

Investigating the Alignment between an English Language Academic Support Course and Students' Transition to English Medium Instruction at a Sri Lankan University

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English has become the medium of instruction for many degree programs in Sri Lankan universities. The universities are offering English language courses to enable students to comprehend the subject matter and succeed in their university programs. However, there is no uniformity among these courses across, within, and across different universities in terms of the curriculum and pedagogies. This research investigates the alignment between an English language academic support course and students' transition to English Medium Instruction (EMI) at a Sri Lankan university. There is a noticeable gap in research that has investigated the alignment between the courses offered to develop students' English language and academic language skills and the requirements of the disciplinary award courses that are taught in English. This study expects to bridge this gap and contribute to understandings of English language academic support program development and render assistance in the alignment with discipline courses that are conducted in English.

This research adopted a qualitative case study design to investigate how an English language academic support course at a University in Sri Lanka has been developed, delivered and how it has helped the students to follow their degree courses in the EMI. The data collection methods included focus group discussions with students and semi-structured interviews with teachers. Biggs' Constructive Alignment Framework will be utilized to interpret how the curriculum has been aligned with Teaching Learning Activities (TLAs) and assessment in this study. The study's findings will be useful to higher educational institutes in and outside of Sri Lanka to develop English language courses designed to develop English language skills of students in the EMI.

Keywords: Constructive Alignment (CA), Curriculum, English Language Academic Support, English Medium Instruction (EMI), Teaching Learning Activities (TLAs)