

# Attitudes and Motivation in achieving English Proficiency: A case study of Management Undergraduates



**Fathima Mufeeda Jawfar M.A.**  
**(FGS/04/02/04/2008/02)**

ප්‍රති- අංකය	674
විකි- අංකය	

**Thesis submitted to the University of Kelaniya  
for the degree of Master of Philosophy in Linguistics**

*January 2010*

## *Abstract*

This purpose of this study is to examine the students' Attitudes, Motivation/Demotivation, Orientations and the correlation with English Language proficiency of the undergraduates of the Faculty of Management Studies and Commerce, University of Sri Jayewardenepura. One hundred (N=100) second year undergraduates of the Faculty participated in completing the questionnaire and in undertaking a proficiency test. A follow up interview (semi-structured) with 10 subjects selected using *Purposeful Sampling* was conducted for the purpose of clarification and interpretation of results. The results of the study reveal that the undergraduates of the Faculty of Management Studies and Commerce have positive attitudes and motivation toward learning English and that there is a strong association between the Attitudinal/Motivational measures and English Language proficiency with Integrativeness representing a certain "core" of the learners' attitudinal/motivational disposition, subsuming, or mediating most other variables. Moreover, statistics indicate that they are more instrumentally than integratively oriented, but the Paired Sample T-test indicates that the difference is negligible. However, in respect of the demotivating factors, results show that the respondents are affected negatively by some aspects of the language learning situation. This case study provides additional insights in better identifying existing motivational challenges and in taking a more realistic perspective about the ELT (English Language Teaching) situation in the Faculty in particular and the Universities at large. Finally, some recommendations on future directions for research in this area are highlighted.