

# **The Influence of Personality Traits in Acquiring Proficiency in English as a Second Language; A study on Management Undergraduates of the Uva Wellassa University.**

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Accomplishment in a second language learning and eventual fulfilment in target language can be concomitant with the concept of personality traits. Personality of a learner could influence the overall success in second language learning. Hence the study focused on finding the influence of one's personality trait in acquiring proficiency in English as a second language. Data for this study was collected by taking a random sample of 160 students from second year and third year. Students were initially subjected to a test to figure out their personality trait by using the "Big Five" personality test. Secondly students were given a questionnaire. To measure the students' proficiency in English, their examination results of two semesters were examined. Multiple Linear Regression model and descriptive statistics were used to identify the personality trait which has the most effect in acquiring English proficiency. The results of the study revealed that there is a significant influence of one's personality trait on acquiring the language. Out of the 160 students, averagely they have 30% of the "Conscientiousness" personality, 25% of "Neuroticism" personality, 18% "Extraversion" personality, 15% of "Agreeableness" personality trait and 12% of the "Openness" personality. Hence the results revealed that the students who fell under "Conscientiousness" and "Extraversion" has performed well in acquiring proficiency in English. Thus, the researcher came into a conclusion that there is a significant influence of one's personality trait on acquiring English as a second language.

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