

## Learning a Language on Digital Platforms in Sri Lanka

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**Abstract** – Digital education has long been introduced with concepts like Technology Enhanced Learning (TEL) and e-learning practices in the arena of second language acquisition across the world. Due to COVID 19 pandemic the transferring of the physical classroom into a digital teaching and learning platform became a necessity even in Sri Lanka. The effectiveness of English being taught as a second language online: on different digital platforms, focused on the basic skills and its conveyance in the learners' perspective is in fact a grey area of study. The focus of the case study was: to investigate new approaches to teaching English as a second Language on several digital platforms, to improve the students' interest in virtual learning overcoming the technical issues within the stipulated timeframe, to identify and understand the challenges faced by both the teacher and the learner in making a more interactive and collaborative atmosphere in virtual classroom, to formulate assessment criteria suitable for the same and other possible improvements. Therefore data were collected from several focused groups: one-on-one interviews with thirty university lecturers and upper-school language teachers; randomly chosen and two separate surveys posing questionnaires for students of local universities and other institutes as well as upper-school students. Collected data were sampled into different explanatory categories and through qualitative analysis the validity of the hypothesis was evaluated. Thus, it became evident that, language acquisition in digital teaching and learning platforms doesn't differ from physical classroom if the learners are facilitated well, despite their levels of competencies.

**Keywords:** digital platforms, virtual classroom, skills-based learning.