

M.A THESIS IN LINGUISTICS

**ISSUES ENCOUNTERED WHEN  
TEACHING ENGLISH FOR ACADEMIC  
AND SPECIFIC PURPOSES FOR THE  
STUDENTS AT THE FACULTY OF  
ENGINEERING OF THE UNIVERSITY  
OF PERADENIYA**

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## **Abstract**

This study was carried out to provide an insight into the issues/challenges encountered by the members of the English Language Teaching Unit attached to the Faculty of Engineering at the University of Peradeniya. The study employed 9 instructors as the main informants so that the issues/challenges they face can be brought into light, and 20 students as secondary informants just to grasp an idea on what they think about the course that they follow.

Information was gathered through distributing questionnaires among the staff and the students. And then, the answers were analysed.

The findings of the study revealed that along with a few issues/challenges such as, lack of specialized knowledge in the learners' fields of study, and lack of suitable training, lack of EAP/ESP libraries, poor proficiency of students at entry stage, which are specifically related to EAP/ESP circumstances, these instructors also encounter issues/challenges such as time constraints, difficulties in designing material etc., that are common to most language teaching situations.

Finally, some suggestions to overcome these problems are provided along with recommendations for further studies.