

The Impact of Computer Assisted Language Learning in Learner Psychology During Covid-19 Global Pandemic: A Study with Reference to The Attitudes and Motivation Among Sri Lankan Intermediate Learners of English as a Second Language

DGK Amunugama*, EMAN Ekanayake, NN Welgama, NP Wickramage and WADDU
Wickramasinghe

Department of English Language Teaching, University of Kelaniya, Sri Lanka

*nilupamawic4@gmail.com

The continuation of education has become one of the major concerns during the current global pandemic of COVID-19. Although, Computer Assisted Language Learning (CALL) is a relatively new concept to school education, Sri Lanka has now joined the global trend of utilising CALL to teach English as a Second Language (ESL) for the learners of different proficiency levels. Yet, it is also noteworthy that the sudden shift in language teaching and learning has a great impact on learner psychology. Learners' affective cognitive factors, attitudes, their motivation, their personality, and time are few aspects that can be interrogated when analysing learner psychology, with the introduction of CALL. Therefore, this study primarily aims to identify whether CALL has a positive impact on Sri Lankan ESL learner psychology, focusing on two main psychological factors: attitudes and motivation. To gather the primary data of the study, online questionnaires, investigating learner attitudes and motivation regarding CALL, were distributed among 50 Grade 11 intermediate students from Kandy (25) and Gampaha (25) districts. Ten participants from each district were randomly selected to conduct semi-structured interviews; Google Sheets and content analysis were used to analyse the collected data quantitatively and qualitatively. The analysed data proved that the learners identify comparatively more negative aspects of CALL than with the traditional language teaching, as the practice of CALL is still new to Sri Lankan ESL learners. However, it was also revealed that the motivational aspect among learners when learning ESL has been considerably increased with the current use of CALL. The study similarly disclosed that the learners have positive outlook towards the future of CALL and their need for innovative methods of CALL usage in language classrooms.

Keywords: *Attitudes, Computer Assisted Language Learning, COVID-19 Global Pandemic, Motivation, Sri Lankan Learners of English as a Second Language*