



## Perceived Effectiveness of ESL Curriculum in Higher Education Institutions in Sri Lanka in Addressing the Language Needs of the Students

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ESL courses which are popular among the students in higher education institutes in Sri Lanka as “Kadu Panthi” are specifically designed to enhance the English language skills of the students to adjust themselves in their academic activities- which are mainly done in English. But what cannot be neglected yet is, despite all the effort taken by the higher education institutions, still there are some students, who could not thrive their English language skills to the required level to scaffold students in their academic activities. The crux, therefore, remains unchanged and unaddressed most often, resulting in some students failing the examinations and even giving up their respective academic programs due to the language barrier. Especially, the undergraduates who read for the degree programs that are only offered in English struggle much with their language needs in English since they often find their academic activities much challenging and frustrating as they cannot master the English language as required by the academia. Thus, the study conducted addresses both the students’ and lecturers’ expectations and perspectives on ESL curriculum in practice, studying its perceived effectiveness in addressing the English language needs of the students, by using a cohort of 25 students and 05 lecturers in the Department of Information Technology in SLIATE and evaluates the lack of attendance of the students in the English classes, lack of knowledge in basic grammar and less interest of the students as the reasons for less effectiveness of ESL programs in the respective study program.

**Keywords:**ESL Curriculum, Higher Education Institutes, Language Needs, Learners’ Expectations, Perceived Effectiveness

