Teaching/Learning ESL during a Global Pandemic: A Survey Conducted at the Faculty of Arts, University of Peradeniya

Jayamini Chamilka Ratnayake

Department of English Language Teaching, Faculty of Arts, University of Peradeniya

<rchamili@gmail.com>

Abstract - The study was set out to investigate the opinions on the teaching/learning process of English as a Second Language (ESL) during a global emergency. The survey was conducted at the Faculty of Arts, University of Peradeniya. For the purpose of this study thirty undergraduates were chosen from the first-year batch belonging to the basic level group. Five Instructors were also randomly chosen. The COVID-19 pandemic has led to the massive closure of face-to-face activities of educational institutions in order to prevent the spread of the virus. This had led to the deployment of distance learning modalities through a variety of formats and platforms. Therefore, the main research question of this research study was whether online teaching favoured ELT classrooms for teaching and learning processes. The study involved a mixed method of data collection. Questionnaires were presented to both the undergraduates and the instructors. In order to gauge whether the online platform was a success student attendance records were summarized. The data collected from the students and instructors' responses were analyzed. The study revealed that it was not merely the students who were affected by the impact of the technology-based education, but the instructors too were impacted with the new changing role. With regard to the opinions on the teaching/learning process of ESL, both the students and the instructors stated that it had both its pros and cons as it is still a new implementation.

Keywords: English as a Second Language, Online Teaching, Technology – Based Education

Department of English Language Teaching
Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities
Rajarata University 0f Sri Lanka

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