

Students' Personal Variables as Correlates of Academic Achievement in English as a Second Language in Nigeria

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ABSTRACT The study was designed to find out the relationship between students personal variables such attitude and academic ability and their achievement in English Language: Four Research Questions were generated for the Study in Lagos State. The instruments used were Questionnaire on Students' Attitude to English (QSAE) and Students' Academic Ability Test (SAAT), four hundred 400) senior Secondary II (SSII) Students randomly selected from five (5) secondary schools were involved in the study. A correlational Analysis was run on the variables and their annual scores in English and t-test calculated. The result of the study showed that there was a positive relationship between Students' Attitude and their academic achievement in English Language. It also showed significant difference in the academic ability of male and female students with male students having higher academic ability mean scores. Based on the findings of the research, recommendations were made that teachers, should evolve effective teaching and learning strategies to develop students positive attitude to English Language; school administrators should encourage regular attendance of English Language teachers at seminars and workshops to keep them abreast of innovation in the teaching of the subject that can improve students attitude; parents should create conducive home environments for their children to improve their attitudes to English Language; and that teachers of English should consider varying academic ability of learners when planing instructional programmes for them.