

**VARIED LEVELS OF ATTENTION SPAN ACROSS AGE: A CASE
STUDY AMONG ESL LEARNERS**

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“In the name of God, the Most Gracious and Most Merciful”

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ABSTRACT

This study is aimed at investigating the varied levels of attention span across age among ESL learners. The perceptual structures of this study are; to investigate on age as a factor affecting levels of attention span, the implication as well as ways to increase level of attention span among ESL learners. Quantitative mode of this study sees the distribution of Questionnaire as the instrumentation to gather data. The subjects were 75 numbers of TESL students from each semester / part of the degree program. Results show that age does affect level of attention span among ESL learners. The implications of age as the factor affecting level of attention span among ESL learners were listed as well. Apart from that, results also present that by encouraging yourself to pay close attention and minimize distraction as well as paying more attention towards teacher's cues or gestures which signal that something is important were found to be ways to increase level of attention span among ESL learners. The findings are relevant in understanding the complexities of individual differences with varied levels of attention span among ESL learners as one of them, especially in applying teaching approach that is applicable to the difference.

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CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.0 Introduction

The area of Second Language Acquisition deals with issues that commonly referred to the interrogations of disputes; what is it that the learners have to learn and to be taught? How successful is the utility of the particular language? When and where does the learning take place? And why are there some learners more proficient in their second language than others? These are the questions that triggered previous studies and researches in learning more on Second Language Acquisition. Comparison across ages in Second Language Acquisition was made. Schmidt (1990) concluded that different aspects of a second language are learned optimally at different ages. Is second language learners' level of attention span part of the aspect that contributes to the optimal learning at different ages? What are the factors that affect learners' attention level? And what are the implications of these factors towards learners' level of attention span? This study was designated to seek for the role of attention and the influence of its span in Second Language Acquisition among the ESL learners across age. The perceptual structures of this study are divided into three significant parts. The investigation will first start on whether age affects attention span among ESL learners. The second part of this research will investigate the implications of age towards attention span. Last but not least, this paper will seek for the possible ways to increase levels of attention span in second language acquisition by the ESL learners.