Guideline for Preparing 2+2 Joint-Program : International Dual Undergraduate Degree Program between Department of Thai Language, Kasetsart University (KU) and Busan University of Foreign Studies (BUFS), Republic of Korea

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Abstract- This research aimed to explore the guideline for preparing 2+2 joint-program: international dual undergraduate degree program between Department of Thai language, Kasetsart University (KU) and Busan University of Foreign Studies (BUFS), Republic of Korea. The objectives of this study were dealt mainly; 1) to explore the Bachelor of Arts program (Thai) of KU compared with that of BUFS and; 2) to study analytically the strength-weakness of both programs and specify credits, which can be acceptable in such the 2+2 joint-program.

It was found that the program structure of Bachelor of Arts (Thai) of KU consisting of the three subject modes namely; 1) General Subjects having 30 credits, Core/Specific Subjects having 93 credits and Elective Subjects having 6 credits, has totally 129 credits. Besides, the same of BUFS contains the three subject modes also, but its numbers of credit available are different namely; 1) General Subjects having 14 credits, Major Subjects having 81 credits and Elective Subjects having 35 credits, has totally 130 credits and it has credits more than KU’s. As for the strength, the two programs consist of the obvious philosophy and objectives of program conformed to the main missions etc. As for the weakness, the two programs have no enough numbers of the institute research for in-depth study and development to uplift onto the program standard etc. About the numbers of credits, which are acceptable and possible to run the international dual undergraduate degree program, the credits in the semester 1-4 from Home university must be collected, at least 65 credits, and about 65 rest credits to be received from the Host university in the semester 5-8, must be collected undoubtedly. By doing so, Home and Host University must do agreement for running such the program according to the numbers of credits as specified in the program.

I. INTRODUCTION

Thai language is used as the important communicative tool of Thai citizens and especially the foreigners, as observed generally, are interesting to study Thai language with more increased numbers. The objectives of the study are given to use it not only for being the communicative tool, but also the important tool for earning a life. Thereby, institutes of education in both Thailand and oversea countries that realized about the significances of the study in Thai language, prepare the Bachelor of Arts program (Thai) in order to serve those students, who are interesting and the same has continuously been opened from the former time till the present time.

In Thailand, Department of Thai language, Kasetsart University, has opened the Bachelor of Arts program (Thai) for more than 15 years. Furthermore, the development and revision of the program have been done continuously for being the modern and suitable program in the present educational context. Through a thorough study in the program, students are emphasized to study not only to the principles and methods of Thai language usage, but also the proper communication in several ways including new knowledge and understanding of Thai culture through a thorough study of Thai language as well.

Moreover, the oversea institutes of higher education such as Busan University of Foreign Studies, Republic of Korea etc., realize the significances and benefit of the study in Thai language in this South-East Asia. Then, it established the Department of Thai language in order to open the Bachelor of Arts program (Thai) and it administrated such the program with the high standard system for many years. Presently, Department of Thai language, Busan University of Foreign Studies has successfully completed in opening and administrating such the program. Every year there have been a lot of students interested to apply in study in the said program and it, as observed generally, seems to be more students in numbers. According to the light as stated above, it is revealed that Department of Thai language, Kasetsart University, like Department of Thai language, Busan University of Foreign Studies, has opened the Bachelor of Arts program (Four-year Program) for a long time. In order to build up the academic collaboration and supporting the students of both universities in term of the potential of knowledge and skill in Thai language efficiently, there have been ideas to build up the academic collaborations through doing international dual undergraduate degree program between Department of Thai language, Kasetsart University and Busan University of Foreign Studies, Republic of Korea. By doing so, it is necessary and needful to do an analytical study of the detailed information and survey the possible way.
Hence, the researcher is interested to pay attention in order to study analytically the guideline for preparing 2+2 joint-program: international dual undergraduate degree program between Department of Thai language, Kasetsart University and Busan University of Foreign Studies, Republic of Korea. By such the study, it is expected to reveal the detailed information of both programs concerned and possibility of the acceptable program between both universities in running the international dual undergraduate degree program. As for the objectives of the study, they are; 1) to explore the Bachelor of Arts program (Thai) of Kasetsart University compared with that of Busan University of Foreign Studies and 2) to study analytically the strength weakness of both programs and specify credits, which are acceptable in such the 2+2 joint-program.

II. MATERIALS, SCOPE AND METHODS

Regarding the materials and tools concerned for collecting data to be used in this study, they are as follows;

1) Recording: researcher will use the tape recording in order to collect data from the interviewees and record such the data in writing.

2) Interviewing Form: researcher will use the interviewing form in interviewing the persons concerned. However, before using such the interviewing form, it will be proved by the experts/resource persons and then its usage for collecting data will be done.

3) Questionnaires: research will use questionnaires as the important tool in order to receive the opinions of professors and students towards building the international dual undergraduate degree program

This study is a qualitative research through the thorough detailed information of the programs, interview and questionnaires about opinions of the persons concerned. Such the methodology consists of the following important three parts as follows;

1) Studying the documentary sources (Primary Data) from the programs of Kasetsart University and Busan University of Foreign Studies.

2) Collecting the secondary data from various books, documents and research works concerned.

3) Interviewing and giving the questionnaires towards the persons concerned.

In respect of the scope of the study, it has the explicit scope and limitation as follows;

1) Researcher will study the detailed information of the Bachelor of Arts programs (Thai), Department of Thai language, Kasetsart University, (Revised Program B.E. 2549) and Busan University of Foreign Studies (Used in B.E.2551) totally 2 programs only.

2) Populations of the study are such the programs of both universities as mentioned earlier. Not only that, sample random sampling of the Korean students, who are studying in the program (Thai), Busan University of Foreign Studies, in academic year 2551. Of such the students, they are divided into; 10 students of third year and 10 students of fourth year students, totally 20 persons. Moreover, 2 professors are included in the populations as well.

III RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

According to the results of a comparative and analytical study in the programs (Thai) of Department of Thai language, Kasetsart University and Busan University of Foreign Studies, it was found results concerned as follows;

1) Bachelor of Arts Program (Thai) of Department of Thai language, Kasetsart University

Department of Thai language, Kasetsart University, has opened Bachelor of Arts Program (Thai) as the first program of Kasetsart University, for a long time. Presently, Department of Thai language, Kasetsart University has opens totally 3 programs in Bachelor of Arts, Master of Arts and Doctor of Philosophy. In particularly, such the Bachelor of Arts Program (Thai) has been developed, revised and used through many times and years till nowadays.

At the present time, such the program (Revised Program in B.E.2549) has been opened for 2-3 years and it is regarded as the modern and suitable program in the present educational context. Through the thorough program, it contains the following two branches; 1) Linguistic Thai and Thai for Career Works. Both of branches open the Co-Operative Education including None Co-Operative Education within the study plan. It can be said that such the program is modern and benefits directly towards students in order to work in the future.

The important structure of the program consists of the different subjects available in 3 modes namely; General Education (at least 30 credits), Core Subjects (at least 93 credits) and Elective Subjects (at least 6 credits). Total credits the students can collect in the program will be at least 129 credits for full 4 years of study. To illustrate such the program, it can be presented the detailed information of the credits compared with the previous program (Department of Thai language: 2006) as follows;

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Modes/Total Credits</th>
<th>Principle of Ministry of Education</th>
<th>Previous Structure (at least)</th>
<th>New Structure (at least)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General Education</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Core Subjects</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>93</td>
<td>93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Required Subject</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>(78)</td>
<td>(57)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Selected Subject</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>(15)</td>
<td>(36)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elective Subject</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Credits (at least)</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>132</td>
<td>129</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2) Bachelor of Arts Program (Thai), Department of Thai Language, Busan University of Foreign Studies

The Bachelor of Arts Program (Thai), Department of Thai language, Busan University of Foreign Studies, Republic of Korea, has opened in order to serve desires of Korean students, who are interesting in studying Thai language including foreign affairs regarding Thailand since 1982 totally 26 years. Such the program, as studied extensively, has continuously been developed till nowadays.

The Bachelor of Arts Program (Thai) has developed and revised continuously for serving the Korean students and it has been considered to develop in accordance with the changes of the present educational context. By considering so, Thai study in Busan University of Foreign Studies aims at development of student’s life quality and optional ways to contribute in society as the good citizen. It emphasizes to bear new knowledge and skill in order to design and decide for the next career in accordance with the determination of Busan University of Foreign Study.

On the detailed information of such the program, it will be consisted of the different subjects derived from the three modes of subject namely; General Education (at least 14 credits), core subjects (at least 81 credits) and elective subjects (at least 35 credits). In this, for those students, who collected at least totally 130 credits can be able to graduate. About the total credits of the program (Thai), Busan University of Foreign Studies, they are as follows; (Busan University of Foreign Studies; 2008)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Modes/Total Credits</th>
<th>Program Structure (at least)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General Education</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Core Subjects</td>
<td>81</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Required subjects</td>
<td>(18)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Selected specific subjects</td>
<td>(12)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Selected Core subjects in major</td>
<td>(51)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elective Subjects</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Credits (at least)</td>
<td>130</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3) Strength-Weakness of the Program and Acceptable Credits

As studied analytically and comparatively in the matters of strength and weakness of both programs and in-depth analysis for determining the credits that is acceptable in the international dual undergraduate degree program, it can be said clearly as follows;

3.1) Strength-Weakness of Both Programs

1) Both programs have the clear philosophy and the documentary information for students and others were published obviously. However, it was not enough in enlargement because it was published in the limited area.

2) Determination of the program’s objectives accords with main mission. Some items are difficult to evaluate and it needs more times to run. Especially, the program of Busan University of Foreign Studies does not determine the objectives for being base in the advanced study.

3) There has been revision of the program for being modern and suitable in the present educational world. However, there should be determination of each subject with several aspects and covering overall dimensions. Particularly, there should be program handbook for being benefit and facility for the students.

4) The program (Thai) has determined the clear target in producing graduates that accorded with demands of the labor market. Furthermore, there is the measure in order to run the several exchange student programs from different institutes in oversea countries. For covering overall, there should be measure for following up the quality of graduates after graduating from the university.

5) The programs are operated directly according to the objectives of the universities and they conform with demands of Thai labor market as well. However, there is institute research that is not enough in order to do in-depth study for developing and uplifting to the program standard.

6) Learning and activities process are provided for the students. Not only that, there is also the test and result evaluation continuously in order to motivate the students bear self-development entirely. However, there should be reset the program operation for being clear and suitable. Some subjects consist of a lot of contents. There should be the various extra-curricular activities and the same will make the students understand and can develop themselves completely and entirely. Undoubtedly, it will cause good results at students.

7) There is the systematic machinery of program operation, but there is no systematic machinery to follow up the overall results of the students. Furthermore, there seems to have a little institute research regarding the following quality of graduates. In the better way, there should be the institute research to follow up the quality of graduates continuously and knowing and solving the problems entirely.

8) There is systematic learning in order to support the students to have knowledge and bear skill to be capable in earning the real life through the association with the outside organization or sectors. However, there seems to have no continuous following, caring and evaluation of the internship in order to brush up the student’s work skill and potentials.

9) The program (Thai) has various branches and subjects in order to be elective things for students. However, it should explain more about the detailed information of such the branches for the students in the program. Busan University of Foreign Studies, as found undoubtedly, has opened many subjects regarding Thai language for the students, but there is no any branch as the selective thing, in the program for the students.
3.2) Total Credits to be Acceptable by Both Universities

For those credits that both universities can accept in preparing the 2+2 joint-program: international dual undergraduate degree program, they are: 1) the students must collect credits, at least 65 credits in the semesters 1-4 at home university; and 2) At the same time, such the credits will be merged with the (at least) 65 rest credits that the host university will open for the students in semesters 5-8 at host university. Thereby, each university will be responsible in order to open directly the credits for those students, who are in the program till the all credits are collected completely as the regulars in the program namely;

Korean Students of Busan University of Foreign Studies who study in program (Thai) must complete two academic years of the study at Kasetsart University. Particularly, the collective credits, after study for the first two academic years, can be merged with the second two academic years and the total credits must be at least 129 credits according to the regulars given in the program.

Thai students of Kasetsart University, who study in program in Korea must complete two academic years of study at Busan University of Foreign Studies. In Particularly, the collective credits, after study for the first two academic years, can be brought to merge with the second two academic years and the total credits must be, at least, 130 credits according to the regulars given in the program (Busan University of Foreign Studies: 2008)

Having received all the collective credits in the program, students of Busan University of Foreign Studies and Kasetsart University can be able to graduate and receive the second degree at the host university. Then, they can be able to receive another degree at the home university as well

IV. CONCLUSION

According to the light of the Bachelor of Arts program (Thai), Kasetsart University as compared with that of Busan University of Foreign Studies, Republic of Korea, it can be concluded undoubtedly that both programs have the same structure containing the three modes of subject namely; General Education, Required/Core Subjects and Elective Subjects. Each modes of subject, strictly speaking, consists of total credits differently. However, the holistic view of both program are similar in structure. The students who collected at least 129-130 credits can be able to graduate. Furthermore, each program has their own strength-weakness and particularly, both universities can open such the international dual undergraduate degree program. Through the thorough detailed information, the students from home university must collect credits at least 65 in 1-4 semesters and then receive the rest credits at least 65 in 5-8 semesters at the host university. By doing so, the students can be able to graduate for sure.

V. REFERENCES