

EXPERIMENTING SOFT CLIL AS A MOTIVATING FACTOR TO LEARN ESL AMONG TAMIL MEDIUM UNDERGRADUATES

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Abstract - Motivation plays a vital role in learning any language. The success and failure of learning a language highly depend on motivation. There are several divisions of motivation as “intrinsic motivation”, “extrinsic motivation”, “integrative motivation” and “instrumental motivation”. In this research what I perceive as motivation in a language learning context is having a goal or a purpose to learn a language. The undergraduates who follow their degree in Tamil medium hardly find a strong purpose to learn English. Even without the English language proficiency they can pass out and find a career. Having noticed this problem, a short Soft CLIL course has been experimented in this research as a motivating factor to learn ESL. In order to analyze the research question; what is the impact of soft CLIL on motivating students to learn ESL?, this study was designed as experimental research. A mixed method approach has been adopted to collect data. Pre-test, post-test, semi-structured interviews, focus group discussion and questionnaires were used as research tools. Statistical analysis of the data of pre and post tests proved that the mean gain of the experimental group is higher than that of the controlled group. Analysis of qualitative data also endorsed that the integration of content gives the students a chance to experiment with the learnt language in order to fulfill their content area needs. Since the soft CLIL lessons were prepared in accordance with the SIOP model, students couldn't escape from actively participating in the classroom activities. Integration of content: students' preferred subject, gives a purpose e.i motivation to be in the ESL classroom and actively learn English along with the main subject. The findings of this research recommend that introducing a soft CLIL course is much required in order to improve the ESL performance of the undergraduates whose medium of instruction is their L1.

Key words: motivation; soft CLIL; ESL; undergraduates; L1