ENGLISH LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY OF COLLEGE STUDENTS OF PUNJAB IN RELATION TO SOCIO-ECONOMIC BACKGROUND AND MEDIUM OF INSTRUCTION IN SCHOOL

SUMMARY

The present research was conducted to study the English language proficiency of college students of Punjab in relation to socio-economic background and medium of instruction in school. The sample comprised 273 first year college students including 91 male and 182 female students studying in six degree colleges of Punjab. Self-prepared English Language Proficiency Test including – Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing Skill Proficiency Tests and a self-prepared Socio-economic Background Measure were used to collect data. The results revealed that college students have average level of listening, speaking and total English language proficiency but average to below average level of reading and writing skill proficiency. They have average level of socio-economic background. College students with English as their medium of instruction have better listening, speaking, reading, writing and total English proficiency than mother tongue medium college students. Socio-economic background has no effect on listening, reading, writing and total English proficiency but has an effect on speaking skill proficiency. English speaking, reading and writing skill proficiency of male and female college students does not differ but females have better listening and total English language proficiency than male college students.

Significant interaction effect was found in case of:

(i) Medium of instruction and gender on listening, writing and total English language proficiency;

(ii) Medium of instruction, socio-economic background and gender on listening skill and total English language proficiency.