**Instruments of data collection**

In order to collect adequate information, a questionnaire and interview were the main instruments of data collection in this study.

**Data setting**

This study was conducted at Wolaita Sodo University (WSU). The data were collected in the first semester of the Academic Year in November 2019. More specifically, the data were collected from second year and third year English major students.

**Students' training on IELTS**

Before I start giving IELTS speaking test, I will prepare short term training for students (may be for 1 to 2 hours). This training helps to create awareness about IELTS speaking proficiency test.

**The objectives of training**

The main objective of this training is to:

* Create awareness about the significance of IELTS test and
* Inform students about the needs of IELTS speaking proficiency test.

**Introduction and interview**

First the researcher will introduce himself.

IELTS is a standardized test used to assess the students' language proficiency. It has its own grading criteria and checklists used to assess learner's language proficiency level (i.e. speaking, listening, reading and writing) whether he/she is competent or not. It has its own grading systems or band scores to identify learners' language proficiency. Besides, it is used to assess how much L2 learners know and use the target language when compared to the native speakers. More specifically, the IELTS speaking proficiency test is one of the standardized tests used to evaluate EFL students' speaking proficiency level. It can be given for higher institution learners, especially to upgrade or go abroad for education or training and employment.

**Evaluators will ask you some questions about yourself.**

Evaluators are your instructors. In fact, evaluators will understand how you feel. Indeed, they want you to do well and will do everything that they can to make you feel relaxed and evaluate you.

Evaluators have a set of questions. When you're asked a question, try to answer it without repeating the whole questions in your answer. For example:

**If you are asked** 'What's the most interesting thing about your country?'

**Don't reply** 'The most interesting thing about my country is…'

**Just say** 'It's…'

Then, you can develop on your answer, if possible, by adding something like:

'Most people find this interesting because…'

You can then add a synonym of the words used by the assessor. So, instead of interesting say something like: 'Most people find this fascinating because…'

So, don't try to 'fill up' your answer by repeating the question back to interviewers and try to add a little 'extra' to show off your English. Remember, it's a conversation with assessors. They want to see if you are fluent and coherent. They can't do this if you just repeat back large chunks of a question! Evaluators are looking for your own ideas.

Moreover, the topics are very familiar and the evaluator normally asks you about yourself. Try to give examples and create ideas, willingly. Never say, 'I don't know.'

Giving full answers

Impress the evaluator with your ability to give full answers to his/ her questions. To avoid yes/no answers or short responses try to use the REDS method to add detail to your initial response:

Give a Reason

Offer an Example

Give Details

Speculate

Remember that evaluators ask you a range of questions to encourage you to speak English. Again, remember that this part of the test only lasts for 11 to 14 minutes. Evaluators can only ask you some questions. So, don't panic!

Here are some hints, help you:

Listen carefully to the evaluator's questions.

Try to be fluent and only correct yourself when it's easy to do so.

Don't focus on your mistakes, move on.

Try to go into detail when you explain your opinion.

Give reasons for what you say.

Keep to the topic.

If you don't understand the question, ask for it to be repeated. Never answer a question you don't understand.

Don't worry if you have to make up an answer. You are being marked on your ability to speak English, not the truth of the content!

Don't speak quickly or slowly just speak clearly.

Concentrate on the message you are trying to give.

Don't worry about saying too much! Evaluators will stop you if they want to.

When you say something, try to qualify and expand it to support your opinion or reason.

Don't overuse words such as 'actually', 'moreover', 'additionally' and so on. This will come across as padding and won't demonstrate your use of English.

If you have time for conclusion try to say something like: '…and so I…' Follow the evaluators' lead. He/she might change direction quickly by asking an unexpected question for you to comment on. For example: What about…? Here, you might answer something like: 'Well, that's possible, but I think that…'

Don't try to use one breath to say everything. Pace yourself! Listen to how other people speaking English pace themselves during speech. You will find it useful to listen to spoken English, such as on TV programmes, to see how this is achieved.

**IELTS: Speaking parts**

IELTS speaking proficiency test has three parts. These are:

**Part 1**: It focuses on general questions like introducing yourself, your hobby time, interest, foods and so on.

Example: Why did you choose this field?

To tell you the truth or to be honest, my parents chose it for me. Or I chose it because I always have been interested in English. I always want to be an English language journalist.

**Part 2**: It concerns about self-talk. The topic will be given to each participant on paper with a pen.

**Notice**: When you prepare notes, don't write full sentences.

Example: Describe your hometown.

**Incorrect answer**: I come from Bahir Dar. It's a big city.

Too short and not enough details.

**Correct answer**

I am from Bahir Dar. As you may know, Bahir Dar is the capital city of Amhara regional state. It is a very big city. The center has a lot of historical and long buildings; it has also decorated with a very beautiful flowers and trees. Iam really proud of my city and I miss it when I am not there. In my city, there are many cafeterias and entertainment places like Lake Tana where I enjoy with my friends at our free times.

Example: Describe your city

**Incorrect answer**: I live in an apartment in a big building. My apartment has five rooms. There're bedrooms, kitchen, salon and toilet. Also, there room is a....Um...I forgot the word in English.

**Correct answer**: I live in a mid-sized apartment in a tower block. It has five rooms in total, with two tiny bedrooms, kitchen, salon and toilet. Then, there's... What's the word? Like an office and where I sometimes study or do work.

Organizing your answers

Finish with concluding phrase. For example, that’s why I feel that...., finally, when I look back at, my decision now...

**Part 3**: It focuses on two way discussion on part 2 topic. It enables to use vocabulary effectively.

**Note**: Support your opinion.

Example: Do you think that children do less sport and exercise than in the past?

'Yes, I agree. It's too short.

Add reasons and examples to support your opinions

Yes, I agree. Children have more homework and are under more pressure at school, so they have less time to play sports or do something outside. For example, when I was younger, I played with my friends every day after school. Nowadays, I never see children playing outside.

Moreover, if it needs, try to add more examples.

Example, in a recent survey, researchers discovered that children 25 years ago did five hours of exercise or physical activity every week. Now the average is just one hour of activity a week.

The other points to be considered in this part are speculating: talk about possibilities. Speculate means talking about unsure it.

Examples, Children do less sport and exercise these days, but I am not sure why that is. Maybe it's because they spend on Facebook, playing video games and so on.

Speculating: useful languages

I think children might have less free time than in the past.

Parents may not be willing to let children play outside nowadays, especially in big cities.

If children have many home works, it will be difficult for them to play sports.

Discuss the other side of the argument

Example, … on the other hand, many of my friends' children are very active, often more active than their parents. It isn't true that all children are less active than in the past.

...However, spending time online can also help to get children interested in new sports and activities. It's much easier to find sports clubs and activities in your local area today, thanks to technology.

Note: Dos

Confidently, friendly, eye-contact and excitement

Vocabulary food= cuisine

Friend=acquaintance

I like X I enjoy, I really love, I prefer

Expand your answers/examples, practices

**Don'ts**

-Speak with monotone

-Give Yes/No answers

-Repeat the questions

-Go off topics

-Answer I don't know

- Speak too quickly, slowly

-Speak quietly

-Worry about perfect English

Table 1: Experience of using speaking strategies

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Strategies | | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent |
| What is your experience of learning speaking skill? | Using their speaking strategies | 37 | 28.2 | 28.2 |
| Practicing with native speakers | 16 | 12.2 | 12.2 |
| Lessons taught in a class | 27 | 20.6 | 20.6 |
| Practicing with my friends | 51 | 38.9 | 38.9 |
| Total | 131 | 100.0 | 100.0 |

Table 2: The second Year and third year IELTS speaking proficiency test results

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Interviewees | Pronunciation (9pts) | Grammar (9pts) | Lexical resources (9pts) | Fluency (9pts) | Average |
| S1 | 3.00 | 4.00 | 4.00 | 3.00 | 3.50 |
| S 2 | 4.00 | 4.00 | 4.00 | 4.00 | 4.00 |
| S 3 | 3.00 | 3.00 | 4.00 | 4.00 | 3.50 |
| S 4 | 2.00 | 2.00 | 3.00 | 2.00 | 2.25 |
| S 5 | 3.00 | 3.00 | 3.00 | 2.00 | 2.75 |
| S 6 | 2.00 | 3.00 | 4.00 | 3.00 | 3.00 |
| S 7 | 3.00 | 3.00 | 3.00 | 3.00 | 3.00 |
| S 8 | 3.00 | 3.00 | 3.00 | 3.00 | 3.00 |
| S 9 | 5.00 | 4.00 | 4.00 | 4.00 | 4.25 |
| S 10 | 4.00 | 3.00 | 3.00 | 3.00 | 3.25 |
| S 11 | 3.00 | 3.00 | 3.00 | 3.00 | 3.00 |
| S 12 | 3.00 | 4.00 | 3.00 | 4.00 | 3.50 |
| S 13 | 4.00 | 3.00 | 3.00 | 3.00 | 3.25 |
| S 14 | 2.00 | 3.00 | 3.00 | 3.00 | 2.75 |
| S 15 | 3.00 | 2.00 | 3.00 | 3.00 | 2.75 |
| S 16 | 4.00 | 3.00 | 4.00 | 2.00 | 3.25 |
| S 17 | 2.00 | 2.00 | 2.00 | 2.00 | 2.00 |
| S 18 | 5.00 | 4.00 | 4.00 | 4.00 | 4.25 |
| S 19 | 3.00 | 4.00 | 4.00 | 3.00 | 3.50 |
| S 20 | 4.00 | 4.00 | 4.00 | 4.00 | 4.00 |
| S 21 | 4.00 | 3.00 | 3.00 | 3.00 | 3.25 |
| S 22 | 5.00 | 5.00 | 5.00 | 4.00 | 4.75 |
| S 23 | 4.00 | 3.00 | 3.00 | 4.00 | 3.50 |
| S 24 | 3.00 | 3.00 | 3.00 | 3.00 | 3.00 |
| S 25 | 3.00 | 4.00 | 4.00 | 4.00 | 3.75 |
| S 26 | 4.00 | 4.00 | 5.00 | 5.00 | 4.50 |
| S 27 | 2.00 | 3.00 | 4.00 | 3.00 | 3.00 |
| S 28 | 3.00 | 4.00 | 4.00 | 3.00 | 3.50 |
| S 29 | 2.00 | 2.00 | 2.00 | 3.00 | 2.25 |
| S 30 | 3.00 | 3.00 | 3.00 | 3.00 | 3.00 |
| S 31 | 5.00 | 5.00 | 5.00 | 5.00 | 5.00 |
| S 32 | 4.00 | 4.00 | 4.00 | 4.00 | 4.00 |
| S 33 | 3.00 | 4.00 | 4.00 | 4.00 | 3.75 |
| S 34 | 2.00 | 3.00 | 2.00 | 3.00 | 2.50 |
| S 35 | 3.00 | 3.00 | 3.00 | 3.00 | 3.00 |
| S 36 | 4.00 | 4.00 | 4.00 | 4.00 | 4.00 |
| S 37 | 3.00 | 4.00 | 4.00 | 3.00 | 3.50 |
| S38 | 4.00 | 3.00 | 3.00 | 3.00 | 3.25 |
| S39 | 2.00 | 3.00 | 2.00 | 3.00 | 2.50 |
| S40 | 3.00 | 3.00 | 2.00 | 2.00 | 2.50 |
| S41 | 3.00 | 3.00 | 3.00 | 3.00 | 3.00 |
| S42 | 3.00 | 3.00 | 3.00 | 3.00 | 3.00 |
| S43 | 4.00 | 4.00 | 4.00 | 4.00 | 4.00 |
| S44 | 3.00 | 3.00 | 3.00 | 3.00 | 3.00 |
| S45 | 3.00 | 2.00 | 2.00 | 2.00 | 2.25 |
| S46 | 3.00 | 3.00 | 2.00 | 2.00 | 2.50 |
| S47 | 4.00 | 3.00 | 3.00 | 3.00 | 3.25 |
| S48 | 4.00 | 3.00 | 3.00 | 3.00 | 3.25 |
| S49 | 3.00 | 3.00 | 2.00 | 3.00 | 2.75 |
| S50 | 3.00 | 3.00 | 3.00 | 3.00 | 3.00 |
| S51 | 3.00 | 3.00 | 2.00 | 3.00 | 2.75 |
| S52 | 4.00 | 4.00 | 4.00 | 4.00 | 4.00 |
| S53 | 4.00 | 3.00 | 3.00 | 4.00 | 3.50 |
| S54 | 3.00 | 2.00 | 3.00 | 3.00 | 2.75 |
| S55 | 3.00 | 3.00 | 3.00 | 3.00 | 3.00 |
| S56 | 3.00 | 3.00 | 3.00 | 4.00 | 3.25 |
| S57 | 3.00 | 3.00 | 2.00 | 2.00 | 2.50 |
| S 58 | 3.00 | 3.00 | 3.00 | 3.00 | 3.00 |
| S 59 | 3.00 | 3.00 | 3.00 | 3.00 | 3.00 |
| S 60 | 3.00 | 3.00 | 3.00 | 3.00 | 3.00 |
| S 61 | 4.00 | 4.00 | 4.00 | 4.00 | 4.00 |
| S 62 | 3.00 | 3.00 | 3.00 | 3.00 | 3.00 |
| S 63 | 2.00 | 2.00 | 2.00 | 3.00 | 2.25 |
| S 64 | 3.00 | 4.00 | 3.00 | 4.00 | 3.50 |
| S 65 | 3.00 | 3.00 | 2.00 | 2.00 | 2.50 |
| S 66 | 3.00 | 3.00 | 3.00 | 3.00 | 3.00 |
| S 67 | 4.00 | 4.00 | 4.00 | 4.00 | 4.00 |
| S 68 | 3.00 | 2.00 | 3.00 | 3.00 | 2.75 |
| S 69 | 4.00 | 4.00 | 4.00 | 4.00 | 4.00 |
| S 70 | 3.00 | 3.00 | 3.00 | 3.00 | 3.00 |