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## ARE THE UNIVERSITY STUDENTS MOTIVATED TO LEARN ENGLISH?

Kosala Kumarage

Buddhist and Pali University of Sri Lanka, Sri Lanka

kosalakumarage@yahoo.com

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### ABSTRACT

Both second language learning and teaching are widely discussed topics. In Nevertheless, learning English as a second language seems to be still problematic in Sri Lanka. This research concerns the effect of motivation in learning English as a Second Language in the tertiary level of Sri Lanka. Everybody needs to have motivation and a reason for action. Second language learners should be offered the opportunity to be motivated and fulfill their learning orientations. The main purpose of this study is to examine the role of integrative and instrumental motivation for learning English in the university students of Sri Lanka. The study aims to identify the factors affecting the students' motivation. Thirty students participated in completing a questionnaire reflecting their objective for learning English. They were selected from the Arts students of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura, University of Kelaniya, university of Ruhuna, University of Colombo and Buddhist and Pali University, Homagama and all of the students were randomly taken and they range in age from 19-21 years. The data revealed that students' instrumental motivation is very much higher than the integrative motivation. When considering the students' responses, it can be concluded that though the respondents are to a certain extent integratively motivated, their main aim of learning English is to fulfill their practical needs, thus they are highly instrumentally motivated.

**Keywords:** Motivation, Second Language, Integrative, Instrumental