

Undergraduate Students' Competence in English Reported Speech

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ABSTRACT Reported speech poses difficulties to students whose mother tongue is not English and who only have the opportunity to use English in the classroom environment. The paper evaluated the Second Language (L2) English Advanced Usage students' competence in reported speech. The paper followed a quantitative research design. Fifty undergraduate students took part in the research paper. The aim was to evaluate students' competence in reported speech by identifying and analyzing the errors and draw up implications. Data was collected through the use of a questionnaire comprising eight questions relating to English reported speech. The majority (80%) of the participants were competent in reporting pronouns, time and place expressions and statements. However, many (72%) of the participants were incompetent in reporting questions as they could not handle the grammatical structures such as tenses and word order. Therefore, English lecturers in various levels should support students by intensively engaging them in communication situations related to reported speech.