

## CHAPTER 4

### RESEARCH QUESTIONS AND OBJECTIVES

#### 4.1 Primary Research Questions

- a. What are the general and specific English language needs of graduate nurses practicing their profession in government hospitals in Bangkok?
- b. What are the general and specific English language needs of graduate nurses practicing their profession in private hospitals in Bangkok?
- c. Do the general and specific English language needs of graduate nurses practicing their profession in government hospitals in Bangkok differ from the general and specific English language needs of graduate nurses practicing their profession in private hospitals in Bangkok?

#### 4.2 Secondary Research Question

What English curriculum would be clinically, professionally and generally useful for nursing students in Thailand?

### **4.3 Research Objectives**

1. To identify the general and specific English language needs of graduate nurses practicing their profession in government hospitals in Bangkok.

2. To identify the general and specific English language needs of graduate nurses practicing their profession in private hospitals in Bangkok.

3. To find out if the general and specific English language needs of nurses practicing their profession in government hospitals in Bangkok differ from the general and specific English language needs of nurses practicing their profession in private hospitals in Bangkok.

4. To design an English curriculum model for nursing students in Thailand that will help them prepare for the real work setting and carry out their daily routine work as nurses.

### **4.4 Research Hypothesis**

There is no significant difference between the general and specific English language needs of nurses practicing their profession in government hospitals in Bangkok and the general and specific English language needs of nurses practicing their profession in private hospitals in Bangkok.

#### 4.5 Operational Definitions

**Needs** = how much of the four English language skills (listening, speaking, reading and writing) are actually used in the nurses' place of work, in the practice of their profession and the problems they encounter in the use of English in the practice of their profession.

**Needs Analysis** = the collection of information from nurses who are actually practicing their profession through a self-administered questionnaire to find out the actual use of the four English language skills in the hospitals, the problems encountered by nurses in the use of English in the practice of their profession.

**Curriculum** = embraces syllabus design (which includes the selection and grading of content), methodology (which includes selection of learning tasks and activities), assessment and evaluation.

**Bases** = important factors (e.g. English language needs) to be considered before designing a curriculum.

**Design** = outline the steps in the preparation of a course or a curriculum.

**English Course for Nursing Students** = an English program designed for nursing students to prepare them for their future work in the hospital.