

# **Influence of Computer Assisted Language Learning (CALL) in the Acquisition of English as a Second Language by Polytechnic Students of Sri Lanka**

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Levy, M. (1997) explains Computer Assisted Language Learning (*CALL*) as “*the search for and the study of applications of the computer in language teaching and learning.*” This research investigates the effectiveness of *CALL* in conducting English courses for polytechnic students in Sri Lanka with special reference to students following Higher National Diploma in Engineering, Management and English at Sri Lanka Institute Advanced Technological Education.

The hypothesis that *CALL* made a positive impact on the polytechnic students that learnt English as a second language was supported on the objectives that motivation of the students to follow the course was sustained, that their level of attendance increased and that their performance in the language tests improved. Data used in this work was collected via questionnaires forwarded to the members of the sample selected as well as observations of the instructors/lecturers that represented the three courses.

At the end of data analysis this research found noticeable improvement in the performance of students in English since the incorporation of *CALL* in English language programmes followed by them. The student autonomy, authenticity of material and technological paraphernalia that *CALL* involves seemed to take their appeal resulting in the development of their language skills. Advantages of using *CALL* in language programmes of polytechnic students led this research to advocate the incorporation of Internet and other language software into second language courses and at the same time it emphasizes adequate training and awareness building initiatives for the staff conducting these courses, for enabling them to handle the technical interruptions and trouble shooting promptly for delivering and ensuring a satisfactory learning experience/environment for students learning English as their second language.

***Key words:*** *Polytechnic, Appeal, Authenticity, Impact, Training*