

SCAN

AN INVESTIGATION INTO THE PROBLEMS RELATING  
TO LEARNING, EXPERIENCED BY THE STUDENTS  
FOLLOWING THE PART I OF THE  
CERTIFICATE COURSE IN PROFESSIONAL ENGLISH  
OF THE OUSL.

THE OPEN UNIVERSITY OF SRI LANKA  
FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES  
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BY  
LACKSHMI NELUM SENADIRA  
79376289

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THE ABSTRACT

The aim of this research was to discover the problems related to learning of the students following the Part I of the Certificate Course In Professional English, conducted by the Open University Of Sri Lanka.

The large numbers of dropouts and failures drew attention to the fact that the students experience some sorts of problems. Interaction with them showed that all such problems were not academic ones, although they may affect academic performances.

264 students from the academic years 93/94 and 94/95 from 8 Regional/Study Centres of the Open University were studied for this purpose.

The main instrument used to collect data was a questionnaire with 48 items. However, views of other part-time teachers of the course and self experience were also used in the discussion and forwarding suggestions.

The causes of the problems related to learning of the students following this Course, were found to be based on:

- a) Personal factors,
- b) Psychological Factors,
- c) Enviornmental factors,
- d) Institutional factors.

Several suggestions have also been presented. These include starting a study skills programme, sustaining motivation, equalising teacher competencies, improving course material, improving facilities at study centres, improving methods of evaluation, and starting a guidance and counselling programme to help these learners overcome their problems and cope with their learning.