

Abstract 07

Attitudes of University Students towards Second Language Learning

D. S. Anupama¹, C. D. H. M. Premaratne²

¹English Language Teaching Unit, Wayamba University of Sri Lanka, Kuliyaipitiya
sujani91@gmail.com

²Department of Linguistics, University of Kelaniya
cdhmpdissa@gmail.com

Second Language Acquisition occurs in both informal and formal linguistic contexts and both these contexts are essential in enhancing the language skills of the learners. This study is aimed at investigating the attitudes of the students towards second language learning ‘inside the classroom’ and ‘outside the classroom’. A random sample of 54 second year students of the Faculty of Applied Sciences of the Wayamba University was selected for the study. The data was gathered by employing a questionnaire, which carried questions that dealt with the attitudes of the students on this matter. The data was analyzed using descriptive statistics with the help of the SPSS statistical software. It was found that the majority of the students in the sample agreed to the fact that out-of-classroom language learning (OCLL) improved their speaking skills (37%) and vocabulary (41%) but when it comes to writing, majority i.e. 44% neither agreed nor disagreed to the fact that OCLL improved their writing. In addition, majority of the students (46%) believed that they learnt English in formal contexts than in informal contexts. Furthermore, majority of the students (46%) strongly agreed to the notion that learning English through OCLL is more enjoyable than learning English inside a classroom and 43% strongly agreed to the idea that OCLL motivates them to learn English. Accordingly, it can be concluded that the students acknowledge the importance of OCLL. However, they believe that both in-class learning and out-of-class learning should go hand in hand to further enhance the language knowledge. When it comes to ‘enjoyableness’, students place their interest upon out-of-classroom language learning than in-class language learning. Hence, the language teachers should get the maximum use of OCLL, by integrating what is done inside the classroom with activities that can be done outside the classroom, to give the students the opportunity to use the language in an authentic linguistic environment.

Key words: Attitudes, In-Class Language Learning, Out-of-Classroom Language Learning, Second Language Acquisition