Teaching English Grammar for Content Integrated Language Courses

Dissanayake K M

Department of English Language Teaching, Faculty of Business Studies and Finance,
Wayamba University of Sri Lanka
konara.md@gmail.com

Teaching English for Specific Purposes (ESP) plays a significant role in preparing Sri Lankan English medium undergraduates for the skilled labour market which looks for graduates with sound knowledge of English. In this context, teaching English grammar for content integrated ESP courses is essential for them to pursue their core courses in English medium and communicate in the target language. This study is an attempt to identify specific grammatical items that should be developed for content integrated English grammar lessons. It was found that there is lack of researches in teaching English grammar for content subjects in the Sri Lankan context. This paper aims to investigate the attitudes of English medium undergraduates towards the teaching of English grammar and the problems of grammar encountered by them. The respondents are the business management undergraduates of a Sri Lankan state university. The data was collected by administering a questionnaire from second year main stream students who follow the content courses in English medium. Basic descriptive statistical tools mean mode and median were used in analyzing data to yield results. As findings, some grammatical problems encountered by Business Management English medium students and priorities of grammatical items that should be taught were identified in the light of attitudes of the students. Producing grammatically correct structures in their written assignments is a problem encountered by many students. Frequent practice of structures in the content language was a priority. Teaching grammar according to identified priorities would enhance the academic performance and achievements of learners. The results implicate the importance of teaching English grammar relevant to content courses.

Key words: *ESP, Grammar, Needs analysis, English medium, Content language*