

M.A.THESIS IN LINGUISTICS

**SPELLING ERRORS
OF
UNDERGRADUATES LEARNING
ENGLISH FOR SPECIFIC PURPOSES**

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Abstract

English for Specific Purposes has become the main concern in English language teaching in Sri Lankan state universities. Emerging demand for English language from different professions have lead the university system to resort to more English courses specifically designed for various career purposes. Even though this demand is however met through various projects, the language competency of the students produced from the universities remains unchanged due to several reasons. A reason underlying this issue is their writing skills. A common problem encountered by the educators is poor spelling performance. Spelling is an essential skill that should be developed by the students before they step into the professional world. However, it is clear that students find it difficult to excel in their spelling abilities even having studied English for more than ten years during their primary and secondary education. Though the problem has been prevailing for a long time research and studies conducted on the area are very rare. Thus, the current study focuses on the spelling behavior of a sample of students who study English for Information Technology in a technical university in Sri Lanka and intends to investigate on the most common spelling errors students make and the reasons for spelling errors. The researcher further expects to make suggestions to minimize the errors. Interviews, writing tasks and questionnaires are used to gather data for the study.

Key Words: English spelling, Spelling errors, ESP, Tertiary level