

## A Study on the Awareness of ESL Websites among the Secondary Level ESL Learners

Malathy Bakeerathan

Department of English Language Teaching, University of Jaffna, Sri Lanka

<bmalathy@univ.jfn.ac.lk>

**Abstract** - The current situation of COVID-19 pandemic has affected the educational sector worldwide leading to the closures of educational institutions temporarily. As a result, the distinctive rise of e-learning has become inevitable. The learners of English as a Second Language (ESL) have gotten an opportunity to avail with an abundance of online educational resources and materials which can scaffold their language learning in schools. Numerous ESL websites provide learning material to develop all the four skills and the grammar of English Language. Since the students stay home due to the closure of schools, they can devote much time learning the language through these websites independently in their flexible hours. Consequently, the Web Enhanced Language Learning (WELL) would provide better outcomes in the ESL examinations. The purpose of this study was to investigate whether the secondary learners of ESL utilize ESL websites to improve their language. The subjects of the study included altogether hundred and forty five senior secondary level students from the schools in Jaffna. Data were collected through focused group interviews and questionnaires. The results of the study revealed that many of the students were not familiar with the websites that render ESL knowledge, whereas the others had an overall positive attitude towards the teacher – selected ESL websites. They stated that using the ESL websites to learn the second language was interesting and effective. However, most of the students depended on their language teachers for the selection and utilization of these websites. It is recommended that the ESL learners should be motivated to devote their time using ESL websites to develop their language.

**Keywords:** ESL websites, ESL learners, awareness