

Needs Analysis: Undergraduates' Evaluation of a University-wide English Language Course

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Needs analysis in language teaching aims not only to identify the needs and wants of language users, but it also aims to assess the outcome of courses. This article reports on a study which used needs analysis to investigate undergraduates' perceptions of their language needs and their progress on a university-wide Use of English course. The study reported in this article surveyed two hundred and four (204) first-year undergraduates to find out how they rated the importance of different language skills across six faculties and how they rated the effect of the course on the development of their academic language skills. Results from this study revealed a mismatch between undergraduates' perception of their development in the language course and their actual development. This study suggests that needs analysis is a useful tool for gaining insights into issues related to academic language development.

Key words: Needs analysis; language skills; evaluation; undergraduates

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