

M.A THESIS IN LINGUISTICS

**ENHANCING ENGLISH SPEAKING  
ABILITIES OF FIRST YEAR STUDENTS OF  
THE FACULTY OF APPLIED SCIENCES OF  
THE WAYAMBA UNIVERSITY OF  
SRI LANKA.**

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## Abstract

The major objective of this study was to investigate English speaking abilities of first year students at the faculty of Applied Sciences of the Wayamba University of Sri Lanka after the intensive course in English 2015. The study also aimed at examining the personal opinions of the students towards their English speaking abilities at the end of the course. Moreover, the study analysed the personal opinions of the teachers in English towards the students' abilities in speaking in English at the end of the course. The participants comprise a sample of 100 first year students at the Faculty of Applied Sciences of the Wayamba University of Sri Lanka. The data were collected by conducting pre-tests, post-tests and distributing questionnaires among the sample group of first year students. In addition, the teachers in English who conducted the intensive course were interviewed informally.

When the total scores of the pre-test and the post-test of speaking were compared, it was revealed that the students had improved their English speaking abilities in the post test than in the pre-test. The personal opinions given in the questionnaire also confirmed that the students had enhanced their abilities in speaking in English through the speaking activities practised during the intensive course. Moreover, the opinions of the teachers in English too established that the students had improved their English speaking abilities throughout the course. Thus, the researcher recommended that the students should be motivated, guided and facilitated more systematically in classrooms so that their speaking abilities in English can be further improved.