

The Impact of English Language Training Intensity on Students' Success in Obtaining Study Abroad Scholarships

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Abstract: *This study investigates the impact of English language teaching intensity on students' success in obtaining study abroad scholarships. Using a qualitative case study, data were collected through questionnaires distributed to three university students who received abroad scholarships. In education, the ability to communicate in English is very important especially to get the opportunity to study abroad. The finding shows that students who complete intensive English language training are more likely to receive scholarships to study abroad. This study provides a dedication to deepening the understanding of the relationship between the intensity of English language training and students' success in achieving their educational goals abroad and to determine the extent to which the intensity of English language learning affects students' success in scholarship competitions. The findings of this study are expected to provide valuable information to support efforts to improve the quality of English language education in educational institutions.*

Keywords: *Study English; Scholarship; Study abroad; University Students*

INTRODUCTION

English is an international language that has an important role in communication. English is also a second language (ESL). ESL is becoming an event that has a significant impact on education, communication and international trade. The language that is most frequently used in the fields of science and technology is English. Additionally, it has become the de facto universal language, which has had a significant influence on scientific communication (Parupalli, 2019). ESL refers to the use of English by individuals who are not native speakers, but use it as a secondary means of communication. In 67 countries have English as their official language and there are 27 countries that have English as their secondary official language (Aziza, 2020). In the context of globalization and increasingly integrated international interactions, English as a second language has become a driving force that encourages mobility and enhances cross-cultural understanding around the world. In today's society, English is very important and is the most common global language used for communication around the world (Hashim & Yunus, 2018). English has become a universal tool that opens many different opportunities, such

as helping students to get scholarship opportunities to study abroad, and English proficiency also helps individuals have the opportunity to access travel information and communicate with tourists or travelers from abroad, can bring career opportunities especially in multinational companies, global business sectors, English proficiency can help individuals advance their career in the context of international business. Besides that, by being fluent in English and fluent in English, we can get access to more diverse, up-to-date and comprehensive information about various texts from the web or books in general, as many scientific, technological and academic texts are written in English (Irawan et al., 2022).

In the era of globalization, continuing education abroad is a desire for everyone. They hope that by continuing their education abroad they can develop themselves, and get a better education. By studying abroad, students must have one or two goals that they want to achieve, such as having a better career, new knowledge, better education, and others (Disya & Ningrum, 2019). One of the keys to being able to continue education and get study abroad scholarships is the ability to speak English. Given that English is the second language and the universal language of communication, English proficiency is an important factor affecting students' success in obtaining scholarships to study abroad. In addition, before students leave to study abroad they have requirements that must be met, one of which is to have a certificate of English language skills such as the Test of English Foreign Language (TOEFL) and International English Language Testing System (IELTS) (Fidela, 2021).

In this research, we will explore the effect of English language training intensity on student's success in obtaining study abroad scholarships. In this case, we will explore the importance of English language skills and analyze how students can learn and train themselves to increase their chances of success in obtaining study abroad scholarships. With this research, we hope to provide insight into the relationship between English language skills and students' chances of success in realizing their dreams of studying abroad.

METHOD

Context and Participant

Context: This study examines the effect of English language learning intensity on students' success in receiving study abroad. The focus of this study was to determine the extent to which the level of English proficiency can affect a student's chances of receiving international study opportunities.

Participants: The participants in this study consisted of students from various study programs who had the desire to obtain study abroad scholarships. The participants consisted of three female students who were selected based on their willingness to participate in contributing to data collection.

Data Sources and Analysis

This research method is qualitative. Data was collected using a questionnaire to measure the intensity of students' English training, including aspects such as fluency level and test results. The participants were given coded student #1, student #2 and Student #3 to maintain participant confidentiality. In filling out the questionnaire,

we used Bahasa Indonesia to get richer or deeper information about the opinions and views of the participants.

We used Bahasa Indonesia to obtain richer or deeper information about the participants' opinions and views on the effect of English language training intensity on students' success in obtaining study abroad scholarships.

Tabel 1. Demographic characteristics of the participants

Participants	Student 1	Student 2	Student 3
Gender	Female	Female	Female
Age	23	21	20
Educational background	Student	Student	Bachelor

1. Students' motivation to study abroad

Motivation is the term most often used to explain the success or failure of almost any complex task. Almost all experts I also agree that motivation theory is about the factors that drive behavior and direct that behavior and it is generally accepted that a person's motive is to participate in a particular need activity based on basic needs (Kholid, 2017). There are many reasons and motivations why people apply for scholarships abroad. Although the most common motivation is to save on tuition fees but still get a quality education. Students' motivations for obtaining international study scholarships vary widely. Here are some things that often motivate students:

Student #1 *"to gain new experiences."*

Gaining new experiences is a strong motivating factor for them to study abroad. International scholarships offer students the opportunity to receive quality education at recognized educational institutions around the world. The potential to obtain a high degree of education was one of the primary motivations for international students to study abroad. They believed it would be an excellent chance to widen their perspectives and pursue their study in a more superior educational setting (Casas Trujillo et al., 2020). In addition, by studying abroad, they can also immerse themselves in a foreign language so as to improve their communication skills. This not only improves academic skills but also opens the door to cross-cultural understanding (Engle & Engle, 2003). Showcase the importance of language instruction in study abroad initiatives. They contend that the majority of contemporary study abroad initiatives combine language acquisition with cross-cultural competency. This encourages students to apply for international scholarships, to gain new experiences in the form of quality education, if possible learning foreign languages from friends in different countries and foreign languages they have never learned before. Studying abroad can add new experiences by understanding new cultures. they have the opportunity to recognize and appreciate the diversity of this world and improve

their skills and understanding through new experiences that they would not get in their home country.

Student #2 *"My main motivation to pursue study abroad is to broaden my connections by interacting directly with diverse people from different cultural backgrounds because I believe that this experience will provide opportunities to build valuable connections, enrich my perspectives, and open doors to new insights that can be an important foundation in my future personal and professional development."*

Interest in other cultures is a strong motivation for many students to pursue study abroad scholarships. Such motivations include the desire to understand local traditions and customs, learn a foreign language, develop intercultural competence, and gain experiences that enrich personal and professional lives. The research (Liu, T.; Walley, K.; Adkins, P.; Pugh, G.; Turner, S.; and Feng, 2018) shows that the most important motivation for Chinese students to study in the UK is the desire to gain cultural experience and a broader perspective.

Through study abroad, we get the experience of interacting directly with people from cultures different from our own. This shows that study abroad not only enriches knowledge and education but also provides a deep understanding of the diversity of the world and the different cultures in each country. Interacting with people from different cultural backgrounds can improve our intercultural skills. It allows us to gain knowledge about cultural differences, how to adapt to other people's cultures and the ability to learn effectively in a multicultural environment. The term *adaptation* is used in the literature interchangeably with *acculturation*, *adjustment*, *assimilation*, or *integration*. Understood as a state, *cultural adaptation* refers to the degree to which people fit into a new cultural environment (Kristjánsdóttir, 2009).

In addition, studying abroad can provide opportunities to build connections with other international students or to forge international connections through study experiences that can open doors to job opportunities in different countries and help students build more effective careers. Studying abroad can be seen as an opportunity for personal development and gaining a new perspective on life (Li et al., 2013). Student #2 said her motivation for getting a study abroad scholarship was *"to enrich my perspective"*.

Student #2 also said that *"It opens the door to new insights that can be important foundation in personal development"*, which can be very good motivation for students pursuing a study abroad scholarship. This experience not only broadens students' horizons and cultural understanding, but also develop important personal and professional skills. Such as independence, self-confidence, adaptability, and cross-cultural competence. By taking advantage of these opportunities, students will build a solid foundation for their future personal and professional development, preparing them to face global challenges, and be effective in a variety of fields.

Student #3 *"My current program offers the convenience of full tuition fees for 3 years of study, with an internationally recognized and specialized degree. In addition, the desire to live in a culturally diverse environment makes me learn to observe the world from various perspectives, opening more and more new avenues*

and connecting with fellow Indonesian students in other countries as well as international friends to create a good synergy of relations in family relationships as well as business."

A student's motivation or reason for applying for an overseas scholarship is that the study program he or she is pursuing offers the convenience of full tuition fees and obtaining an internationally recognized degree.

As a result, there are a variety of reasons why students apply for study abroad scholarships. Some of the reasons include the opportunity to expand their horizons, make new friends, engage with students from cultures distinct from their own, and gain new experiences. Another reason is that study abroad scholarships provide the convenience of full tuition for three years.

It can be concluded that students' motivations for studying abroad are varied and reflect a deep desire for personal and professional development. International scholarships are often a bridge to fulfilling their academic aspirations, offering them the opportunity to receive quality education at globally recognized institutions. The main motivation is the desire to gain new experiences, expand the network of connections with different cultural backgrounds and enrich personal perspectives. In addition, practical factors such as ease of teaching are also important. Overall, the decision to study abroad is an investment in itself, allowing students to grow and develop in a diverse and supportive environment.

2. The importance of English language skills in international academic communication

English language skills play an important role in our ability to communicate effectively in an international academic environment, as it has become the lingua franca in many fields, including higher education. English has established itself as the lingua franca of worldwide higher education, just as it has in international business, diplomacy, and aviation (air traffic control communications). A language that serves as a communication channel for individuals or groups of individuals who speak different native languages is known as a lingua franca (Wilkins & Urbanovič, 2014). English is an international language that is widely used in education, research and scientific communication. It also reveals how English is being widely used in scientific research, business and education (Parupalli, 2019). The international academic environment often involves debates or seminars. Having English language skills allows students to actively participate in these forums to share ideas and communicate with academic peers from different backgrounds.

Student #1 *"not bad for daily interactions and activities on campus"*

English is often used as the language of instruction at many international universities. Since most published research results are written in English, being proficient in the language is crucial for the advancement of scientific knowledge as well as for using it to facilitate social contact (Andayani, 2022). English language skills are important to discuss lecture materials, assignments, and research results more effectively, working on group projects and assignments with other students from different countries, participating in organizations, or campus events that often use English as the language of instruction.

Student #2 *“A high level of language proficiency allows me to adapt to the different speaking styles and language variations that may be encountered in an international academic environment, and enables me to convey information with clarity and accuracy.”*

High-level English language skills are essential in an international academic environment. These skills allow one to adapt to different speech styles and language types and convey information clearly and accurately. International academic environments often consist of people from different cultural and linguistic backgrounds. High English proficiency will allow you to understand the speech of English speakers with different accents and dialects, especially British, American, Australian and other accents. A high level of English proficiency allow students to speak and write in formal and informal situations and develop an appropriate academic communication style.

Student #3 *“The more fluent you are in a foreign language, the easier it will be to communicate with the community, as the campus environment is very diverse. Plus, the learning program has implemented English as the reference language; proficiency in oral and written is needed to facilitate understanding of learning materials.”*

Students' English language fluency can have a significant impact on their ability to communicate and interact in an international academic environment. Communication skills affect various aspects of student life, especially in relation to studying and interacting with fellow students, lecturers and staff in an international campus environment. A good command of the English language helps international students adapt to their new academic environment and facilitates social interactions with fellow students, faculty, and the host community (Gomes, 2020).

It can be concluded that English language skills play an important role in international academic communication. As an international language that dominates various fields, including education and science, English proficiency allows students to actively participate in discussions, seminars and other academic forums. In addition, good language skills make it easier for international students to adapt to the diverse campus environment, strengthen social interactions, and improve the quality of education. Thus, knowing English is not just a communication tool, but also the key to realizing one's full academic and social potential in the era of globalization.

3. Effect of English Training Intensity on Test result improvement (TOEFL & IELTS)

(Test of English as a Foreign Language) TOEFL scores can be used to evaluate a person's English language skills and as a reference in academic or professional purposes (Rifiyanti et al., 2023). Uysal (2010) states that, the International English Language Testing System (IELTS) is widely used around the world and plays an important and critical role in the lives of many people because it is often used to make important decisions about test takers such as academic or professional goals. Studying TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language) and IELTS (International English Language Testing System) is beneficial because it

opens up opportunities for students to study abroad. Many government and private institutions offer scholarships to high school students who want to study or undergraduate students who want to take a master's degree abroad, with the requirement that they can master English well. Sufficient scores on the TOEFL and IELTS determine this.

Currently, an international standardized proficiency test is used to measure English language proficiency. Two of these tests include the IELTS (International English Language Testing System) and the TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language), each with different scoring measurements (Zebedeus & Sihotang, 2015). Study abroad requires not only being able to speak English fluently. However, being able to write English essays well. The following is the respondents' opinion about effect of English intensity on test result improvement:

Student #1 *"impact on speaking ability and spontaneity in direct communication."*
The intensity of English learning has a positive effect on the improvement of test results, especially on speaking skills and spontaneous direct communication.

Student #2 *"English language training can help to feel more prepared and confident when facing the official TOEFL test, which in turn can provide greater opportunities to achieve high scores that are key to accessing advanced studies and extensive international career opportunities."*

English language training is essential to help students feel more prepared and confident for the official TOEFL test. With proper training, students can improve their general English skills, understand the exam format and strategies, and get practical practice through exam simulations. This is not only relieve test anxiety but also increase your chances of getting a good result. A high TOEFL score is key to accessing further studies at top universities and opening up a wide range of international career opportunities, making English language training a worthwhile investment in your academic and professional future.

Student #3 *"Both TOEFL and IELTS require consistency and a high sense of discipline. Continuous programmed practice makes it easier to understand the patterns and makes us familiar with the typical questions that will be tested."*

Consistency and discipline are essential in TOEFL and IELTS preparation. Programmed and continuous practice allows test takers to understand question patterns, gradually improve language skills, overcome weaknesses, develop effective test-taking strategies, and increase self-confidence. Through consistent practice, candidates will find easier to navigate the test format, understand instructions, and answer questions successfully.

The impact of English learning intensity on TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language) and IELTS (International English Language Testing System) test scores and results can have a significant positive impact. The constant intensity of practice allows students to become familiar with the types of questions, time constraints and procedures used in the TOEFL and IELTS tests. Intensive training also provides an opportunity to deepen understanding of grammar and vocabulary, Intensive English training can improve students' ability to understand text and audio material used in the exam. In addition, students can

learn effective listening and reading strategies to answer questions more accurately. In English language learning, students need repeated practice, as it can help students develop the habits needed to succeed in the TOEFL and IELTS tests. Regular practice can also help students feel more confident on test day.

It can be concluded that the intensity of English language training has a significant effect on improving TOEFL and IELTS test results. Respondents indicated that constant intensity of practice prepares students well for various areas of the exam, including grammar, vocabulary, listening strategies, and question answering techniques. In addition, intensive training gives students the opportunity to familiarize themselves with question types and testing methods, thereby increasing their confidence for the actual exam. Therefore, investing in intensive English language training can be the key to achieving high TOEFL and IELTS test scores, thus opening up greater opportunities for international study and careers.

4. The impact of English proficiency on students' future career opportunities

English language proficiency can have a significant positive impact on students' future career opportunities. Not only does it impact communication skills, but it also opens the door to a wider range of career opportunities, presenting students with the possibility to develop and contribute at an international level. Expanding the network of international contacts, and improving communication skills, which are crucial in the world of work. Additional benefits include access to global resources and knowledge, increased adaptability and flexibility, and increased confidence in a professional environment. Improving English language skills is therefore an invaluable investment in a student's future career.

Student #1 *"to add relations from other countries and increase skills"*

English proficiency opens up opportunities to build relationships and connections with people from different countries. This can expand students' professional networks and provide access to international collaboration opportunities.

Student #2 *"the ability to speak English well is a highly sought after skill in the global workforce such as being able to access job opportunities or jobs in multinational companies and can increase natural contributions to the development of science and technology (research)."*

Most corporate companies today are recruiting personnel who are fluent in English and have exceptional communication skills as these talents will greatly benefit the future success of the organization (John et al., 2021). International companies often look for employees who can communicate effectively in English. These skills can open doors to international career opportunities and success. In an international business environment where teams and clients come from different countries, English language skills enable effective communication. This enables smooth collaboration and deep understanding between team members.

Clement & Murugavel (2019) The research revealed that employees believe that English language skills are necessary to get a job and carry out their responsibilities effectively.

Student #3 *"In my opinion, English is no longer a necessity in education or career, but a necessity. The more proficient you are in a foreign language, the wider your career opportunities will be, with many pros such as international connections that facilitate career expansion and self-growth opportunities."*

English is no longer considered optional or supplementary and is indispensable for shaping students' future careers. The more proficient a student is in a foreign language, the wider their career opportunities. English proficiency not only opens doors of opportunity, but also becomes the cornerstone of success in an increasingly globalized era. In the era of globalization, many companies are looking for employees who can communicate in English. This skill opens the door to exploring career opportunities internationally.

It can be concluded that English language skills play an important role in students' future career opportunities. They not only facilitate cross-cultural communication, but also expand professional networks and international cooperation. In today's globalized world of work, where companies and institutions are often international, English proficiency is one of the most important prerequisites for success. Students who are proficient in English have a greater chance of obtaining a wider and deeper range of career opportunities in a wide variety of industries. Therefore, investing in English language development is not only a means of communication, but also a smart strategy to prepare for the challenges and opportunities of globalization.

CONCLUSION

The intensity of English language training has a significant impact on various aspects related to the success of a student in obtaining a scholarship to study abroad. Students' motivation to study abroad drives them to undergo intensive training to improve their English language skills. Good English skills are essential for international academic communication and help students adapt to a new learning environment. Intensive training also directly improves TOEFL and IELTS test result, which are key requirements for many scholarship programs. Finally, good English language skills have a positive impact on future career opportunities as students can communicate effectively, build professional networks and open up many global career opportunities. Therefore, intensive English language training is an important investment for students who want to continue their studies abroad and build a successful career at the international level.

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