Choi, Jin-Sook. 2011. A Study on Changes in Language Attitudes among Primary School Students. Linguistic Research 28(2), 431-450. This study investigates whether there have been any changes in the degree of exposure to English and attitudes towards English and English speakers among primary school students. The first and the second language attitude surveys were carried out in 1997 and 2004 respectively with primary school students in grade 4 to 6 aged from 10 to 13 years. Based on these two surveys, the third survey was conducted with 210 students in the same age of the same schools as done before, then the results were analyzed and compared. The results of the third survey show that the degree of exposure to English has declined by a small portion, compared with the previous 2004 second survey (but it was still higher than the 1997 first survey). However it was noticeable that the students who studied English after school have shown an increased frequency in learning English: The more exposure to English, the more frequency to English learning. Also, their attitudes towards English speakers produced very different results from the 2004's: They showed a very positive attitude although they were in lower degree of exposure to English. Further, the third survey has confirmed there were no changes in the degree of English use among primary school students, nor changes in their concept that English will give them benefits in the future. Over the past fourteen years, however, their original favorable attitudes towards English and English speakers formed in the first survey have clearly declined in the second survey, and attitudes showed in the second survey did not change remarkably in the third survey. These results imply that their attitudes are likely to be neutral, and it seems difficult to expect a high English achievement and proficiency if this study has validity.

(Youngsan University)

Key Words language attitudes, English, English speakers, primary school students