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### **Factors which generate Pronunciation Difficulties for the Undergraduates of University of Kelaniya**

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The research paper will focus on the fundamental pronunciation problems faced by the randomly selected undergraduates who learn English as a second language in the University of Kelaniya. The sample of this study consists of the undergraduates belonging to faculties of Humanities, Social Sciences and Management in the University. The collection of data was done as a semi structured interview (Pronunciation Test) and as a questionnaire. The sample consisted of forty undergraduates for the questionnaire and ten undergraduates for the semi structured interview. The research was carried out in September 2015. The study identified two major problematic areas; how the puberty age affects for pronunciation and how the rural and urban distinction affects for pronunciation. The findings show that undergraduates who started learning English before puberty are more fluent in English than others and undergraduates from urban areas are more fluent in English than those who are from rural areas. The study also revealed other pronunciation problems such as anxiety, family background, influence of the first language and incomplete knowledge about grammar and vocabulary. Based on these findings the researcher recommends that the undergraduates will be able to overcome these pronunciation difficulties and speak in English correctly by implementing teaching methods regarding pronunciation in English classroom, giving proper phonetic training, practicing pronunciation activities and having good motivation as well.

*Key words: puberty, rural and urban distinction, first language, teaching methods, phonetic training*