

**EFFECTIVENESS OF ONLINE TEACHING OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE
SKILLS AT GRADUATE LEVEL: A CASE STUDY OF VIRTUAL
UNIVERSITY OF PAKISTAN**



BY

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ABSTRACT

The present study is an attempt to fulfill three main objectives: (i) compare the effectiveness of online vs. conventional mode of teaching of English Language. (ii) determine the effect of online teaching of English Language skills in Pakistan with regards to reading and writing skills. (iii) observe the perceptions of students' learning in virtual and conventional mode. It has been observed that online mentoring, though recent phenomenon, has planted its roots firmly in the education sector; however, the traditional mode of learning has managed to retain its position despite the convenience of the former mode. In this context it is hypothesized that online teaching of English Language Skills at Graduate level is more effective as compared to conventional mode. The population is Graduate students of Virtual and Conventional mode. Sample size comprises 100 subjects from both the modes. Data is collected from a random sample of students covering gender, age, residence and academic background. Experimental research design is used to evaluate the English Language skills (Reading and Writing) of the students along with Questionnaire to further assess students' performance and perceptions. Pre-test and post-test results from Virtual and Conventional modes are compared. The Results show that students from Conventional mode have better grammar, writing skills and professional efficacy; whereas students from Virtual mode have better listening, speaking and reading skills. This indicates that both modes of instruction hold an advantage over the other in certain aspects. There is significant difference in the Reading skills of students between the virtual and conventional mode. According to the results, virtual mode students have better Reading skills. However, no significant difference is found between the virtual and conventional mode regarding the Writing skills of the students.

DEDICATION

“Dedicated to the purest childhood laughs and ever binding rows
shared with family and friends”

This endeavor is dedicated to the celebration of life and simple yet lovely memories of the times that keep me connected to myself with ever increasing faith and gratitude towards the Divine. I dedicate this work to my childhood friends, the red Hercules bicycle, the mango tree, and the skate board. This dissertation is dedicated to my parents who are NEVER away from me and inspire me to celebrate life with integrity, gratitude, and compassion for humanity.

DECLARATION

I hereby declare that this dissertation “Effectiveness of Online Teaching of English Comprehension Skills at Graduate Level: A Case Study of Virtual University of Pakistan” is the result of my own independent research except, where I have indicated my indebtedness to other sources. It has not been accepted in substance or in part of any other degree and is not being submitted concurrently in candidature for any other degree.

Candidate

Afshan Asghar

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CHAPTER 1

Introduction

1.1 Background/Context

Online learning, though recent phenomena, has its firm roots in the education sector. Almost 6.7 million people are opting for this mode of education; however, the traditional mode of learning has managed to retain its position despite the convenience of the former mode. Online education has matured into an industry and is now responsible for educating individuals all over the world. Online courses have become a vital part of a majority of high-ranking universities and the student enrolment has significantly improved Jordan (2014). This study has been carried out with particular reference to Virtual University of Pakistan in order to gauge the effectiveness of online teaching of English Language skills of students at graduate level as compared to conventional mode. In Pakistan, Virtual University is the first ICT based University which is operating nationwide and overseas through its vast network of Private Virtual Campuses (PVCs).