

**ESL ACTIVITIES FOR INTER-CULTURAL COMMUNICATION
BUILDING MUTUAL TRUST AND UNDERSTANDING:
A STUDY AT THE FACULTY OF SCIENCE,
UNIVERSITY OF JAFFNA**

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Abstract - The emerging trends of ESL pedagogies advocate the need of incorporating intercultural awareness and knowledge in language classrooms for proving learners with interpersonal tolerance. English is regarded as a lingua Franca all over the world and it also serves as a link language in most of the Sri Lankan socio-economic and political contexts with utilitarian values. At the tertiary level, undoubtedly, English is the only language that binds students from all parts of the country and the globe. The misunderstanding and adverse cultural perceptions can be eliminated through activities in the ESL classroom. This study was undertaken to strengthen social harmony among the undergraduates of the University of Jaffna through mutual trust and understanding. Systematic methods were applied providing avenues for critical thinking and cross-cultural communication breaking communication barriers such as stereotypes and ethnocentrism. A descriptive analytical approach was adopted for this study using qualitative and quantitative data.

Keywords: ESL pedagogies, interpersonal tolerance, cross-cultural communication, social harmony, critical thinking