

A STUDY OF NEEDS, PROBLEMS, AND WANTS OF USING ENGLISH OF ENGINEERING STUDENTS AT QUAID-E-AWAM UNIVERSITY OF ENGINEERING, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, PAKISTAN

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ABSTRACT

English language is considered to be an official language in Pakistan and is the medium of instruction within schools, colleges, and universities. However, no study had been conducted to analyse the needs, problems, and wants of students who study engineering programs. The English courses provided are based on English teachers only, so the courses may not be suitable for students' needs. Thus needs analysis needs to be conducted, and the purposes of this research were: (1) to analyse the engineering students' need to use English in present and future situations, (2) to find the main problems of engineering students in using English in their academic studies, (3) to investigate the learners' wants regarding the purpose, content, and methodology of engineering programs, and (4) to explore the difference between Engineering students and their teachers in terms of needs, problems and wants of English language at QUEST Pakistan. The target population of the fourth year engineering students was 523 and the target population of engineering teachers was 173. These participants were selected by systemic and simple random sampling techniques. The sample of this study included 217 students and 132 engineering teachers. The review of the literature was used as the guidelines to design and develop questionnaires for collecting data in this study. The questionnaires were divided into five parts: personal information, English problems, needs, wants, and tasks. The Cronbach's alpha coefficient was used to check the reliability of questionnaires and it was .95. Data were analysed by using descriptive statistics (mean score and standard deviation). Independent *t*-test was used to analyse the difference between students and teachers' needs, wants, and problems. The findings determined the needs, problems, and wants of using four skills. The results indicated the needs and wants of four skills, particularly speaking and writing skills of engineering students. Both teachers and students found problems in speaking skills and thought speaking as well as writing skills should be developed. Thus they needed more courses to be designed in order to meet their needs.

KEY WORDS: ENGINEERING / NEEDS ANALYSIS / STUDENTS' WANTS

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