

A Study of English Communication Factors affecting on the Cobra Gold Exercise

การศึกษาปัจจัยการสื่อสารเป็นภาษาอังกฤษที่มีผลต่อการฝึกคอบร้าโกลด์

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Abstract

This study aims to examine the impact of cross cultural communication factors on the Cobra Gold Exercise planning, to evaluate the effect of verbal communication factors on the Cobra Gold Exercise planning and to investigate the influence of non-verbal communication factors on the Cobra Gold Exercise planning, Thailand. The research explains the finding factors that cause the problems in the Cobra Gold multination exercise, which it were the finding perception from the informants who are the commanders and subordinators. The research informants consisted of 36 Thai military officers and non-commissioned officer were interviewed. The value that appears most often findings are beneficial in terms of explanation of the results of statistical analyses.

The finding revealed that, the majority of Thai military officers and non-commissioned officers were perceived military vocabulary and abbreviation was mainly affected to the Cobra Gold Exercise. Meanwhile, it was principally used while military participants conducted Military Decision Making Process (MDMP). This process helps all military services apply thoroughness, clarity, sound judgment, logic, and professional knowledge to reach decision. The finding also exposed that all branches of military officers; army, navy and air force stated that English speaking ability effect on the Cobra Gold Exercise. Since, each steps of the Cobra Gold Exercise planning process; Concept Development Conference (CDC), Initial Planning Conference (IPC), Final Planning Conference (FPC) and Preliminary Staff Exercise (Pre-STAFFEX) or Preliminary Command Post Exercise Conference (Pre-CPX), all participants were from several nations must use English language in group discussion.

Keyword: Cross-cultural Communication, Verbal Communication and Non-Verbal Communication, The Cobra Gold Exercise

บทคัดย่อ

งานวิจัยนี้มีวัตถุประสงค์เพื่อศึกษาผลกระทบของปัจจัยการสื่อสารข้ามวัฒนธรรม ผลกระทบของปัจจัยการสื่อสารทางวัฒนธรรมและผลกระทบของปัจจัยการสื่อสารทางวัฒนธรรมที่มีต่อการวางแผนการฝึกคอบร้าโกลด์ โดยอธิบายปัจจัยที่ส่งผลให้เกิดปัญหาในการวางแผนการฝึกคอบร้าโกลด์ ซึ่งปัจจัยเหล่านี้พบโดยผู้ร่วมการฝึกทั้งระดับผู้บังคับบัญชาและระดับรองลงในระหว่างการฝึก ค่าที่ปรากฏขึ้นบ่อยที่สุดจากการ

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สำรวจมีประโยชน์ในเรื่องของคำอธิบายของผลการวิเคราะห์ข้อมูลทางสถิติ การวิจัยนี้สัมภาษณ์จากกลุ่มตัวอย่างจำนวน 36 ตัวอย่าง ประกอบด้วยนายทหารไทยชั้นนายทหารสัญญาบัตรและนายทหารชั้นประทวน

ผลการศึกษาแสดงให้เห็นว่า จำนวนส่วนใหญ่ของนายทหารไทยชั้นสัญญาบัตรและนายทหารชั้นประทวนเห็นว่าศัพท์ทางทหารและตัวย่อทางทหารเป็นปัจจัยหลักที่ส่งผลกระทบต่อการศึกษาฝึกคอบร้าโกลด์ โดยที่การศึกษาจะใช้ศัพท์ทางทหารและตัวย่อทางทหารเป็นหลักในการดำเนินการกระบวนการตัดสินใจทางทหาร (Military Decision Making Process: MDMP) ซึ่งทหารทุกเหล่าสามารถใช้กระบวนการตัดสินใจทางทหารนี้ไปใช้ในการวางแผนวิเคราะห์ปัจจัยข้อเท็จจริง และผลกระทบต่าง ๆ เพื่อหาหนทางปฏิบัติและนำหนทางปฏิบัติที่พิจารณาแล้วเสนอต่อผู้บังคับบัญชาตัดสินใจและตกลงใจเลือกหนทางปฏิบัติต่อไป นอกจากนี้ผลการศึกษา ยังแสดงถึงประสิทธิภาพในการสื่อสารเป็นภาษาอังกฤษของนายทหารไทยทุกเหล่าที่ส่งผลกระทบต่อการศึกษาฝึกคอบร้าโกลด์เช่นกัน เนื่องด้วยในทุกขั้นตอนของการวางแผนการฝึกคอบร้าโกลด์จะเริ่มจากการประชุม วางแนวคิดในการฝึก (Concept Development Conference: CDC) การประชุมวางแผนขั้นต้น (Initial Planning Conference: IPC) การประชุมวางแผนขั้นสุดท้าย (Final Planning Conference: FPC) และการประชุมวางแผนก่อนการฝึกฝ่ายเสนาธิการ (Preliminary Staff Exercise: Pre-STAFFEX) หรือการประชุมวางแผนก่อนการฝึกปัญหาที่บังคับการ (Preliminary Command Post Exercise Conference: Pre-CPX) ซึ่งในการประชุมหรือในกลุ่มนั้น ผู้เข้าร่วมการฝึกทุกคนที่มาจากหลายชาติจึงจำเป็นต้องใช้ภาษาอังกฤษในการสื่อสารกัน

คำสำคัญ: การสื่อสารข้ามวัฒนธรรม, วจนภาษา และอวจนภาษา, การฝึกคอบร้าโกลด์

Introduction

Nowadays, military operations of each country in this world are not conducted only in their territory. Likewise, the Armed Force of the United States and Thailand has been conducting the Cobra Gold for 32 years. The continuing series of U.S. - Thai military exercise designed to ensure regional peace through the U.S. Pacific Command's strategy of cooperative engagement, and strengthens the ability of the Royal Thai Armed Forces to defend Thailand.

As in all previous Cobra Gold exercise, the exercise includes joint-combined land and air operations, combined naval operations, amphibious operations, and special operations. Full participating nations include Thai, U.S., Singapore, Japan, Republic of Korea, Indonesia, and Malaysia. Multinational Planning Augmentation Team (MPAT) nation invitees for the Staff Exercise (STAFFEX) event include Australia, Canada, France, Italy, Mongolia, Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Philippines, and Viet Nam. U.S. forces will include element of United States Pacific Command (USPACOM), U.S. Marine Corps Forces, Pacific (MARFORPAC), U.S. Army Pacific (USARPAC), U.S. Pacific Air Force (PACAF), U.S. Pacific Fleet (PACFLT), Special Operations Command Pacific (SOCPAC), and reserve element of the United

States Army, Navy, Air Force, and Marine Corps. Since Cobra Gold participants come from different nations, English then becomes the official communication tool for Thai and foreign military, including civil servants and government officials. Also, in a group discussion or planning process, military planning process, terms, abbreviations, and acronyms are essential in the making of an Operation Plan (OPLAN). These participants are not only from the different Services (Army, Navy, Air force, Marines and Special Forces), but they also come from various countries, which may causes some troubles while they perform military tasks in the exercise planning. Furthermore, for each service has its own military discipline, it is thus necessary for them to get to know other services' doctrine.

This study proposes to discover the factors that cause problems to the Military Decision Making Process (MDMP) which seven steps: Step 1: Receive Mission, Step 2: Mission analysis, Step 3: Course of Action (COA) Development, Step 4: Course of Action Analysis (War Game), Step 5: Course of Action Approval, Step 6: Course of Action Comparison, and Step 7: Order Production. (U.S. Department of Army, 1984). This study involved in step 2 and 3 during the Multinational Exercise Cobra Gold.

Based on the exercise information above, these various participating nations and military branches of service speak the different language which it might lead to some difficulties while they manage military's tasks in the exercise planning, and their nations and services' culture also different. Likewise, each of military services usually follows their own service's discipline while conducting the exercise planning. Thus, it is necessary for them to get to know other service doctrines as well as their own principles.

Methodology

The study is related to problems resulting from the military language usage in the Cobra Gold Exercise, it is necessary to investigate the Exercise Control Group (ECG) and Multinational Forces (MNF) where Thai and foreign military personnel from the United States of America, the Republic of Korea, Singapore, Japan, Indonesia and Malaysia cooperate in the making of Operations Plan (OPLAN). The study focuses only on commissioned and non-commissioned officers from the Royal Thai Armed Forces, the Royal Thai Army (RTA), the Royal Thai Navy (RTN), and Royal Thai Air Force (RTAF). These personnel are diverse in ages, ranks, and educational background in which it could trigger difficulty when they are working and discussing together with foreign military during the planning process.

The instrument used in collecting data is an interview. The Exercise Control Group (ECG) and Multi Nations Forces (MNF) parties are contacted for participation in the interview. They are chief, staff officer, admin officer and non-commissioned officer. The research questions are conducted ultimately to the

relationship between research questions: (1) How do cross-cultural communication factors impact the planning of the Cobra Gold Exercise? (2) How do verbal communication factors affect planning of the Cobra Gold Exercises? (3) How do nonverbal communication factors influence the planning of the Cobra Gold Exercise?

The data obtained from the interview will be re-read and transcribed, for which the ideas relating to the aims of the study will be considered and categorized by means of differentiating the subjects. Referring to Strauss and Corbin (2008), after the stage of open coding which facilitates connection between categories, the next step is to implement the axial coding procedure where data are pieced together in new dimensions. By continuing with questions and comparison, inductive and deductive approaches in the thinking process are the main emphasis of the axial coding procedure in relating the sub-categories to the main one.

The transcripts of the record are later served as the basis for analysis. With this, the researcher is able to explain the finding factors that cause the problems in the Cobra Gold Exercise, and the finding perception gained from the informants who are commanders and subordinates.

Results

The result of the study can be described according to research questions that aim to find out the followings:

1. How do cross-cultural communication factors impact the planning of the Cobra Gold Exercise?

The first finding of this part, the participants in the Cobra Gold Exercise planning found three cross-cultural communication factors that have an impact on the planning of the Cobra Gold Exercise planning: the difference discipline of each service-Army, Navy and Air Force, military vocabulary and military abbreviation and English Language knowledge. The result of study indicates that, by way of military participant has perceived three factors as follows:

The Differences in the Disciplines of Each Service

The participants were mostly pay attention to the differences discipline of each service; Army, Navy and Air force (22 participants) while military vocabulary and military abbreviation (20 participants) and English Language knowledge (19 participants) were mentioned respectively (See Table 1, 2 and 3).

Table 1

Number of Military Participants Who Believe that the Differences in the Disciplines of Each Service Impact the Cobra Gold Exercise Planning

Position/Branches	Army	Navy	Air Force	Total	Percentage
Director	2	0	0	2	9.09
Deputy Director	0	1	3	4	18.18
Assistant Director	4	1	3	8	36.36
Attach to Division	0	4	1	5	22.73
Clerk	2	1	0	3	13.64
Total	8	7	7	22*	100.00

22 out of 36 participant who Believe that the Differences in the Disciplines of Each Service Impact the Cobra Gold Exercise Planning*

Table 1 presents 22 (100.00%) out of 36 participants, which include eight Army, 7 Navy, and 7 Air Force. They are further divided by military position-directors, deputy director, assistant director, attach to division, and clerk-and branches of services. In this table, the assistant directors from all branches of services are the main military participants who think that differences in the disciplines of the Army, Navy and Air Force affect the planning of the Cobra Gold exercise. Then again, other positions in both the exercise control group and the multinational force also perceived that the different disciplines of the Army, Navy and Air Force impact exercise planning.

The Cobra Gold Exercises is the joint exercise of Army, Navy and Air Force focus on maintaining and improving military-to-military relationships among all nations. According to Samovar and Porter (1985, p. 15), cross-cultural communication “occurs whenever a message producer is a member of one culture and a message receiver is a member of another culture”. It is important that all military have to comprehend other’s services discipline as well as their own discipline. Jandt (1995, p. 30) also indicated that “cross-cultural communication generally refers to face-to-face interaction among people of diverse cultures, imagine how difficult communication can be if the source or the message producer and the receiver are in different contexts and shared symbols.” Therefore, all military participating in the Cobra Gold Exercise planning agreed that the differences discipline of each services was significant issued for military that should be focused.

Military vocabulary and military abbreviation

Whereas, military vocabulary and military abbreviation, also English language knowledge (See Table 2 and 3), are essential to the Cobra Gold Exercise as well as military discipline because the Cobra Gold Exercise conducts multinational operations exercise in order to improve multinational interoperability among allies' nations by using English language as a communication tool. Thus, most of participant realized if they do not understand military vocabulary and abbreviation that it usually mentioned in the exercise scenario.

In this table, deputy directors serving in the Air Force are the largest group, but it is not only military officers who perceive that military vocabulary and military abbreviations might affect the Cobra Gold Exercise planning, but non-commissioned officers serving in both Army and Navy also perceived that military vocabulary and military abbreviation might have an effect.

Table 2

Number of Military Participants Who Believe that Vocabulary and Military Abbreviation Have an Impact on the Cobra Gold Exercise Planning

Position/Branches	Army	Navy	Air Force	Total	Percentage
Director	1	0	0	1	5.00
Deputy Director	2	1	3	6	30.00
Assistant Director	1	1	2	4	20.00
Attach to Division	2	2	1	5	25.00
Clerk	2	2	0	4	20.00
Total	8	6	6	20*	100.00

20 out of 36 participant who believe that Vocabulary and Military Abbreviation Have an Impact on the Cobra Gold Exercise Planning*

Table 2 shows 20 (100.00%) out of 36 participants-covering eight Army, 6 Navy and 6 Air Force personnel, classified by military position (director, deputy director, assistant director, division attaché and clerk), and branch of services-who believe that military vocabulary and abbreviation have an impact on the Cobra Gold exercise.

English Language Knowledge

English language knowledge in cultural variation: In the interviews, 19 participants (100.00%) from the exercise control group and the multinational force who serve in different military branches of service (Army, Navy and Air Force) agreed that English language knowledge in cultural variation is one of the cross-cultural communication factors that impacts the Cobra Gold Exercise planning.

Table 3

Number of Military Participants Who Believe that English Language Knowledge in Cultural Variation Impacts the Cobra Gold Exercise Planning

Position/Branches	Army	Navy	Air Force	Total	Percentage
Director	2	1	1	4	21.05
Deputy Director	0	1	1	2	10.53
Assistant Director	0	0	2	2	10.53
Attach to Division	2	2	3	7	36.84
Clerk	2	2	0	4	21.05
Total	6	6	7	19*	100.00

19 out of 36 participant who believe that English Language Knowledge in Cultural Variation Impacts the Cobra Gold Exercise Planning*

In the interviews, 19 (100.00%) out of 36 participants from the exercise control group and the multinational force who serve in different military branches of service (Army, Navy and Air Force) agreed that English language knowledge in cultural variation is one of the cross-cultural communication factors that impacts the Cobra Gold Exercise planning. In this table, the Attach to division from all branches of service are the largest group who agreed that English language knowledge in cultural variation was the factor impact on the exercise. Also, the table indicates that officers from the Air Force were the largest group who saw the impact of this factor. Although, the military personnel who are to participate in the Cobra Gold Exercises firstly required comprehending their military discipline of each branches of service. They would have known military vocabulary and military abbreviation as well as develop English knowledge all together.

By means of this, Thai military can increase military performance while conduct interoperability, military personnel ability, also to maintain military-to-military relationship from allies' nations within the Asia Pacific region and all around the world. Furthermore, all military branches of service; Army, Navy, and Air force could conduct the Cobra Gold Exercise with dignity.

2. How do verbal communication factors affect planning of the Cobra Gold Exercises?

The next result of the study is that the participant found two verbal communication factors, impact the Cobra Gold Exercise planning. Verbal communication is important for its role in identifying group and relationship development (Gudykunst, 2003). The studied shows that the understanding of military vocabulary was the more interested factors than English speaking ability which it could be defined that military participants in the Cobra Gold Exercise planning faced some misinterpreting in military vocabulary meaning. Since, military vocabulary itself has specific meaning which cannot replace by general vocabulary. (Table 4 and Table 5)

The Understanding of Military Vocabulary

In table 4, 29 participants who are Army assistant director, Navy attached to division and Air Force attached to division shared the same perspective, which was that the understanding of military vocabulary might impact on the Cobra Gold Exercise. Since, the table indicated that the highest group is the group of attached to division from all military branches of services. But, other position also perceived the impact of the understanding of military vocabulary on the Cobra Gold Exercise.

Table 4

Number of Military Participants Who Believe that the Understanding of Military Vocabulary Affects the Cobra Gold Exercise Planning

Position/Branches	Army	Navy	Air Force	Total	Percentage
Director	1	0	0	1	3.44
Deputy Director	2	1	3	6	20.70
Assistant Director	4	3	2	9	31.03
Attach to Division	3	4	4	11	37.93
Clerk	1	1	0	2	6.90
Total	11	9	9	29*	100.00

29 out of 36 participant who believe that the Understanding of Military Vocabulary Affects the Cobra Gold Exercise Planning*

Table 4 shows the numbers of 29 (100.00%) out of 36 participants who think that the misunderstanding of military vocabulary might have a negative effect on the Cobra Gold exercise. They are composed of 11 Army, 9 Navy, and 9 Air Force. According to the above qualitative data, the 29 participants are aware of the important of military vocabularies which it continually shows in the exercise scenario and it cannot be replace by general vocabulary, because it is a technical terms and the meaning my not realizable if it be

replace by general vocabulary. They realized that some words that are not often used in their branch, they are not understood.

English Speaking Ability

The second factor that military participants think has an effect on the success of the Cobra Gold Exercise. Most of them mentioned that they should at least speak Basic English. They believe that military participants who are not native English speakers have to learn the rules of English grammar, which is considered as the basic factor that affects communicating ideas in English.

Table 5

Number of Military Participants who believe English Speaking Ability Affects the Cobra Gold Exercise Planning

Position/Branches	Army	Navy	Air Force	Total	Percentage
Director	1	0	0	1	3.70
Deputy Director	2	1	3	6	22.22
Assistant Director	3	3	3	9	33.33
Attach to Division	2	4	1	7	25.92
Clerk	2	2	0	4	14.81
Total	10	10	7	27*	100.00

27 out of 36 participant who believe English Speaking Ability Affects the Cobra Gold Exercise Planning*

Table 5 shows that 27 (100.00%) out of 36 participants--including 10 Army, 10 Navy and 7 Air Force personnel, which are categorized by military position (directors, deputy director, assistant director, attach to division and clerk), and branches of service--perceived that English speaking ability had an effect on the Cobra Gold Exercise planning. In this table, the assistant directors in every branch of service are the largest number of military officer who suppose that English speaking ability affects the Cobra Gold Exercise planning. Apart from that, other positions (deputy director, assistant director, division attaché, clerk and director) also believe that each military personnel should have at least Basic English speaking ability, such as greeting dialog, how to ask and answer questions, etc. In conjunction with English speaking knowledge was essential capability to all military participants using for communicate with other nations. According to (Knapp & Daly, 2003), "in circumstance of communication between people from different culture who speak different language; the huge variety of language often creates difficulties between people..". Even if, their regional background and other factors such as education and occupation, these military participate who join the exercise is from the various branches of services, also the discipline of each branch is not the same.

Though, the involving units and military personnel who are to participate to the Cobra Gold multinational exercise are prepared military knowledge prior join the exercise.

3. How do nonverbal communication factors influence the planning of the Cobra Gold Exercise?

The last factors found are non-verbal communication; it places an impact as an integral component in social interaction. People use different types of non-verbal communication to create impression about themselves (Rugbeer, 2005). The study shows that an attention of military participant in volume and speed of voice was the most mentioned factors. By which, silent responding was the second stated, also body language was the last cited. (Table 6, 7 and 8)

Volume and Speed of Voice

The studied show that most participants are aware that the volume and speed of voice is another factor influencing the Cobra Gold Exercise planning. In Table 6, the studied show that most participants are aware that the volume and speed of voice is another factor influencing the Cobra Gold Exercise planning. It displays that the Army assistant directors and Air Force division attachés form the largest group, 5 persons, who believe that volume and rate of talking influence the planning.

Table 6

Number of Military Participants Who Found that Volume and Speed of Voice Influence the Cobra Gold Exercise Planning

Position/Branches	Army	Navy	Air Force	Total	Percentage
Director	1	0	0	1	3.70
Deputy Director	3	1	3	7	25.92
Assistant Director	5	2	1	8	29.62
Attach to Division	1	2	5	8	29.62
Clerk	1	2	0	3	11.11
Total	11	7	9	27*	100.00

27 out of 36 participant who found that Volume and Speed of Voice influence the Cobra Gold Exercise Planning*

Table 6 reveals the 27 (100.00%) out of 36 participants who think that volume and speed of speaking might have an influence on the planning of the exercise. The 27 participants with this belief comprise 11 Army, 7 Navy, and 9 Air Force. The table shows that the Army assistant directors and Air

Force division attachés form the largest group, 5 persons, who believe that volume and rate of talking influence the planning.

In this study, there are different types of non-verbal behavior; 1) paralanguage is related to oral communication which refers to the rate, pitch and volume qualities of the voice that disrupts or momentarily take place in speech and affects the meaning of a message, Chaney and Martin (2004, p. 111). Paralanguage conveys emotions that could be both negative and positive. Negative emotions could be that of impatience, fear and anger while positive emotions could be satisfaction or admiration. Similar to the exercise planning, the performing speech and tone of voice as well as body language might bring negative or positive factors.

According to this study, the participants are faced with factors that related to oral communication which are caused by themselves and the surrounding environment. Some of them feel unconfident to express their ideas to other nations, so it can be found the hesitating utterance in volume and speed of voice. Also, they revealed some hesitation while participate in group discussion which caused by forgetting some military words.

Silent Response

Based on the result of the study in Table 7, 21 participants comprise 8 Army, 5 Navy and 8 Air Force personnel. It shows that the number of Air Force attach to division, 4 persons, is the largest group of military participants who thought that silent responses influenced the planning environment.

Table 7

Number of Military Participants Who Believe that Silent Response Influences the Cobra Gold Exercise Planning

Position/Branches	Army	Navy	Air Force	Total	Percentage
Director	1	0	0	1	4.76
Deputy Director	1	0	3	4	19.04
Assistant Director	3	1	1	5	23.81
Attach to Division	2	2	4	8	38.10
Clerk	1	2	0	3	14.29
Total	8	5	8	21*	100.00

21 out of 36 participant who Believe that Silent Response Influences the Cobra Gold Exercise Planning*

Table 7 shows that most of the military participants perceived that silent responses might influence the planning for Cobra Gold. Based on the result of the study, 21 (100.00%) out of 36

participants comprise 8 Army, 5 Navy and 8 Air Force personnel. It shows that the number of Air Force attach to division, 4 persons, is the largest group of military participants who thought that silent responses influenced the planning environment.

A common situation involved silent responses from their counterparts while they were conferring in group discussions. Some participants could not interpret the meaning of silence from their counterparts, so this circumstance might lead to confusion among participating nations influence on the Cobra Gold exercise.

Due to the example show in the study above, the participants noticed that the silence occurred while they have met with their counterpart. Which, they do not know exact meaning, but they try to define what that manner means. Although, the first impression of participate the meeting of whom who had never worked together could build up a worthwhile relationship. Therefore, it is clear that most participants found the silence response factor might positively or negatively have an influence on the Cobra Gold Exercise planning.

Body Language

Body language is significant to communication and relationship among participating nations in the Cobra Gold Exercise.

Table 8

Number of Military Participants Who Found that Body Language Influences the Cobra Gold Exercise Planning

Position/Branches	Army	Navy	Air Force	Total	Percentage
Deputy Director	1	0	3	4	20.00
Assistant Director	2	1	1	4	20.00
Attach to Division	3	2	4	9	45.00
Clerk	1	2	0	3	15.00
Total	7	5	8	20*	100.00

20 out of 36 participant who Found that Body Language Influences the Cobra Gold Exercise Planning*

Table 8 reveals that 20 (100.00%) out of 36 participants from all branches of service found body language, such as facial expressions and gestures, might have an influence on the Cobra Gold Exercise planning. In group discussions, participants were also faced with some problems. On the other hand, participants have found that they hesitated to present their ideas on the discussion stage. However, each participant can get through these troubles most of the time. The results of the interviews reveal that, from

the perspective of military participants, they are comfortable to approach to their counterparts in the first meeting. Some military participant who joined the Cobra Gold Exercises for first time was nervous to have dialogue with their counterparts. But, the situation gets better when both side just smiled.

The above nonverbal communication factors were perceived differently and applied specially by each military participant. They apparently believe that body language can positively or negatively affect the military relationship between the allied countries. It was then corroborated by most of the military participants that those nonverbal communication factors (volume and speed of voice, silent responding and facial expression) have an inevitable influence on the planning phase of the Cobra Gold Exercise.

Discussion

According to study's objectives: are to examine the impact of cross-cultural communication factors, the effect of verbal communication factors and the influence of nonverbal communication factors on the Cobra Gold Exercise Planning. The study revealed two significant factors that the participants mostly found during the Cobra Gold Exercise Planning as follows:

1. The understanding of military vocabulary

Table 4 indicates that in every military position in the exercise, there are 29 (100.00%) out 36 participants (director, deputy director, assistant director, attach to division and clerk) were alert that the understanding of military vocabulary was important to the Cobra Gold Exercise planning. It could be interpreted that military participants in the Cobra Gold Exercise planning faced some misunderstanding in military vocabulary meaning because military vocabulary itself has specific meaning which cannot replaced by general vocabulary. In fact, military vocabulary and abbreviation were used by the training audience who participated in multinational forces within Military Decision Making Process (MDMP). This process helps all military services apply thoroughness, clarity, sound judgment, logic, and professional knowledge to reach decision. Thus, the participants should know military vocabulary and terminology terms of each service: The Army, The Navy and The Air Force. It can be said that the more understanding of military vocabulary the participants have, the more effective exercise planning will be. This part of study answers the statement of Gudykunst (2003), who stated that “[v] verbal communication refers to written or spoken words; however, it has to do with more than just the words that people speak. It includes pronunciation or accent, the meaning of the words used, and a range of variation in the way people speak a language which depends on their regional background”

2. English speaking ability

In Table 5 shows that all branches of military officers, 27 (100.00%) out of 36 participants; army, navy and air force, stated that English speaking ability effect on the Cobra Gold Exercise planning. Savignon (1983, p. 35) suggested that there are many communicative competence views, and linguistic competence, or sentence-level grammatical competence, has a particular place within the larger construct of communicative competence. In this aspect, the research finding has shown that an ability to use English language is essential to all level of military participants. These participants are not English native speakers, thus, they should have learned the rules of English grammar then considered as the basic factor that affects communicating ideas in English. In this framework, grammatical competence involves the language features and rules, such as vocabulary, word formation, sentence formation, pronunciation, spelling and linguistic semantics. This type of competence focuses directly on the knowledge and skill required to understand and express accurately the literal meaning of utterance. Therefore, it is an important concern for any second language program (Schmidt & Richards, 1983, p. 7).

This consequence answers to the statement of Hymes (1972, p. 227) explains that “communication competence is defined as the capacity to speak in an appropriate manner”. Whereas, in circumstance of communication between people from different cultures, speak different languages; the huge variety of language often created difficulties between people, it occurred even within a single language there can be many problems understanding, Knapp and Darly (2003) Also, communication is important because of the role it plays in an identify group and relationship development (Gudykunst, 2003).

Thus, English speaking ability was very important to the Cobra Gold Exercise because in each step of the Cobra Gold Exercise planning process: Concept Development Conference, Initial Planning Conference, Final Planning Conference and Pre-Staff/Command Post Exercise Conference, all participants from several nations must use English language in group discussion.

Recommendation

The researcher found some interesting points from the research and the following recommendations are made:

1. Recommendation to arrange specific English language for military exercise course

Since most military participants in the Cobra Gold Exercises have to use English language as a tool of communication altogether with the perceived of military vocabulary and abbreviation. Thus, the military personnel who are to participate in the Cobra Gold Exercises required to have language skills to communicate with people around the world, particularly in speaking and listening skills, the most

effective way to get qualified persons to military exercise planning. Moreover, English language for military exercises course should emphasize military vocabulary as well. From researcher's point of view, English language knowledge should be the first priority for considering improvement, in order to ensure military performance.

Likewise, the military disciplines of all military branches of service (Army, Navy, and Air Force) are the significant implement for the Military Decision Making Process (MDMP). Each unit that would designate to be a part of the Cobra Gold Exercise are encouraged to previously review their own military discipline and joint military discipline.

2. Recommendations for Further Studies

Apart from conducting the military interoperability in the Cobra Gold Exercise, the Cobra Gold Exercise scenario also deal with humanitarian assistant relief which military has to conduct paralleling to military operations at the same time. In this part of the exercise, all military planners should have known International Humanitarian Law, International Law and Code of Conduct.

In the same way, the researcher suggests each unit to establish a lecture in the Cobra Gold Exercise in order to ensure further military perspective in humanitarian assistant relief field.

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