

A COMPARATIVE STUDY ON ORAL LANGUAGE SKILLS OF ESL AND EFL
STUDENTS AT UCSI UNIVERSITY IN MALAYSIA

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Abstract

This paper aims to find out the differences in the syntactic patterns of ESL and EFL students' oral English language. Two particular groups of ESL and EFL Chinese speaking students who study at UCSI University were interviewed in order to achieve the research purpose. These Chinese speaking students are Chinese from mainland China and students who are Chinese Malaysian. In order to identify the differences in the syntactic patterns of their oral English language, these two groups of students were asked to answer some designed questions which are related to oral English language and each student was asked to answer a questionnaire. However, the findings of the data showed that ESL students tend to use more complex syntactic structures when speaking English language. The main reasons that caused these differences in the syntactic pattern of the students' oral English language seem to be the lack of early exposure to English language in EFL settings and the differences in English speaking environments between ESL and EFL students. The findings of this research paper have explicated some of the differences between ESL and EFL students and have provided great implications for language studies and language teaching.