LANGUAGE BARRIERS IN INFORMATION RETRIEVAL BY THE UNIVERSITY STUDENTS

YWND. Amarasooriya[1]

This qualitative research study aims to examine the language barriers encountered by university students in the process of information retrieval. A literature survey was conducted using articles published in the period of 2018-2023 in Sri Lanka. The data was obtained through the Google Scholar databases. The research explored existing knowledge and insights on the topic by reviewing relevant scholarly articles, books, and publications. The study identified and explored various language-related challenges that impede students' ability to access and retrieve information effectively. These barriers include limited language proficiency, unfamiliarity with specialized vocabulary, difficulties in comprehending complex academic texts, and challenges in accurately interpreting and summarizing information. Through an analysis of the impact of language barriers on students' academic performance, research skills, and overall learning experience, this study provides a comprehensive understanding of the issue. Additionally, the research investigated potential strategies and interventions to mitigate language barriers in information retrieval. These strategies encompassed language support programs, targeted language instruction, the utilization of bilingual resources, and the creation of a supportive learning environment. The findings of this study were contributed to the existing body of knowledge by shedding light on the intricate nature of language barriers in information retrieval faced by university students. The study emphasized the significance of recognizing and addressing these barriers to ensure equitable access to information and enhance students' academic success in higher education settings. By promoting effective information seeking and utilization skills among diverse student populations, universities can create an inclusive and supportive learning environment. Based on the research findings, this study offers recommendations for improving language support services in universities, facilitating the development of students' language skills and information retrieval competencies. Ultimately, this research serves as a valuable resource for educators, policymakers, and practitioners involved in enhancing information literacy and overcoming language barriers for university students.

Keywords: Language barriers, information retrieval, university students, qualitative research

---

[1] nimasha.dilrangi@gmail.com