English Language Level Effect in Undergraduate Saudi Students' Engineering Studies Achievements

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Abstract: Kingdom of Saudi Arabia currently considered education is one of the most important development goals. The government of Saudi Arabia has allocated huge funds for the education of citizens in the kingdom and abroad under the instructions of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Salman Al-Saud. The number of universities in Saudi Arabia has grown exponentially from 10 universities in 2000 to 42 universities in 2023 (30 Governmental universities and 12 private universities), as well as 13 separate public and private colleges and 7 military colleges. In the engineering schools of Saudi Arabian universities, English language is one of the most important foundations of engineering studies. Students must know this subject to pursue any field of engineering. Although English language is taught to all Saudi students from preparatory school onwards (sometimes from primary), many lecturers and students acknowledge the weakness of students in this subject, especially in higher education. They further acknowledge the impact of this weakness on the learning of most engineering courses. The purpose of this study is to identify the factors that influence the weak English language level of engineering students in Saudi Arabia and their impact on students' studies. Students in College of Engineering - Rabigh Branch - King AbdulAziz University considered as a sample study for this research.

Keywords: English Language Level; Engineering Studies; Student's Achievement; Survey; Skills

1. Introduction

English language proficiency is a crucial aspect of academic success for undergraduate students pursuing engineering studies. According to a study [1] on the influence of English Language Proficiency on college students, the levels of English language proficiency among college students are moderate in nature. This calls for a need for undergraduate students to strive towards improving their English language level to achieve academic success.

The University of Melbourne [2] emphasizes on the importance of having an adequate level of English language proficiency to study undergraduate engineering courses. Students completing a fast-track or accelerated version of their foundation program are required to complete an approved English language proficiency test.

Most of Engineering studies materials are available in English language and. In Kingdome of Saudi Arabia all universities are offering their Engineering Studies in English. So, it is very important for students to have high English language level to fully understand the subjects. Engineering students must master the English language since they must read a lot of material to keep up with their engineering knowledge, and most engineering references and literature are written in English [3]. Previous studies focused on studying the effect of some factors on academic performance such as teaching Style, self-concept, and assessment methods etc. [4-9].

Some other researches considered self-concept, which is personality development to have a strong effect on academic performance [10]. Erdogan et al., [11] tried to find solutions to student problems, the authors concluded that education based on web positively affects the academic achievement improvement. Loo and Choy [12] studied the relationship between academic performance of students at engineering colleges and sources of self-efficacy. Yi et al., [13] studied the relation between learning behavior and content based academic improvement. The students' academic achievements were found to be highly related with their learning styles.

Therefore, it is important to commit to learning and mastering the English language to reap its full benefits. There are many ways that one can go about developing their skills such as taking classes, reading books and articles, watching videos or movies with, listening to podcasts or radio plays all in English, and engaging in conversations with native speakers [14]. Additionally, there are numerous online tools and resources available today to help individuals become more confident in their English-language abilities.

One important tip when learning English is to be patient with yourself. It is important to understand that it takes time and dedication to acquire the language skills needed for success. Keep in mind that even native speakers make mistakes, so do not be discouraged if you find yourself making errors while speaking or writing in English. Instead, use these experiences as learning opportunities and strive to improve your linguistic abilities over time. Furthermore, by surrounding yourself with other people who are also trying to learn the language, you can create a positive and motivating environment which will help you stay on track with your studies.

Finally, it is also beneficial to use digital technologies such as websites and apps when learning English. There are many different programs and resources that can help you learn the language in an enjoyable and interactive way. These tools are especially useful for practicing pronunciation, expanding your vocabulary, or engaging with other English learners.

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With dedication and persistence, you can become fluent in English quickly and confidently [15].

In conclusion, undergraduate students pursuing engineering studies must prioritize their English language proficiency as it is a crucial aspect of their academic success. Developing a strong command of the English language through practice and preparation will help students succeed both academically and professionally.

2. Objectives

This research objective is focusing mainly on:

- Determine the relationship between students' academic achievements and their level in English language.
- Determine to what extent some factors such as high school, province, academic level, and age can explain the variability in students' academic achievements.
- Investigate to what extent the students' academic performance is affected by oral presentations and using the original textbooks.
- Determine to what extent the students' level in English language affect their answer and final grades.
- Reach recommendations to avoid the problems faced by the students and shed light on the means, which can be used to improve the level of students in English language.

3. Methodology

The proficiency of students' English language proficiency significantly impacts the pursuit of engineering studies. Hence, the proficiency of students in the English language is a significant determinant of their academic performance in the field of Engineering. This study will center on the impact of students' English proficiency on their academic performance in Engineering studies at the Faculty of Engineering - Rabigh. This is due to the prevalent utilization of the English language for both instructional and literary purposes within the Engineering curriculum at said institution. Hence, the proficiency of students in the English language is deemed as a significant determinant of their academic success in various disciplines of engineering studies.

The objective is to investigate the degree to which the proficiency of students in the English language is correlated with their performance in academic pursuits in the field of engineering. It has been observed that there exists a wide disparity among students in terms of the environmental context of their previous academic pursuits, as well as their individual attitudes and levels of motivation towards education. Multiple factors may exert an impact on the English proficiency levels of students during the preuniversity phase, including demographic variables such as age, geographic location, and school type. Moreover, various additional factors might exert an impact on their proficiency in the English language, such as the number of credit hours they have accrued throughout their academic tenure and the specific academic department in which they are enrolled.

To substantiate the hypothesis and ascertain the causative factors for the substandard levels of English language proficiency exhibited by students during their academic pursuit, a meticulously fashioned questionnaire was utilized to conduct a survey of students enrolled in the Faculty of Engineering located in Rabigh. The inquisitor has classified the cohorts based on their age bracket, geographical location, educational institution, accumulated academic units, and area of specialization. To enhance precision, the survey underwent a tripartite phase comprising of the preuniversity level, the initial year of university preparation, and the academic progression of university studies.

4. The Survey's Questions

No.	Question	1	2	3	Δ	5
110.	Pre-university schooling	1	4	5	-	5
1	I had difficulties dealing with the English language at the pre-university level					_
2	My scores in the English language tests reflect my real level in the language					
3	My study of the English language in the early stages helped me in raising the level of language					
	Preparatory year phase					
1	I had difficulties dealing with the English language at the undergraduate level.					
2	The English language courses that I took in the preparatory year were sufficient to prepare me to join the College of					
	Engineering.					
3	The content of the English language courses was appropriate to prepare me to join the College of Engineering.					
4	The method of teaching English language courses was appropriate to benefit from the contents of the course					
5	I worked hard to improve my level of English to join the Faculty of Engineering					
	The study stage at the Faculty of Engineering					
1	The difficulties I face in the English language are mainly due to the difficulty of the linguistic content of the courses.					
2	The difficulties I face in the English language are related to the mother tongue of the faculty member.					
3	I find that teaching and explaining courses in English is the best benefit in my academic achievement.					
4	My level of English has an impact on my participation in the discussions and presentation within the lecture.					
5	My level of language has an impact on my academic achievement in laboratories.					
6	I use the original references for the courses, which helps in improving my language level.					
7	My level of English has an impact on my understanding of the questions in the test					
8	My level of English has an impact on communicating the correct answer on the test paper.					
9	I am interested in improving my level of English.					
10	I find it difficult to communicate in English outside the university.					
11	Reading newspapers, books and English improves my language ability.					
12	My English improved during my undergraduate studies					

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5. Results and Data Analysis

5.1 Reliability test

Cutoff points for Cronbach's alpha values as follow:

- $\alpha \ge 0.9$ Excellent
- $0.7 \le \alpha < 0.9$ Good
- $0.6 \le \alpha < 0.7$ Acceptable
- $0.5 \le \alpha < 0.6$ Poor
- $\alpha < 0.5$ Unacceptable

Reliability Statistics

Cronbach's Alpha	N of Items
0.708	26

5.2 Study sample

Variable	Selection	Frequency	Percent
	18-20	21	17.07
1	21-23	91	73.98
Age	23+	11	8.94
	Total	123	100.00
	Government	109	86.18
School	Private	17	13.82
	Total	123	100.00
	27 or less	2	1.63
	28-55	9	7.32
Un maggad	56-88	29	23.58
Hr. passed	89-122	56	43.09
	123-155	30	24.39
	Total	123	100.00
	Middle	9	7.32
	Western	95	74.80
Province	Eastern	10	8.13
Flovince	Northern	5	4.07
	Southern	7	5.69
	Total	123	100.00
	Weak	16	13.01
English laval	Middle	81	63.41
English level	Excellent	29	23.58
	Total	123	100.00
	MEN	29	23.58
	CEN	22	17.89
	EEN	45	34.15
Major	IEN	12	9.76
2	CHEN	10	8.13
	New	8	6.50
	Total	123	100

5.3 Descriptive analysis

Variable	Ν	Mean	Std. Deviation
BUQ1	123	1.9756	1.23118
BUQ2	123	2.5528	1.18185
BUQ3	123	2.4878	1.36325
PRPQ1	123	2.1707	1.31016
PRPQ2	123	3.1707	1.40086
PRPQ3	123	3.1301	1.37876
PRPQ4	123	2.9675	1.37861
PRPQ5	123	1.8699	.94052
UQ1	123	2.6504	1.19414
UQ2	123	2.5935	1.18624
UQ3	123	2.4959	1.30807
UQ4	123	2.0081	1.03620
UQ5	123	2.0488	1.00697

UQ6	123	2.5610	1.20889
UQ7	123	1.8862	1.01790
UQ8	123	1.8211	.98374
UQ9	123	1.7724	.90366
UQ10	123	2.3496	1.19414
UQ11	123	2.0163	.92314
UQ12	123	2.0000	1.04803

6. One-Way Anova Test

6.1 Age VS Question

ANOVA							
Sig.							
	Between Groups	.003					
UQ1	Within Groups						
	Total						

Post-Hoc (Tukey)								
Variable	Age (I)	Age (J)	Mean Difference (I-J)	Std. Error	Sig.			
	18-20	21-23	10000	.28968	.936			
		23+	83182	.44075	.147			
UQ1	21-23	18-20	10000	.28968	.936			
UQI		23+	93182	.37459	.038			
	23+	18-20	.83182	.44075	.147			
		21-23	.93182	.37459	.038			

6.2 School VS Question

ANOVA						
		Sig.				
	Between Groups					
PRPQ1	Within Groups	0.041				
	Total					

Post-Hoc (Tukey)

		The	-1.21423	1.02343	.403	-3.0470	1.2185
PRPQ1	Government	Private	87250	.36562	.048	-1.7402	0048
		3.00	94393	.91811	.561	-3.1227	1.2349
	Private	Government	.87250	.36562	.048	.0048	1.7402
		3.00	07143	.97246	.997	-2.3792	2.2364
	3.00	Government	.94393	.91811	.561	-1.2349	3.1227
		Private	.07143	.97246	.997	-2.2364	2.3792
PRP02	Government	Private	- 24499	39506	809	-1 1825	6926

6.3 Hr. Pass VS Question

No significance was found between group variables.

6.4 Province V.S. Questions

	ANOVA				
		Sig.			
	Between Groups	0.049			
PRPQ2	Within Groups				
	Total				
	Between Groups	0.037			
UQ1	Within Groups				
	Total				
	Between Groups	0.051			
UQ3	Within Groups				
	Total				
	Between Groups	0.054			
UQ12	Within Groups				
	Total				

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Post-I	Hoc (T	ukey)	.50000 1	.84102	.a/b i	-1.8310	2.8310
PRPQ1	Middle	Western	36428	.38270	.876	-1.4245	.6960
		Eastern	53147	.52727	.851	-1.9922	.9293
		Northen	07692	.73590	1.000	-2.1157	1.9618
		Southern	.92308	.57835	.503	6792	2.5253
	Western	Middle	.36428	.38270	.876	6960	1.4245
		Eastern	16719	.41186	.994	-1.3082	.9738
		Northen	.28736	.65815	.992	-1.5360	2.1107
		Southern	1.28736	.47550	.059	0300	2.6047
	Eastern	Middle	.53147	.52727	.851	9293	1.9922
		Western	.16719	.41186	.994	9738	1.3082
		Northen	.45455	.75147	.974	-1.6273	2.5364
		Southern	1.45455	.59804	.114	2023	3.1114
	Northen	Middle	.07692	.73590	1.000	-1.9618	2.1157
		Western	28736	.65815	.992	-2.1107	1.5360
		Eastern	45455	.75147	.974	-2.5364	1.6273
		Southern	1.00000	.78815	.711	-1.1835	3.1835
	Southern	Middle	92308	.57835	.503	-2.5253	.6792
		Western	-1.28736	.47550	.059	-2.6047	.0300
		Eastern	-1.45455	.59804	.114	-3.1114	.2023
PPPA	Middla	Northen	-1.00000	.78815	.711	-3.1835	1.1835
DDDAA	Middla	Western 1					
UQ1	Middle	Nonnen Western	25000	.50082 .34592	.992 .894	-1.8203	1.3203
		Eastern	34965	.47658	.948	-1.6700	.9707
		Northen	07692	.66516	1.000	-1.9197	1.7658
	Western	Southern Middle	1.29808	.52275	.101	1502	2.7463
	Western	Middle Eastern	31388 66353	.34592	.894	-1.2722	.6444 .3678
		Northen	39080	.59488	.365	-2.0389	1.2573
		Southern	.98420	.42979	.155	2065	2.1749
	Eastern	Middle	.34965	.47658	.948	9707	1.6700
		Western Northen	.66353 .27273	.37227	.389	3678	1.6949
		Southern	.27273 1.64773 [*]	.54055	.023	-1.6090 .1502	2.1545 3.1453
	Northen	Middle	.07692	.66516	1.000	-1.7658	1.9197
		Western	.39080	.59488	.965	-1.2573	2.0389
		Eastern	27273	.67924	.994	-2.1545	1.6090
	Southern	Southern Middle	1.37500	.71239	.307	5986	3.3486
	soumern	Western	-1.29808	.52275	.155	-2.17463	.1502
		Eastern	-1.64773	.54055	.023	-3.1453	1502
		Northen	-1.37500	.71239	.307	-3.3486	.5986
UQ3	Middle	Western	.00531	.38014	1.000	-1.0478	1.0584
		Eastern Northen	.02098 -1.36538	.52374 .73097	1.000	-1.4300 -3.3905	1.4719 .6597
		Southern	-1.11538	.73097	.340	-2.7069	.4761
	Western	Middle	00531	.38014	1.000	-1.0584	1.0478
		Eastern	.01567	.40910	1.000	-1.1177	1.1491
		Northen Southern	-1.37069 -1.12069	.65374	.228	-3.1818 -2.4292	.4404 .1878
	Eastern	Middle	02098	.52374	1.000	-1.4719	1.4300
		Western	01567	.40910	1.000	-1.1491	1.1177
		Northen Southern	-1.38636 -1.13636	.74644	.346	-3.4543 -2.7821	.6816 .5093
	Northen	Middle	1.36538	.73097	.340	6597	3.3905
		Western	1.37069	.65374	.228	4404	3.1818
		Eastern Southern	1.38636	.74644	.346	6816 -1.9189	3.4543 2.4189
	Southern	Middle	1.11538	.78287	.998	-1.9189	2.4189
		Western	1.12069	.47232	.130	1878	2.4292
		Eastern	1.13636 25000	.59403	.316	5093 -2.4189	2.7821 1.9189
UQ12	Middle	Northen Western	25000	.78287	1.000	-2.4189	.7939
OGT2	widdie	Eastern	42657	.41986	.848	-1.5898	.7366
		Northen	15385	.58599	.999	-1.7773	1.4696
		Southern	-1.15385	.46054	.096	-2.4297	.1220
	Western	Middle Eastern	.05040 37618	.30475	1.000	7939 -1.2848	.8947
		Northen	10345	.52408	1.000	-1.6654	1.3485
		Southern	-1.10345"	.37864	.034	-2.1524	0545
	Eastern	Middle	.42657	.41986	.848	7366	1.5898
		Western Northen	.37618 .27273	.32796	.781	5324 -1.3851	1.2848
		Southern	72727	.47622	.547	-2.0466	.5920
	Northen	Middle	.15385	.58599	.999	-1.4696	1.7773
		Western Eastern	.10345	.52408	1.000	-1.3485	1.5554
		Eastern Southern	27273	.59840	.991	-1.9305	1.3851
	Southern	Middle	1.15385	.46054	.096	1220	2.4297
		Western	1.10345*	.37864	.034	.0545	2.1524
		Eastern	.72727	.47622	.547	5920	2.0466

6.5 English level VS Question

		Sig.		
	Between Groups	0.002		
BUQ1	Within Groups			
	Total			
	Between Groups	0.028		
BUQ3	Within Groups			
	Total			
	Between Groups			
PRPQ1	Within Groups			
	Total			
	Between Groups	0.028		
PRPQ4	Within Groups			
	Total			
	Between Groups	0.002		
UQ1	Within Groups			
	Total			

	Between Groups	0.039
UQ3	Within Groups	
	Total	
	Between Groups	0.014
UQ9	Within Groups	
	Total	
	Between Groups	0
UQ10	Within Groups	
	Total	
	Between Groups	0.018
UQ11	Within Groups	
	Total	

Post-Hoc (Tukey)

ent Variable	(I) Engl.level	(J) Engilievel	Mean			95% Confidence Interval	
			Mean Difference (I- J)	Std. Error	Sig.	Lower Bound	Upper Bound
BUQ1	Weak	Middle	37597	.22961	.234	9209	.168
		Excellent	-1.85000*	.51577	.001	-3.0740	626
	Middle	Weak	.37597	.22961	.234	1689	.920
	Excellent	Excellent Weak	-1.47403 1.85000	.49934	.011	-2.6590 .6260	289
	Excellent	Middle	1.47403	.49934	.001	.2890	2.659
BUQ2	Weak	Middle	.23052	.22789	.571	.3103	.771
		Excellent	1.08333	.51189	.091	1315	2.2981
	Middle	Weak	23052	.22789	.571	+.7713	.310
		Excellent	.85281	.49559	.202	3233	2.028
	Excellent	Weak	-1.08333	.51189	.091	-2.2981	.131
BUQ3	Weak	Middle	85281	.49559	.202	-2.0289	.323
6043	TTEAK	Excellent	1.49167	.58413	.032	.1054	2.8779
	Middle	Weak	42240	.26005	.239	-1.0395	.194
		Excellent	1.06926	.56553	.146	2728	2.411
	Excellent	Weak	-1.49167	.58413	.032	-2.8779	105
		Middle	-1.06926	.56553	.146	-2.4114	.272
PRPQ1	Weak	Middle Excellent	- 72468	.23502	.007	-1.2824 -3.6528	168
	Middle	Excellent Weak	-2.40000" 72468	.52791	.000	-3.6528	-1.147
	MIGGIE	Excellent	-1.67532	.23502	.007	-2.8882	- 462
	Excellent	Weak	2.40000	.52791	.000	1.1472	3.652
		Middle	1.67532"	.51110	.004	.4624	2.888
		Middle	67965	.57689	.468	-2.0487	.689
PRPQ4	Weak	Middle	.59481	.26300	.065	0293 1687	1.219
	Middle	Weak	59481	.26300	.097	1687	2.635
	Middle	Excellent	58461	.57196	.506	7188	1.995
	Excellent	Weak	-1.23333	.59077	.097	-2.6353	.168
		Middle	63853	.57196	.506	-1.9959	.718
PRPQ5	Weak	Middle	.23182	.18204	.413	2002	.663
		Excellent	.71667	.40891	.190	2537	1.687
	Middle	Weak	23182	.18204	.413	6638	.200
	Excellent	Excellent Weak	.48485	.39589	.441	4547	1.424
	Excellent	Middle	48485	.39589	.190	-1.68/1	.253
UQ1	Weak	Middle	48485	.22255	.285	8664	.189
		Excellent	-1.81667*	.49989	.001	-3.0030	630
	Middle	Weak	.33831	.22255	.285	1898	.866
		Excellent	-1.47835	.48397	.008	-2.6269	329
	Excellent	Weak	1.81667	.49989	.001	.6304	3.003
UQ2	Weak	Middle	1.47835	.48397	.008	.3298	2.626
002	TTEAK	Excellent	59167	.52046	.493	-1.8268	.643
	Middle	Weak	01656	.23170	.997	5664	.533
		Excellent	60823	.50389	.451	-1.8040	.587
	Excellent	Weak	.59167	.52046	.493	6435	1.826
118.7		Middle	.60823	.50389	.451	5876	1.804
UQ3	Weak	Middle	.42240	.25023	.214	1714	1.016
	Middle	Excellent Weak	1.32500	.56207	.052	0089	2.658
	moute	Excellent	.90260	.54417	.214	3888	2.194
	Excellent	Weak	-1.32500	.56207	.052	-2.6589	.008
		Middle	90260	.54417	.225	-2.1940	.388
1100	internit.	**54/00	* 2000-	~9994.001		-1392. J	* 30
UQ9	Weak	Middle Excellent	.41266"	.17142	.046	.0059	.8
	Middle	Weak	-41266	.38506	.052	0055	0
	minute	Excellent	.49567	.37279	.382	3890	1.3
	Excellent	Weak	90833	.38506	.052	-1.8221	.0
		Middle	49567	.37279	.382	-1.3804	.3
UQ10	Weak	Middle	08571	.22004	.920	6079	.4
		Excellent	-1.96667	.49426	.000	-3.1396	7
	Middle	Weak Excellent	.08571	.22004	.920	4365	.6
	Excellent	Excellent Weak	-1.88095	.47852	.000	-3.0165	3.1
	Excellent	Middle	1.96667	.49426	.000	.7937	3.1
UQ11	Weak	Middle	.37792	.17547	.000	0385	.7
		Excellent	.96667*	.39415	.041	.0313	1.9
	Middle	Weak	37792	.17547	.084	7943	.0
		Excellent	.58874	.38160	.275	3168	1.4
	Excellent	Weak	96667	.39415	.041	-1.9020	0
		Middle	58874	.38160	.275	-1.4943	.31

6.6 Major VS Question

No significance was found between group variables.

7. Conclusion

English Language level of the students has a major effect on the students' achievements in Engineering studies. The students' weakness in the English language due to, mainly, the weak achievements in the pre-university stage which lead to unfollow the level of the preparatory studies for the university consequently in the university stage. Also, the

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English courses in the University stage do not consider such weakness to make the students ready for his engineering studies. The Major field of study has no significant effect on their English level which shows that the same materials and teaching strategies are applied. The hours passed has no significant effect. Private schools have the lead in English level over the governmental schools, which is natural, because of the strict rolls in the private sectors. Major field of study also has no effect in the English language level for studies achievements. English language level has major effect in understanding the subjects due to the natural of teaching environmental and the references books which are in English languages. It is recommended to rise the students' achievements in English language for better understanding the study materials, and consequently in the engineering studies, better teaching strategies in the pre-university stage must be applied. Also, the admission rolls of the engineering students must include a certain English language level to be accepted.

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