

Abstract 13

Improving English through Participating in University Student Organizations

Pabasara Ponnampereuma, Kaushalyani Ruwandika & Thisali Devindi

English Language Teaching Unit, University of Kelaniya

pabasara.ponnampereuma@gmail.com, kaushalyani71@gmail.com,
praneedi21@gmail.com

English has become the de facto language of communication in the academia and the language that some of the student organizations operate in. These student organizations operate networking all universities in and outside Sri Lanka. The aim of this study is to see whether undergraduates actually improve their English knowledge by participation in student organizations. For this purpose, a sample of 30 students were given questionnaires with two open ended questions asking about their views on improving English knowledge through participating in student organizations. For this purpose three student organizations, AISEC, Gavel club and Model United Nations (MUN) were selected. The participants were selected through purposive sampling; those who are members of one or more of the aforementioned student organizations. The results elaborate that although students use English, there is much code switching and it is difficult to identify if they really improve their English through participation in these organizations. In conclusion, a more comprehensive study would help to have a better understanding of this phenomenon.

Key words: international, organization, learning, English, University of Kelaniya