

Scrutinizing English native speakerism in job classifieds in Thailand

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Abstract

Despite the increasing recognition and support for Englishes in the academic context, job announcements for English teachers in Thailand seem to reverse the ongoing trend. In this small-scale research, 50 classifieds for English teachers were collected and a content analysis was conducted to find out ways in which such announcements were made when the notion of English native speakerism was concerned. Findings showed that in all the advertisements, only English native speakers from certain specific countries were qualified. More interestingly, 16 out of 50 classifieds stated explicitly that only the Caucasian applicants, not necessarily native English speakers, would be considered. Potential candidates' educational qualifications were however not the main emphasis in most of the advertisements demonstrated by the way they appeared last in the sequence of requirements. The findings yield many worrying yet interesting points, one of which is how certain people with power equal being white to being a native speaker of English. For some, being white even outweighs being a native speaker. Apart from revealing the ideology of white supremacy and native speakerism in Thailand, it is hoped that the findings will serve as a reminder for policy makers, school principals and those related to teacher recruitment to reconsider the existing criteria and to prevent discrimination on the basis of race and language.

Key words: job classifieds, English teachers, native speakerism