

EFFECTS OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY (ELP) ON THE PROCESS OF INTERPERSONAL COMMUNICATION (IPC) BETWEEN LOCAL AND INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS AT UNIVERSITY MALAYSIA PAHANG (UMP)

Abdul Qahar Sarwari¹

*Center for Modern Languages and Human Sciences (CMLHS)
University Malaysia Pahang (UMP) MALAYSIA
qaharesarwari@gmail.com*

Ainol Haryati bt Ibrahim²

*Center for Modern Languages and Human Sciences (CMLHS)
University Malaysia Pahang (UMP) MALAYSIA
ainol@ump.edu.my*

Nor Ashikin Abdul Aziz³

*Center for Modern Languages and Human Sciences (CMLHS)
University Malaysia Pahang (UMP) MALAYSIA
ashikin@ump.edu.my*

Abstract

Interpersonal communication (IPC) is a key factor for students of higher education institutions to gain communicative skills and have enough collaborative activities at the collegiate environments. Therefore, this study was conducted to examine the characteristics of daily IPCs between local and international students of University Malaysia Pahang (UMP). The level of English language proficiency (ELP) and other affecting factors on the process of daily IPCs among participants of this study were evaluated as well. Findings of this study may help lecturers and university officials to design and conduct essential programs on strengthening of ELP among university students. A triangulation of methods was used to conduct this study by combination of a quantitative survey and the qualitative interviews. The quantitative survey had 220 participants equally from both local and international students, and also 12 students of UMP were interviewed for qualitative data as 6 Malaysians and 6 foreigners. According to both quantitative and qualitative results, lack of ELP among local and foreigner students of UMP was the main negative affecting factor on the process of their daily interactions among them. Further studies may highlight more aspects of this issue.

Key Words: English language proficiency; Interpersonal communication; interactions; Malaysian and international students, Malaysian universities

Abbreviations: IPC (interpersonal communication), ELP (English language proficiency), UMP (University Malaysia Pahang)

1 INTRODUCTION

Interpersonal communication among students from different countries and different cultures may pave the ways for university students to share their knowledge, information, and experiences. At the same time, it helps them to solve their daily academic problems through