ABSTRACT

The principal objective of this study is to investigate the errors made by the Tamil speaking undergraduate students of Madurai Kamaraj University. The study starts with the observation that ESL writing has assumed greater significance in the context of foreign Universities & Multinational companies invading Indian territories with attractive proposals. Accuracy in the written form and fluency in communication brighten up one’s prospects.

Despite the huge body of research done in the field of Error Analysis, errors continue to surface in the ESL writings. A review of literature suggests that little work is done in this part. As each context and the subjects are unique, one more attempt on Error Analysis would not be redundant. The study focuses on the problematic areas of Tamil learners. They struggle with the forms of Grammar, Lexis, Syntax, Article and Orthography.

The study devotes a major portion for theoretical and statistical interpretation of corpus of errors created from the writings of one hundred and twenty one samples representing five different Institutions. A Microsoft Excel Spreadsheet has been used for constructing an error corpus and classifies all the errors based on the categories they represent.
The approach of the study is longitudinal and employs four different testing tools. The investigation uses important statistical tools for the validation of hypotheses.

The findings of the analysis of errors and statistical interpretations point to the potential sources of errors and also the strategies adopted by the learners. The investigation suggests a few remedial measures.