

**A STUDY OF MOTHER TONGUE INTERFERENCE
IN THE ENGLISH ESSAYS
BY MYANMAR GRADUATES**

PhD DISSERTATION

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ABSTRACT

This research studies mother tongue interference in essays by Myanmar graduates. In English Language Teaching in Myanmar, the reading and writing skills play a significant role. Most of the prescribed textbooks mainly develop these two skills. Moreover, most of the tests are designed in such a way that they measure mainly the student's reading and writing abilities. Whenever English language teachers deal with students' test papers for academic purposes, they come across a variety of errors made by these students. In this dissertation, such errors are analysed and their possible causes are also examined. The research analyses the causes of errors in the written English of students from the Diploma in English Course, conducted at the National Centre for English Language, Myanmar. The results of this study indicate that interference from mother tongue is quite influential among the causes of errors. Using error analysis and contrastive analysis with an emphasis on interference analysis, covering a range of grammatical and lexical issues, erroneous items in English are compared to corresponding items in the learner's first language in order to identify such errors.