

M.A THESIS IN LINGUISTICS

“THE IMPACT OF TEST WASHBACK” ON  
FIRST YEAR UNDERGRADUATES OF THE  
FACULTIES OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL  
SCIENCES OF UNIVERSITY OF KELANIYA

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## **Abstract**

Test-takers' perceptions of the tests can often provide prolific information for test designers and policy makers. This study intended to discover the perspectives of learners involved in the ELTU 13012 course which leads to exam at the University of Kelaniya. In particular, the study explored learner perspectives of motivation, anxiety due to the test, test-taking strategies and the expectations students bring into the course. This study embraced a mixed methodology and collected data through questionnaire survey, classroom observations, and informal conversations. The results of the present study statistically indicated that the course and the test exert a positive impact on candidates it is due to the content, the way the content is delivered and the style of the test itself, which according to the respondents, is all inclusive that it tests (writing, speaking, reading and listening). However, the unanimous reaction of the participating candidates of this study stressed the need that a level based classes are mandatory after a placement test at the beginning of the semester. Further, it indicated a complex relationship between the exams and learners' perspectives. The picture that emerged from this study is that the ELTU 13012 course and test have synchronizing element where whatever taught in the class were tested in the final examination.

**Keywords:** perceptions, motivation, anxiety, positive, synchronizing