

AN EVALUATIVE STUDY OF THE AURAL SKILLS OF UNDERGRADUATE AGRICULTURAL STUDENTS AT THEIR ENTRY LEVEL

K. Thangaraj & M. Kalapana

*Assistant Professors, Anbil Dharmalingam Agricultural College and Research Institute, Thiruchurapalli, Tamil Nadu,
India*

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ABSTRACT

Listening' stands first in the order of language learning, and about one third of our time is spent in listening during the process of communication. Aural skills, being a receptive skill, is rarely taught and learnt as an individual skill. In order to examine this little studied skill, a university sub-project was undertaken to test the aural skills of undergraduate agricultural students with interactive software at their entry level. The test was conducted at the Digital Language Laboratory with Digital Linguistic Mentor (DLM) software in Anbil Dharmalingam Agricultural College and Research Institute, Tiruchirappalli, one of the constituent colleges of Tamil Nadu Agricultural University (TNAU), India. The lessons for evaluation were chosen from Cambridge IELTS Text, volume -6, presuming that it is the level meant for intermediate level. 16 boys and 72 girls, each in a batch of 20, representing from six different Indian states have participated in this study and the results are analysed and presented in this paper.

KEYWORDS: *Aural Skills, Listening Skills, Language Laboratory, ESL*