

The Effectiveness of Online Learning over Face-to-Face Learning During Corona Pandemic: A Focus on Teaching German as a Foreign Language

S.P. Wijethilake*

University of Kelaniya, Kelaniya Sri Lanka

**Corresponding Author E-mail: wpeumica@gmail.com, TP: +94702694933*

Online learning has become a significant component of the education system across the world during the Covid-19 pandemic. The shift of learning modes from face-to-face learning to online learning affected the foreign language learners of Sri Lanka making it a challenge for them. The paper mainly focuses on the effectiveness of online learning on foreign language learning and mainly discusses the efficiency of the students of German as a foreign language at the University of Kelaniya in the period of online learning during the corona pandemic. It compares the performance of the students in language learning between the periods of face- to- face learning and online learning and further discusses the improvements and issues faced by the students during the online sessions. The sample group consisted of 30 undergraduates of German as a Foreign Language at the University of Kelaniya, who followed the four-year Honors Degree program in German for the Bachelor of Arts Special Degree. To collect the quantitative data, the oral presentations and written assignments of the students during the face-to-face and online sessions were evaluated and compared. The qualitative data were collected through observations during the online sessions. It was concluded that although there were some technical issues faced by the students during the online sessions, the online learning was more effective in foreign language learning than face-to face learning and helped to improve the foreign language skills of the students to a greater extent in the challenging period of Covid-19.

Keywords: Online Learning; Face- To- Face learning; Corona Pandemic; Foreign Language Teaching; German as a Foreign Language