

Role of Internal Factors in Learning English as a Second Language classroom: A study of Undergraduates

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Learning English as a Second Language (ESL) plays a vital role in Sri Lankan society. In ESL context Sri Lankan undergraduates encounter various difficulties in learning English such as getting exposed to an English speaking environment, anxiety that hinders the authentic expression of ideas. Therefore, this observation paved the way to identify the fundamental internal factors which affect English as a Second Language (ESL) classroom of undergraduates. The sample of this research consists of randomly selected 30 First year participants learning English as a Second Language in the faculties of Dance and Drama, Music and Visual Arts, University of the Visual and Performing Arts, Colombo 07. For the purpose of clear analysis of data, it was decided to conduct the study quantitatively and the collection of data was done via a questionnaire consisting Likert Scale questions, Multiple Choice questions and Open-Ended questions. The study mainly focuses on two major internal variables in learning English, namely motivation, both intrinsic and extrinsic and attitude. These can be considered as some of the most determining factors that enhance efficiency of students in language classroom. The results of this research indicate that the majority of the participants belonging to the faculty of Dance and Drama are highly motivated and they have positive attitude towards learning English compared to the participants of other faculties. Moreover, this research reveals the reasons for negative attitude and lack of motivation in ESL classroom. Further, it identifies other internal factors such as anxiety, age and the influence of the first language that affect Second language learning. Based on the findings it is recommended that conducting lessons interestingly while motivating and encouraging students to use English and making them aware of the importance of learning English can result in their enhanced motivation and positive attitude towards learning English. Furthermore, the undergraduates will successfully obtain the ability of English Language Learning.

Keywords: Internal Factors, Motivation, Attitude, Undergraduates, Second Language Learning.

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