

The Impacts of Learning the English Language via Zoom in Sri Lankan Schools

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Abstract - The virtual class is a new concept in Sri Lankan government schools. After the covid-19 outbreak in 2020, the teachers gradually started to adopt it, and now it has become inevitable. The study focus on the question, "Do Zoom classes have the space to apply various teaching methodologies to facilitate a student-centred interactive learning environment?" The mixed-method was adopted to get interactive and inductive data. Twenty-five grade nine students from a government school was the study sample who attended the English classes for three months via zoom. At the end of the third month, a questionnaire was used to get feedback on learning language via zoom. Seventy-eight per cent of the students' preferred zoom classes than the conventional classes, and 65 percent of the students stated that they could use the language in the zoom classes. The content analysis of the recorded zoom classes showed that the students' attention and motivation were increased remarkably. The user-friendly facilities in Zoom: chat, screen share, raising the hand, helped the students increase their motivation level. Zoom has the space to use multimodality texts which can facilitate to improve the learners speaking ability. The study proved that apart from technical issues, the efficacy of learning English via zoom is far better than the traditional classrooms in government schools.

Keywords: Interaction, Motivation, Multimodality