chi square value for two-way data of sentence constructions is 113.45 at $p < 0.05$ where the cut off point is 3.84.

The findings indicate that the use of noun modifiers and sentence constructions in Thai and British English magazine articles are different. In sum, Thai writers' preference for the use of noun modifiers is higher than that of British writers.

As for sentence constructions, the statistical test between the two corpora proves that the frequency of occurrence of all types of sentences is significantly different. Therefore, it can be concluded that sentence construction is another aspect that distinguishes Thai English from British English.

According to the findings, the first hypothesis can be confirmed. Thus, it can be claimed that Englishes used in Thai and British English magazine articles are different in terms of the use of noun modifiers and sentence constructions.

RQ2: If yes (RQ1), how are they quantitatively and qualitatively different?

H2: In the comparison between Thai English writing and British English writing, English feature articles written by Thai writers contain various forms and higher number of modifiers to provide more information to the prominent head noun. At the sentence level, Thai writers use more coordinate, complex, and compound complex sentence constructions.

To answer this research question, both of the results from the statistical test and qualitative analysis should be discussed. The discussion firstly begins with noun modifiers, then sentence constructions.

For the overall preference of noun modifiers, it is found that, in average, a head noun in Thai English articles takes more modifiers than a head noun in British English articles, with a proportion of 0.77 and 0.63 respectively. When converted into percentages, it shows that Thai writers used 14% more modifiers than British writers do. Therefore, it can be interpreted that, in general, noun modifiers occur more often in Thai English than in British English.

Next, in consideration on positional types of modifiers, it is found that the preferences for premodifiers and postmodifiers of Thai writers and British writers are different. Thai writers prefer postmodifiers rather than premodifiers (52% and 48% respectively). As oppose to Thai writers, British writers prefer premodifiers rather than postmodifiers (55% and 45% respectively). However, in the fine statistical test of these main groups of modifiers, total frequencies of occurrence of premodifiers in TEA and in BEA do not signify significant difference between the two groups of writers. Hence, only the preference for the use of postmodifiers can be confidently claimed as a distinctive characteristic of Thai English by comparison with British English.

The results from the qualitative analysis suggest that, apart from the differences in terms of frequency, the use of modifiers by the two groups of writers is different. According to the findings and discussions provided in Chapter IV, general features on the use of noun modifiers found in Thai English can be concluded as follows. First, when the selection is available, Thai writers prefer longer units of noun modifiers (i.e. genitive of-phrase in stead of -'s genitive, clauses instead of

phrases, finite clauses instead of non-finite clauses.) while British writers prefer the opposite. Second, Thai writers may make the modifiers longer and more complex by embedding layers of other modifying units into the main ones. This manner seldom occurs in British English articles. Next, Thai writers tend to use noun modifiers as a tool to embellish their language. The modifiers can be related or non-related to the main focus of the presentation. Mostly, modifiers, especially postmodifiers, seem to be added to the head noun for enhancing emotion or imagination of readers, but are not really necessary for the identification of the head nouns they modify. Unlike Thai writers, British writers seem to use modifiers when it is necessary. Additional information that does not help describe the head noun is not preferable.

According to the above information, the second hypothesis on the part of noun modifiers is partially confirmed. Both Thai and British English articles contain various forms of noun modifiers. Broadly, Thai English articles seem to show a higher number of noun modifiers. However, according to the statistical test, only postmodifiers are significantly proven to occur more often in Thai English articles than in British English articles. Therefore, a distinctive characteristic of Thai English should not be concluded for all types of noun modifiers. In fact, the high frequency of postmodifiers can be strongly claimed as a distinctive characteristic of Thai English.

According to the presentation and discussion of the findings for sentence constructions in Chapter V, the statistical test indicates a very high degree of significant difference on the frequency of occurrence among all types of sentences. Complex and simple sentences signify major differences between Thai English article and British English articles. Complex sentences occur in Thai English articles sharply more often than in British English articles. In contrast, simple sentences occur in British notably more often than in Thai English articles.

Apart from the frequency of occurrence, the use and the construction of complex sentences in Thai English articles and British English articles show some distinctive differences. Thai English complex sentences seem to constitute far more complicated structures than British English complex sentences. One main clause tends to contain quite a number of dependent clauses, and inside those dependent clauses, there can be other embedded clauses. As a result, there are layers of clauses in a sentence in Thai English. This common structure of complex sentences in Thai English articles illustrates that Thai writers like to add as much information as

possible into only one sentence. In contrast, sentences in British English articles seem to have a simple structure. Most of them consist of one main clause and another subordinate or embedded clause. Independent clauses with additional embedded clauses inside are seldom observed. Moreover, complex sentences in Thai English articles also signal the indirectness in the presentation of ideas, while in British English articles, ideas flow straightforwardly. Thai writers usually place less important information (subordinated adverbial clause) in initial position of a complex sentence. They prefer to delay their main point (main clause) until the final of the sentence. For British writers, main clauses are usually placed before other information. Subordinated adverbial clauses are sometimes placed earlier in the sentence only when they serve some special conditions.

More complicated structures can also be observed from simple sentences in Thai English articles. Thai English simple sentences are generally long, containing many lengthy modifying units. Meanwhile, British English simple sentences are usually short and simple. Again, it can be explained that even in simple sentences Thai writers attempt to provide lots of information. It should be noted that short simple sentences can also be found in Thai English articles. They are used as a concluding sentence, after other lengthy sentences providing enough clues and contexts. This pattern of the usage of short simple sentences in Thai English articles can, then, be interpreted as indirect organization of ideas.

According to this information, the other half of the second hypothesis can be discussed. For sentence levels, the hypothesis is partially correct. Compound and compound-complex sentences occur less often in Thai English articles than in British English articles. Only complex sentences occur extremely more often in Thai English articles, so the high occurrence of complex sentences can be claimed as a distinctive characteristic of Thai English in relation to British English. And for the provision of information, complex sentences exhibit concrete evidence. In addition, even though simple sentences occur less in Thai English articles than in British English articles, they offer a proof to the hypothesized feature of Thai English in terms of containing lots of information since they are usually longer than those in British English and contain many layers of word and phrase as noun and sentence modifiers.

To wrap things up, according to the findings obtained from the analysis of noun modifiers and sentence constructions, it can be concluded that the use of higher number of modifiers does not necessarily imply a higher use of compound and compound complex sentences. Qualitative analysis of specific types of noun modifiers preferred by Thai writers leads to the conclusion that the higher use of clausal postmodifiers is an important factor for the higher use of only complex sentences in Thai English articles.

RQ3: What might be the explanation for the differences?

H3: Thai language system and culture have an influence on the characteristics of English language used by Thai writers.

In order to give clear explanations to the distinctive features of Thai English by comparison to British English, conclusions of the main features obtained from the analysis are shown in the following tables.

Table 6.1 Distinctive features of the use of noun modifiers in Thai English in comparison with British English

Thai English	British English
Higher number of noun modifiers	Lower number of noun modifiers
Higher preference for postmodifiers	Higher preference for premodifiers
Significantly higher number of postmodifiers	Significantly lower number of postmodifiers
Complex structure of noun modifiers	Simple structure of noun modifiers
Provision of unrelated information is common and favourable.	Provision of related information is common and favourable.

Table 6.2 Distinctive features of sentence constructions in Thai English in comparison with British English

Thai English	British English
Distinctively greater number of complex sentences	Distinctively greater number of simple sentences
Longer sentences	Shorter sentences
Complicated structure of clauses and sentences	Less complicated structure of clauses and sentences
Indirect organization of ideas	Direct organization of ideas

In the Thai language, embellishment is highly preferable. Thais have created many patterns for decorating words and sounds, as concluded in Chapter II. In writing, the ability of writers to provide descriptive details is very essential. It helps enhance readers' understanding and emotion. Thus, the methods of good writing in Thai tend to be transferred to the use of English language by Thai writers. As a result, there are higher numbers of noun modifiers in Thai English than in British English.

Furthermore, since the use of premodifiers does not exist in the Thai language system, Thai writers may be more familiar with the use of post modifiers instead. Thus, the use of postmodifiers is significantly more preferable than the use of premodifiers. When adding the two features of Thai language, the preference for provision of details and postmodifiers, complex structure of postmodifiers can be concluded as being influenced by Thai language system.

The high use of complex sentences can also be indicated as a transfer from the Thai language system and Thai style of writing. Sentences in Thai can be constructed by adding series of words. Lengthy sentences do not harm the quality of good sentences. In fact, length of a sentence can be varied according to information contained in it. And as mentioned earlier, the ability of writers to provide lots of information is preferable. Hence, it is common for Thais to produce long and complex sentences without the feeling that they are complicated. And this kind of sentences seems to be very common in Thai. Therefore, when writing in English, Thai writers may transfer these Thai features. As a result, Thai English contains a

large number of complex sentences with complicated structure and also more complicated simple sentences.

Explanation of the distinctive characteristics of Thai English as related to Thai culture can also be demonstrated. According to the cultural frameworks presented in Chapter II, explanation can be given.

The first framework to be discussed is the directness and indirectness in the presentation of ideas. As in this study, the findings on Thai English match the explanations of indirect culture. Meanwhile, the findings on British English confirm the features of direct culture. In Thai English articles, lots of detailed information is provided before mentioning the main point. Sometimes, the modifying details can be even unrelated to the topic of discussion. They are just added to provide additional information or to prepare readers with some emotional feelings or involvement. This characteristic can be observed in both the use of noun modifiers and sentence constructions. This is, in terms of noun modifiers, clausal postmodifiers are used to provide information to generic head nouns before getting to the real prominent head noun, which is specific (providing lots of unnecessary background before really mentioning the main point). In terms of sentences, finite adverbial clauses are usually placed in initial position before essential information provided in the main clause although they violate the suggestions for their use in English native speakers' perspective. Moreover, they can help blur or soften the main point and this may be a space provided for readers' to interpret meanings by themselves.

The indirectness feature in Thai English can also be linked to the concept of high and low context culture. As described in Chapter II, Thailand is a country with high context culture, while Britain is with low context culture. According to the findings, it seems that Thai writers usually prefer discussing the detailed information rather than pointing out the main focus. Without stating the main points explicitly, Thai writers assume that readers can interpret the points by themselves. To do this, the writers assume shared contexts between themselves and readers. The writers' presentation relies on the assumed underlying contexts. Therefore, instead of focusing on the information that the readers may have already known, writers may intentionally provide other additional information. Thus, it can be observed that modifying units, both noun and sentence modifiers, in Thai English do not really help specify the main points. Even if the modifying units are omitted,

there is no problem for readers to understand the gist. Moreover, Thai writers seem to perceive additional information as very important. They prefer clear types of modifying units. In addition, it is usual in TEA that modifying units are pretty much longer than the main clause of the sentence. Due to Thai communication norms, this can be also mentioned that Thais may appreciate additional information rather than the main point since they can serve as language embellishment. Furthermore, sometimes the clear connection between old and new information is not simply stated. In the English writing style, this may be interpreted as lacking cohesion. But for Thais, it is not really problematic. Again, for Thais, cohesion can also be interpreted from the context that people in the society are assumed to share.

The ways Thai writers assume shared contexts with readers indicate that they feel themselves and the readers as parts of the society: 'we' group. Thus, this can also be associated to the next cultural framework: individualism and collectivism (Hofstede and Hofstede, 2005). Thais are classified as people in a collectivist culture, while British people are in an individualist culture. Thai writers provide lots of information to create imaginative pictures or emotional feelings because they want the readers to be involved in their writing. Since people in collectivist societies value the in-group relationship with others, Thai writers try to create this kind of relationship with their readers. Furthermore, provision of lots of information may be a method that Thai writers use to show their attention to readers' interests. They do not judge things according to what they feel interesting. But they try to provide all the information they have and the readers can pick up information they like.

According to the above discussion, relationship of Thai English and the Thai language, culture, and communication norms are drawn. It illustrates that the Thai language system has some influence in the production of English by Thai writers. In addition, features found in Thai English can be nicely mapped to suggested features of Thai culture, as opposed to British culture. It should also be noted from the discussion that the three cultural frameworks exhibit some interrelationships among them. People in collectivist cultures usually possess high-context communication and with high context, the language can be indirect. And for people in individualist cultures, they have low-context communication, and so their messages are rather direct.

In conclusion, in comparison with British English, Thai English shows valid distinctive characteristics that can be explained as transfers from Thai language, cultures and communication norms. Therefore, the third hypothesis of this study can be confirmed. And thus, it provides some evidence to suggest a nativisation process and the possibility for the existence of Thai English as a different variety of Englishes.

6.3 Implications

This section aims to suggest some implications derived from findings of this study. The discussion is divided into two different areas: world Englishes and English instruction.

6.3.1 Thai English and world Englishes

Findings and discussions of the comparative analysis in this study show that the use of noun modifiers and sentence constructions can be suggested as distinctive characteristics of Thai English. Influences from Thai language, culture, and communication norms can be viewed as important factors for the differences. Therefore, it can be mentioned that nativisation, to some extent, has occurred in Thai English.

According to the criteria for identification of new Englishes (Jenkins, 2003), which mention that 1.) new Englishes should develop through educational system, 2.) native variety of English is not the main language of people in the country, 3.) new Englishes should be used in a wide range of functions, and 4.) nativisation should be observed; since the findings of this study prove that, to a certain degree, Thai English can nicely match all the criteria, there is a possibility for Thai English to be claimed as one of the new English varieties. Then, differences in standard English used by Thai competent users should be understood as creativity. Provision of lots of information, language embellishment, and indirectness in presentation of ideas are the styles that Thai writers use to communicate with readers. And these are required by Thai culture and communication norms for good and artistic pieces of writing. Although these characteristics are not mentioned as preferable ways of communication in English language, based on English native culture, Thai writers

prefer to adjust English language to fit in well with Thai cultural contexts instead of shifting the style of writing to suit English native culture. Since these methods of presentation illustrate identity of Thais and do not harm international intelligibility, the distinctive characteristics of Thai English can be claimed as presenting a different rhetorical style, not an inferior version of English.

Since nowadays the term 'Englishes' is widely used and accepted, it is clear that Englishes of different communities may possess their own identity. Not only in the outer circle countries but also in the expanding circle countries, nativisation can occur. As a result, there should be many different styles of Englishes existing throughout international contexts. Thus, users of Englishes should extend their range of acceptability and bear in mind that English is not only the language of those native speakers. In fact, global Englishes are of people who effectively use them in global contexts.

With sound understanding of different styles of communication, global users of English from different backgrounds should understand each other better. This can help avoid negative judgments of other people from different cultures and so reduce miscommunication in intercultural communication. Above that, people can, hopefully, learn to appreciate art, beauty, and pleasure of other cultures through Englishes of the global community.

6.3.2 English language instruction

With the concepts of world Englishes, it can be understood that Englishes used in different regions may have produced their own characteristics to serve users' needs and norms of communication in their own cultural contexts. Since those different Englishes can maintain the balance of identity and intelligibility in international communication, they should be accepted as different varieties of world Englishes. The findings of this study show that, to a certain degree, the Thai standard variety of English can be proven for its own distinctive characteristics. Thus, this should be taken into consideration for English language teaching in a Thai context.

In general, teaching of English in Thailand is based on some of the native varieties from the inner circle. Teaching materials are commonly based on those produced and written by native speakers. Very common in English teaching,

most institutions claim to train learners to use native-like English. But in reality, at least with the findings of this study; it can be seen that even though Thai users can use English very well with high proficiency, still their English presents some Thainess. This is to say that teachers should not try to get rid of Thainess in Thai learners' English. In contrast, since the status of English is now as an international language, teachers should bear in mind that the purpose of teaching English may have to be adjusted. Instead of aiming to train learners to use native-like English, which probably may not be necessary since Thai learners are deeply rooted in Thai language and culture, the aim of teaching should be shifted to training students to be good users of international English.

According to McKay's proposal of the use of EIL (2002, 2003, 2004), it is mentioned that the use of EIL is no longer connected to the culture of inner circle countries. The primary function of EIL is to enable users to share their ideas and cultures. Therefore, the purpose of EIL is to describe one's own culture and concerns to others. In terms of English instruction, McKay suggests that teachers should encourage students to reflect their own cultures in relation to the target culture. English teaching should provide some support for students to use it as a mean to present themselves in international contexts and certainly to understand other people's identities. Thus, a 'dual characteristics' of using English (identity and intelligibility) should also be considered. Good users of English can have their own ways to express their identity while still maintaining intelligibility in their language use. Hence, this is another important point for teachers to consider. Of course, in terms of grammar and basic knowledge and rules of English, English instruction in Thailand must base them on those native varieties. Thai learners should be trained to use good English forms. But for rhetorical styles, there should be options for learners to choose (e.g. to be direct or indirect, to add lots of embellishment, or to use Thai or native speakers' style). Moreover, teachers should make sure that learners can select appropriate styles for different genres of writing, for example in academic writing, the style should be direct rather than indirect.

To do so, knowledge and rules of English language (vocabulary, grammar, pronunciation, and so on) should be taught to students to make sure that they have an essential tool to access to the global community. Then, apart from teaching rules of the language, another role of teacher to be suggested, here, is to be a

facilitator helping learners with exposure to many models of writing genres and of world Englishes as possible. Also, teachers should try to raise students' awareness of the existence of other varieties of English besides those native varieties. Therefore, students can use the language to present themselves to the international community and to understand other people from other regions.

Since Thai English have their own distinctive characteristics, source materials can also be selected for English teaching. With preferred rhetorical style, underlying cultural norms, organization of ideas, and other aspects that the writers and learners shared, the source material may help enhance students' understanding, pleasure, and motivation in English learning. Moreover, teaching of English as an international language may help encourage students to be more confident and proud of their use of English. Also, it may help students learn English more purposively as targeting at being global users of international English which should be more meaningful to them than to aim at being native-like speakers, since they are still in their own cultural contexts.

The selection between two models can be done in terms of ordering. According to the findings on characteristics of Thai and British English, it is stated that British English is more direct and less complicated in terms of constructions. Therefore, simple and straightforward forms of English in native varieties may be speculated as easier versions of English for learners. Thus, in early stages of instruction for lower proficiency students, native Englishes may be good examples. Then the use of source materials with the standard variety of Thai English can be introduced later to higher proficiency learners.

With advanced information technology, it is easy for teachers to access and get examples of different Englishes. Instead of the sole use of commercial materials, using well-selected authentic materials and real world tasks should be promoted. Not only the teachers' instruction and provision of materials, but also learners should be encouraged to expose themselves to those Englishes and to find learning source by themselves. Thus, this can help prepare English learners to be autonomous and ready for life-long learning.

6.4 Recommendations for further studies

1. In this study, Thai English was investigated in only two aspects, noun modifiers and sentence constructions. To learn more about the distinctive characteristics of Thai English and for Thai English to claim itself as a variety of world Englishes, more research in other areas on various levels of Thai English (e.g. syntax, morphology, phonology and so on) should be done. Moreover, since it is clear that Thai language and culture are completely different from those of native speakers, it is worth investigating whether the transfer can be traced from other linguistic levels.

2. In the analysis of noun premodifiers, this study focuses only on the open-system ones. However, the general test for frequency of occurrence notifies potential differences in the use of closed-system premodifiers (grammatical modifiers) by Thai and British writers. Thus, further investigation on closed-system premodifiers can be done, especially for the use of 'articles' since they do not exist at all in the Thai language and they are one of the most confusing areas marked for Thai learners and users of English.

3. Data used in this study were taken only from the magazine genre. It is also interesting to find out whether in other genres e.g. news, academic writing, the internet, and so on, the distinctive features found in this study can still be discovered. In addition, since this study emphasises only the written register, studies of the same or similar features for the spoken register should also be conducted.

4. This study compares Thai English with only one native variety. Thus, generalisation of the findings seems to be limited. Similar research to this one, with the comparison of Thai English with other native or non-native varieties of English is fairly interesting. Hence, reduplication of this study with other varieties of English is suggested.

5. Since the distinctive features of Thai English found by this study can be explained by Thai culture, it might be fruitful to observe whether these features exist in other varieties of English which have similar cultures to Thai. This is for example, those Englishes in Asian countries, e.g. Singapore, Malaysia, China, Japan and so on, of which the cultures have some historical relation with Thai's. Therefore, the future studies may contribute some new knowledge to the field of world

Englishes. If these features are shared by these countries, the existence of Asian English can be proposed.

6. The explanation of distinctive characteristics of Thai English in this study is based only on the frameworks of Thai language, culture, and communication norms. Also, information in terms of writers' and readers' perception of Thai writing style can be interesting and worth exploring.