

# The Interest of Sri Lankan Undergraduates towards the Improvement of English Language Skills during the COVID-19 Pandemic Period

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**Abstract** - English language performances influence the success of undergraduates during their university time. Many of the degree programmes in Sri Lankan Universities are conducted in English medium. So the English language performances are very important. During the Covid-19 pandemic situation, teaching has been done through online platforms. Studies all over the world show the things done by undergraduates. Through this study it was focused on the interest of Sri Lankan undergraduates in improving English language performances. The general objective of this study was to find the interest of Sri Lankan undergraduates in improving English language performances during the pandemic period. The specific objectives of this study were; to find the skills that undergraduates want to improve during the pandemic period and attitudes of undergraduates towards the improvement of English language performances. This study was conducted using the mix-method approach. The sample size of this study was 40, covering different Universities in Sri Lanka. The quantitative data were collected through the semi-structured questionnaires and qualitative data were collected through focus-group discussions. 65% of the participants said that they wanted to improve their speaking skills and 17.5% of the participants said that they communicated with each other in English through online platforms. Overall all the participants showed a positive attitude towards improving their English language performances and suggested effective practical methods to improve English language performances. Therefore the results of this study can be used to make action plans with the policy makers in the national education system.

**Keywords:** English, performances, skills, undergraduates