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Vol. 10, No. 1 January 2012
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ENGLISH ● EDU
Journal of Language Teaching and Research

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ENGLISH ● EDU: Journal of Language Teaching and Research

Published by Faculty of Language and Literature
Satya Wacana Christian University
Jalan Diponegoro 52-60, Salatiga 50711
Phone: (0298) 321212 Fax: 0298-312120
email: gustiastika@yahoo.com

Vol. 10 No.1. January 2012

Design Cover & Lay-out:
Harrie Siswanto

printed by: Tisara Grafika, Salatiga
081 228 598 985

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Abstract
The interference of first language in learning English is a common but still controversial issue up to now. In Indonesia where English is learnt as a foreign language, there are different perspectives or opinions on whether the use of L1 is useful or not between the students and teachers. The English Department of Satya Wacana Christian University Salatiga also faces the same problem related to the positive and negative effects of using L1, especially in Transactional Speaking classes. L1 is commonly used in kinds of paraphrasing or translation. Considering this never-ending issue, I conducted this study, which is aimed at finding out why both the students and the teachers still use their L1 in Transactional Speaking classes. Furthermore, this study also investigated the students’ and teachers’ perspectives toward the use of L1. This is whether they have more favorable or unfavorable attitudes toward the use of L1. This study was conducted in the English Department of Satya Wacana Christian University Salatiga which involved the students and teachers of Transactional Speaking classes in Semester II of the academic year 2009/2010. The result of this study shows that L1 was still used both for teaching and learning English. The teachers and students realized that the use of L1 in the classroom could not be avoided since it gave some benefits for both the teachers and students.

Keywords: L1 interference, positive/negative transfer, attitudes, Transactional Speaking, perspectives