

# **The Influence of Learners' Interest on the Effectiveness of Compulsory English Course:**

## **Special Focus on the Second Language Acquisition of University Undergraduates**

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The purpose of this study is to examine the undergraduates' interest in learning English as a second language and it adopts both quantitative and qualitative approaches to identify factors which cause lack of interest among undergraduates to attend the Compulsory English Course conducted by the English Language Teaching Unit of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura. Data were collected by means of questionnaires, focus group discussions and semi structured interviews. All together 120 students from two courses including 100 students from Compulsory English Course and 20 students from English for Employment Course were selected as the sample for the survey to obtain quantitative and qualitative data.

The results indicate significant differences between these two courses revealing a number of affective factors such as learning environment, teaching methodology, learning materials, time table etc that decrease the interest of undergraduates in Compulsory English Course conducted by the English Language Teaching Unit of the university. Based on the findings, a number of recommendations and implications were made to upgrade the Compulsory English Course. At last, it is hoped that the results of this study could be of much benefit for revising the teaching methodology, materials, syllabus etc of the Compulsory English Course of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura.

***Key words:*** Education, English language teaching, University undergraduate