

The Impact of a Monolingual Medium of Instruction in a Multilingual University in South Africa

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ABSTRACT This paper investigates the impacts of a monolingual medium of instruction (MOI) in a multilingual university in South Africa. It offers a critical examination of the different effects this may have on learning and academic performance of the students. It further examines why students may or may not prefer the selected medium of instruction and the effect this has on their learning abilities. Hence the analysis of these different views would inform and improve the teaching and learning in classrooms at higher education level. In addition, the paper presents factors that appear to play a role in shaping the students' ideologies and attitudes towards English, a language used as MOI across most universities in South Africa and which many of the students appear to find difficult to use in academic learning. The findings from this qualitative study are examined using studies on language ideologies,policy and planning.