

## An Investigation of Factors Affecting English Language Learning Motivation among Undergraduate Students in Pakistan

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### ABSTRACT

English is widely recognized as the international language of education, science, technology and professional communication. In Pakistan, undergraduate students are expected to develop English language skills to meet academic and career requirements. However, students' motivation to learn English is influenced by various personal, academic, social, and institutional factors. This mini-review examines the main factors influencing the motivation to learn English language among undergraduate students in Pakistan by analyzing the current knowledge and educational trends. It discusses the importance of motivation, the role of teachers, family support, learning environment, teaching methods, technology, confidence, and socioeconomic background. The review also highlights common barriers that reduce students' interest in learning English and suggests practical strategies to improve motivation in higher education institutions. Understanding these influencing factors can help educators and policymakers create supportive learning environments that encourage better English language performance among Pakistani undergraduate students.

**Keywords:** English language learning; Learning motivation; Undergraduate students; Pakistan; Higher education; English proficiency

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#### Introduction

The growing importance of English has resulted in it becoming one of the most spoken or written global languages. Thus, the role of English in communication, education, science, technology, business and global cooperation is greater than ever before. English provides a means of communication between people who speak different languages from all corners of the world. Proficiency in English has become a critical asset for those wishing to excel academically and/or have access to professional opportunities as global markets continue to expand. In higher education, there are many universities that offer courses primarily in English along with textbook, research, and academic journal materials and online resources that are all presented in English. Students will be required to develop a strong command of the English language since they will need these skills to completely understand what they are required to think and do in their courses, to engage in purposeful discussions and debates during lecture presentations and to pursue professional goals once they have earned their degrees (1).

In Pakistan, English is the second most widely spoken language and is one of the official languages used for communication in both the public and private sectors. It has many functions, but some of its most prominent include serving as a mode of communication in universities, as part of the education system, and as the business language used in corporate environments. Unfortunately, many students do not perform well at learning English due to various problems such as insufficient exposure to English language materials, a lack of teachers trained in teaching English to students, and low self-confidence when speaking English which affects their overall motivation to learn. As motivation is critical to language acquisition, if students lack motivation to participate in learning English, they are less likely to achieve full proficiency. The purpose of this mini-review is to analyze why undergraduate students' motivation to learn English is influenced by so many variables, as well as to identify some of the issues surrounding motivation and provide practical suggestions for improving students' motivation to learn English within Pakistan (2).

#### 2. Importance of English Language Learning among Undergraduate Students

It is important for undergraduate students to learn English as this leads to academic success, provides better job prospects, and supports individual growth. English is widely spoken in universities in Pakistan, making it an important language to know when students are going to school to get a higher level of education and to get ready for work after graduation.

#### Academic Importance

English is the primary language of instruction at almost all universities in Pakistan. Most books used to study from, most published research studies, most scientific journal articles, as well as almost all online resources are produced in English. Those that are proficient in English will perform much better by understanding what is being taught in lectures, taking part in classroom discussions, doing reports on research, and preparing their work. Those that have good English skills will also be able to develop good-quality academic writing skills and, produce quality essays (i.e., academic papers), research papers and project reports.

#### Professional Importance

If you can speak English, this will open up many job opportunities for you, both within your own country and globally, or wherever the English language is spoken. Many employers seek to employ people who can communicate well in English, especially in careers such as: business, health, engineering, information technology and education. English can also help facilitate international communication and allow graduates from many countries to communicate with each other and work together so that they have access to job opportunities all over the world while developing their career.

#### Personal Development

Students' ability to express themselves confidently and communicate effectively will be improved as a result of learning English. It will also facilitate their ability to express their thoughts in academic and social settings through their ability to effectively speak and write English. English is another way that enhances a student's global awareness by allowing them to access knowledge, culture and perspectives around the world through literature, the media and electronic resources. Because of this, undergraduate students are more knowledgeable, confident and capable of thriving in a globalised world than ever before (3).

#### 3. Understanding Motivation in English Language Learning

Motivation is the drive to learn and accomplish one's academic objectives, regardless of whether it is from an outside or inside source. This drive, called student motivation, has a profound effect on how much effort and interest students put into and are willing to put forth, and consequently, how successful they will be at improving one's language proficiency. Motivation can be divided into two basic categories - intrinsic and extrinsic motivation. Intrinsic motivation is derived from a student's personal enjoyment or interest in a subject, as well as their desire to acquire knowledge and improve their proficiency in that language (4).

#### 4. Major Factors Affecting English Language Learning Motivation

There are many different reasons why undergraduate students studying at universities in Pakistan are motivated to learn English. Factors influencing

the motivation of undergraduate students can include their educational experiences, the kind of teachers they have, their family, their learning environment, their personal confidence and their access to educational resources. Understanding the various motivations for students studying at universities can assist universities to implement effective strategies to assist their students to increase motivation and improve the level of competence of language ability.

#### **Educational Background**

Students' previous educational background has a huge impact on their motivation to learn English. Students who have attended an English medium school will generally have a higher level of competence and be more motivated to learn English than those who attended an Urdu medium school. There can also be a huge difference in English proficiency levels based on where you have studied.

#### **The Environment for Learning**

The quality of the classroom and the relationship of the teacher to his/her students are all factors in creating an environment that is safe and supportive for doing the work necessary to learn English. Students in a friendly, accepting environment will be more willing to attempt to communicate in English without having fear of, or embarrassment from, making mistakes. In addition, having learning resources available (e.g., libraries, language labs, digital materials) to increase their skills outside of the classroom also play a role in creating a positive environment for students to learn English.

#### **Digital Technologies, Learning Technologies**

With technology, English language learning has never been more accessible! Online platforms, mobile applications, educational videos, and social networks provide students with various options for flexibly practising English in and out of the classroom! Digital tools make learning the language for undergraduate students much more engaging, fun, and exciting.

#### **Socioeconomic Conditions and Motivation**

In addition to psychological factors, students' socioeconomic conditions can greatly influence motivation to learn English. Students whose family situations provide them with a good standard of living and have access to more quality private education, private language courses, and modern digital devices, as well as a wealth of educational resources, will typically have more opportunities to develop their proficiency in English. If there are inequalities in access to education or low-income family situations, then students may not be able to develop their English language proficiency. Consequently, this can affect their motivation to learn English (5).

#### **5. Challenges Affecting Motivation among Pakistani Undergraduate Students**

Motivational factors that deter or impede student efforts to acquire and develop English language skills are prevalent issues for Pakistani undergraduate students. Many students who are in the process of studying at universities throughout Pakistan have a limited ability to read, write and speak the English language. As a result, many students graduating from grade 12 are unprepared for university study level of English. Furthermore, because of their lack of practical speaking and listening experiences whether in class or otherwise, many students find it difficult to acquire effective communication skills in English (6).

#### **6. Strategies to Improve English Language Learning Motivation**

A collaborative approach is needed to motivate students interested in learning English and improve their proficiency in the language that includes teachers, universities, families, and the student. To increase an undergraduate's desire to learn English, some of the following strategies are effective:

##### **Student-Centered Learning**

Student-centered learning emphasizes active participation in the educational experience of students rather than simply relying on lectures. It supports students developing independent thinking skills and problem-

solving capabilities while increasing their responsibility for their own education.

##### **Integration of Technology**

Digital tools such as e-learning platforms, mobile applications, e-learning videos, and language-learning software promote flexibility and engagement in English learning. Technology also allows students to practice at their own pace while developing their overall proficiency in the English language.

##### **Teaching Training**

Regularly scheduled development activities for teachers provide new approaches to the implementation of contemporary teaching techniques, assist in dealing with discipline in the classroom and add new and different ways of motivating language proficiency within the learner.

##### **Use of English in Clubs and Activities**

Universities frequently hold club activities such as English Clubs, speaking contests, debates, quizzes and writing events to motivate students to utilize English in everyday settings and build confidence in communicating in English to the world around them.

##### **Self-Motivated Learners**

Students should continue to read and view English books, watch educational videos, listen to podcasts and use the internet to continue to practice their skills. Self-motivation creates independence, improves language skills and provides motivation for continuous language development on an ongoing basis (7).

##### **7.Future Prospects**

Continuous progress in education policy and practices will determine how well people in Pakistan learn English. Improving these policies will lead to better English instruction at every level of education. By adding more digital learning opportunities, students in rural areas will have equal access to quality educational resources. All students, regardless of whether they are from rural or urban backgrounds, must have equal access to educational resources. Future research should examine creative ways to teach English and use technology to increase student motivation for learning English (8).

##### **8. Conclusion**

Motivation plays a vital role in improving the English language learning of undergraduate students in Pakistan. Many factors, including educational background, teaching style, family support, classroom environment, technology, self-confidence, and socioeconomic conditions, influence students' willingness to learn English. Addressing these issues through effective teaching strategies, supportive learning environments, and better education policies can significantly increase students' motivation and language proficiency. Universities should encourage interactive learning, faculty development, and greater access to academic resources. Strengthening English language motivation will not only improve academic performance but also prepare Pakistani graduates for successful careers and meaningful participation in an increasingly globalized world.

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