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The Use of Media in the Acquisition of English as a Second Language

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THE USE OF MEDIA IN THE ACQUISITION OF ENGLISH
AS A SECOND LANGUAGE

A Dissertation

Submitted to the School of Graduate Studies and Research

in Partial Fulfillment of the

Requirements for the Degree

Doctor of Philosophy

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The study was influenced by the researcher's background in English as a second language. A simple and reliable survey was created to gather information on the use of media amongst international students in the acquisition of English as a second language. Convenient non- probability samples of 62 international students aged 18-72 studying at the American Language Institute were surveyed. The 19-item survey was analyzed using descriptive statistics and Spearman Rho correlations.

The theoretical foundation of the research was the Uses and Gratifications Theory. It was used to determine the perceived impact of the use of media in the acquisition of English as a second language. The primary investigative purpose was to determine if the use of media by international students was perceived to be useful in their English language acquisition.

The findings were not statistically as conclusive as thought prior to the study. The findings did indicate that students were utilizing media in addition to their academic courses; their perception was that it was helpful in their language learning. From this study the researcher has gained an in-depth understanding of why and how international students are utilizing media to assist in language acquisition.