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M.A. THESIS IN LINGUISTICS

**A STUDY ON DEVELOPING ENGLISH
COMMUNICATION SKILLS OF
UNDERGRADUATES: FACULTY OF
MANAGEMENT STUDIES, RAJARATA
UNIVERSITY OF SRI LANKA**

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Abstract

All the living languages in the world including English, are designed for the purpose of communication. Many countries in the world use English as their first language and many countries use it as a second language.

From very early periods many scholars introduced and practiced various methods to teach English as a second language. There are many scholars in the world who have conducted many researches on various topics related to teaching English as a second language.

The present study focuses on one such topic; “Improving English Communication Skills of Undergraduates”, related to teaching English as a second language. Since the newest trend in this field concerns more about communication skills, the present study has also been conducted bearing this purpose in mind. The research was conducted using 50 second year undergraduates of Faculty of Management Studies of Rajarata University of Sri Lanka as the sample. The main objectives of the study were to find out the reasons for the difficulties faced by the undergraduates when communicate in English, to reduce those difficulties in communicating using new methods in teaching and to find out whether there is a correlation between outside exposure to English and English communication skills.

The sample was subjected to Task-Based teaching method and English movie screening with English subtitles for three months. The sample was given a pre-test and a post- test to compare the results and the final results have proven that the methods used are productive in improving English communication skills and also there is a correlation between outside exposure to English and English communication skills. In addition a questionnaire was given to gather data from the sample.