

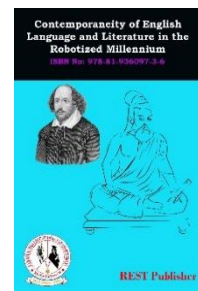
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Evaluating Challenges in Learning English with The WASPAS Approach

Angela Fatima Mirza

Manglayatan University, Aligarh Uttar Pradesh, India.

Corresponding author Email: angelamirza19@gmail.com

Abstract: Challenges in learning English as a second language Learning English as a second language presents various challenges for learners. Pronunciation and grammar can be difficult due to differences from their native language. Vocabulary acquisition requires time and practice, while idioms and slang add complexity. Listening and speaking skills can be intimidating, especially in fast-paced conversations. Writing in English demands proper sentence structure and coherence. Additionally, cultural differences may impact understanding and communication. Limited exposure to English-speaking environments and a lack of confidence can further hinder progress. Research significance: The significance of researching challenges in learning English as a second language lies in improving language acquisition methods and enhancing educational strategies. Understanding these challenges helps educators develop more effective teaching approaches, addressing issues such as pronunciation, grammar, vocabulary, and cultural differences. It also aids policymakers in designing supportive language programs for learners. Furthermore, identifying barriers like anxiety, lack of exposure, and limited resources can lead to targeted interventions that boost learners' confidence and proficiency. This research contributes to linguistic, cognitive, and social development, ensuring better communication skills and broader opportunities for individuals in academic, professional, and global contexts. Methodology: The methodology for studying challenges in learning English as a second language involves a mixed-methods approach, combining qualitative and quantitative research. Surveys and questionnaires can be used to collect data from learners about difficulties in pronunciation, grammar, vocabulary, and communication. Interviews and focus groups help gather in-depth insights into personal learning experiences. Observational studies in classrooms assess teaching methods and learner engagement. Additionally, language proficiency tests measure progress and identify specific problem areas. Data analysis involves identifying common trends and patterns in learning difficulties. This approach helps develop effective strategies to overcome challenges and improve English language acquisition. Alternative: Pronunciation Issues, Grammar Complexity, Vocabulary Retention, Listening Comprehension, Writing Skills, Understanding Idioms & Slang, Cultural Context & Expression, Fear of Making Mistakes Evaluation preference: Difficulty Level, Frequency, Impact on Learning, Overcoming Difficulty, Learner Confidence, need for External Support Results: Fear of Making Mistakes is getting top of the table and Writing Skills is getting bottom of the table.

Keywords: Pronunciation Issues, Grammar Complexity, Vocabulary Retention, Listening Comprehension, Writing Skills, Understanding Idioms & Slang, Difficulty Level, Frequency, Impact on Learning, Overcoming Difficulty

1. INTRODUCTION

Learning English as a second language is an enriching but often challenging journey for many learners worldwide. English is one of the most widely spoken languages globally, used in education, business, and international communication. However, acquiring proficiency in English can be a difficult task due to various linguistic, psychological, cultural, and educational barriers. While some learners may find the process easier depending on their

native language and exposure to English, others may struggle significantly. Understanding these challenges is essential for educators, learners, and policymakers to develop effective strategies for language acquisition. This essay explores the primary difficulties faced by learners when studying English as a second language, including pronunciation, grammar, vocabulary, listening comprehension, speaking confidence, writing skills, cultural influences, and lack of immersion. [1] One of the biggest challenges learners face in acquiring English is pronunciation. English has a complex phonetic system with many sounds that may not exist in a learner's native language. For example, sounds like "the" in "think" and "this" do not exist in many other languages, making them difficult for learners to pronounce correctly. Additionally, English spelling does not always match its pronunciation, leading to confusion. For instance, words like "cough," "though," and "bough" are spelled similarly but pronounced differently. Learners often struggle with stress patterns, intonation, and rhythm, which are crucial for effective communication. Without proper pronunciation, misunderstandings can arise, affecting the learner's confidence and ability to engage in conversations. [2] English grammar is another major obstacle for learners. Unlike some languages with straightforward grammatical rules, English has numerous irregularities and exceptions. Verb tenses, articles, prepositions, and subject-verb agreement can be particularly challenging. For example, English has multiple past tense forms, such as regular verbs (walked) and irregular verbs (went, eaten, brought), which must be memorized. The correct use of articles ("a," "an," and "the") is difficult for learners whose native language does not use articles in the same way. Additionally, prepositions in English (e.g., "on," "in," "at") do not always follow logical patterns, leading to frequent mistakes. The complexity of English grammar often discourages learners and slows down their progress. Building a strong vocabulary is essential for language proficiency but can be overwhelming for learners. English has one of the largest vocabularies of any language, with words borrowed from Latin, French, German, and many other sources. [3] Synonyms, homophones, and phrasal verbs add to the complexity. For example, the words "there," "there," and "they're" sound the same but have different meanings. Phrasal verbs like "give up," "turn on," and "run out" can be difficult to understand because their meanings are often not literal. Additionally, English idioms and slang phrases create further confusion. Without a sufficient vocabulary, learners struggle with reading, writing, and speaking effectively. Understanding spoken English is another significant challenge for learners. Native speakers often speak quickly, use contractions, and incorporate slang or informal expressions that learners may not be familiar with. Accents and regional variations in pronunciation add another layer of difficulty. For instance, British, American, and Australian English have different pronunciations and vocabulary, making it hard for learners to adapt. Additionally, in real-life conversations, people may use incomplete sentences, filler words, and overlapping speech, making it difficult to follow. Without regular exposure to spoken English, learners find it challenging to improve their listening skills. [4] Many learners struggle with speaking English due to a lack of confidence and fear of making mistakes. Speaking a new language in front of others can be intimidating, leading to anxiety and hesitation. Learners may have difficulty forming sentences quickly or pronouncing words correctly, making them reluctant to participate in conversations. Social pressure and fear of being judged often discourage learners from practicing spoken English, which is essential for fluency. Additionally, limited opportunities to interact with native speakers make it difficult to improve speaking skills. Without regular practice, learners find it challenging to develop natural and spontaneous communication skills. Writing in English requires a strong grasp of grammar, vocabulary, and sentence structure, making it a difficult skill for learners to master. Unlike spoken language, written communication follows strict grammatical rules and formal structures. [5] Learners often struggle with organizing ideas, using correct punctuation, and constructing coherent sentences. Academic writing, in particular, requires critical thinking, proper argumentation, and extensive vocabulary, which can be challenging for non-native speakers. Additionally, spelling inconsistencies in English add to the difficulty. Without proper guidance and practice, learners may find it hard to express themselves clearly and effectively in writing. Cultural differences can impact language learning and communication. English is not just a language; it carries cultural nuances, idiomatic expressions, and contextual meanings that may be unfamiliar to learners from different backgrounds. For example, humor, sarcasm, and indirect speech vary across cultures, leading to misunderstandings. Social norms, politeness strategies, and conversational etiquette also differ between cultures. For instance, in some cultures, direct communication is considered rude, while in English-speaking cultures, clarity and directness are often valued. Without an understanding of cultural contexts, learners may struggle to interpret meaning accurately and communicate appropriately. [6] One of the most significant challenges in learning English is the lack of immersion and practice opportunities. Language learning is most effective when learners are exposed to the language regularly and engage in meaningful communication. However, many learners live in environments where English is not commonly spoken, making it difficult to practice. Limited access to native speakers, authentic materials, and real-life situations hinders language development. Classroom learning alone is often insufficient for achieving fluency. Without immersion, learners may struggle to develop listening comprehension, pronunciation, and conversational skills. [7] Despite these challenges, learners can adopt various strategies to improve their English proficiency. Consistent practice, exposure to English media (such as movies, books, and podcasts), and engaging in conversations

with native speakers can enhance listening and speaking skills. Using language learning apps, online courses, and grammar guides can help learners overcome grammatical and vocabulary-related difficulties. Participating in language exchange programs, joining English-speaking communities, and practicing writing regularly can also contribute to language improvement. Additionally, developing a positive mindset, embracing mistakes as part of the learning process, and staying motivated can significantly enhance language acquisition. Learning English as a second language is a rewarding but challenging endeavor. Pronunciation difficulties, grammatical complexities, vocabulary acquisition, listening comprehension, speaking confidence, writing skills, cultural differences, and lack of immersion all contribute to the struggles learners face.[8] However, with dedication, effective learning strategies, and consistent practice, these challenges can be overcome. Understanding the difficulties involved in language learning can help educators create supportive environments that facilitate language acquisition. Ultimately, mastering English opens doors to global opportunities, enhances communication skills, and fosters cross-cultural understanding, making the effort worthwhile for learners worldwide. Learning English as a second language presents numerous challenges that can make the process both difficult and frustrating for learners. English is widely considered one of the most complex languages due to its irregular grammar rules, diverse vocabulary, and intricate pronunciation patterns. For non-native speakers, mastering English requires dedication, patience, and continuous practice. Despite the availability of various learning resources, many learners struggle with different aspects of the language, including pronunciation, grammar, vocabulary, listening comprehension, and cultural nuances. Additionally, psychological barriers such as fear of making mistakes and lack of confidence can further hinder language acquisition. These challenges vary depending on the learner's native language, educational background, and exposure to English in daily life. [9] One of the most common challenges faced by English learners is pronunciation. English has numerous sounds that may not exist in other languages, making it difficult for learners to produce them accurately. For example, the "the" sound in words like "think" and "this" does not exist in many languages, leading to mispronunciations such as "tank" or "dis." Additionally, English spelling and pronunciation are often inconsistent, making it hard for learners to predict how words should be spoken. For instance, words like "through," "though," and "tough" are spelled similarly but pronounced differently, adding to the confusion. Without proper guidance and consistent practice, learners may develop incorrect pronunciation habits that can affect their spoken communication. [10] Grammar is another significant hurdle in learning English. Unlike some languages with more straightforward grammatical structures, English has numerous exceptions and irregularities. Verb tenses, for example, can be particularly challenging. The difference between simple past, present perfect, and past perfect can be confusing, as in the sentences: "I ate breakfast," "I have eaten breakfast," and "I had eaten breakfast." The correct usage depends on context, which requires a deep understanding of English grammar rules. Additionally, word order in English sentences follows a specific structure (subject-verb-object), which may differ from the learner's native language, leading to common mistakes in sentence construction. Vocabulary acquisition is another area where learners struggle. English has one of the largest vocabularies of any language, with numerous synonyms, idioms, and phrasal verbs that make learning difficult. Words often have multiple meanings depending on context, which can be confusing for learners. For instance, the word "run" can mean "to move quickly" (e.g., "He runs every morning") or "to operate" (e.g., "She runs a business"). Additionally, English frequently borrows words from other languages, creating inconsistencies in spelling and pronunciation. Phrasal verbs, such as "give up" (meaning "to quit") or "put off" (meaning "to postpone"), add another layer of difficulty, as their meanings are not always intuitive.[11] Listening comprehension is a major challenge for many learners, especially those who are not regularly exposed to native English speakers. English speakers tend to speak quickly, use contractions, and incorporate idiomatic expressions that may be unfamiliar to learners. Accents and regional dialects further complicate comprehension. A learner who is accustomed to American English may find it difficult to understand British or Australian English due to differences in pronunciation and vocabulary. Additionally, spoken English often differs from written English, as it includes informal speech patterns, slang, and incomplete sentences. Without sufficient listening practice, learners may struggle to follow conversations, especially in fast-paced or group discussions. Writing in English requires a strong grasp of grammar, vocabulary, and sentence structure, making it another challenging aspect of language learning. Unlike some languages that use phonetic spelling, English has many irregular spellings, making it difficult for learners to spell words correctly. Additionally, formal writing in English requires coherence, logical organization, and proper punctuation, which can be difficult for non-native speakers to master. [12] Writing essays, reports, or emails in English requires practice and feedback to improve clarity and accuracy. Common mistakes include incorrect verb tenses, misplaced modifiers, and run-on sentences, all of which can affect the quality of written communication. Cultural differences also play a significant role in language learning. English is not just about grammar and vocabulary; it also involves understanding cultural contexts, social norms, and communication styles. For example, humor, sarcasm, and indirect language are commonly used in English conversations, which may be difficult for non-native speakers to interpret correctly. Additionally, polite expressions and formalities vary across cultures. In English-speaking countries, small talk is common, and phrases such as "How

are you?" are often used as greetings rather than literal questions. Understanding these cultural nuances helps learners communicate effectively and avoid misunderstandings. Another major challenge in learning English is the lack of immersion. Learners who do not have opportunities to practice English in real-life situations may find it difficult to improve their speaking and listening skills. Classroom learning alone is often insufficient for achieving fluency, as real-world conversations involve spontaneous speech, varying accents, and informal language. [13] Many learners struggle with confidence when speaking English, fearing they will make mistakes or be misunderstood. This fear can prevent them from practicing and improving their skills. Additionally, the lack of exposure to native speakers limits their ability to develop a natural accent and intonation. The psychological barriers to learning English should not be overlooked. Many learners experience anxiety, frustration, and self-doubt when trying to master a new language. The fear of making mistakes can hinder progress, as learners may avoid speaking or writing in English due to embarrassment. Additionally, motivation plays a crucial role in language learning. Some learners may lose interest or become discouraged if they do not see immediate progress. [14] Maintaining motivation requires setting achievable goals, practicing consistently, and seeking support from teachers, peers, or language learning communities. Despite these challenges, there are effective strategies to overcome them and achieve proficiency in English. First, regular practice is essential. Engaging in conversations with native speakers, watching English movies, listening to podcasts, and reading books can help improve language skills. Second, learners should focus on improving their pronunciation by listening to native speakers and practicing difficult sounds. Third, using language learning apps, online courses, and grammar guides can help reinforce grammar and vocabulary knowledge. Fourth, learners should not be afraid to make mistakes, as errors are a natural part of the learning process. [15] Finally, immersing oneself in an English-speaking environment, whether through travel, study abroad programs, or online communities, can greatly accelerate language acquisition. Learning English as a second language comes with various challenges, including pronunciation difficulties, grammatical complexities, vocabulary acquisition, listening comprehension, and cultural differences. Psychological barriers such as lack of confidence and fear of making mistakes can further hinder progress. However, with consistent practice, exposure to English in different contexts, and a positive mindset, learners can overcome these challenges and achieve fluency. While the journey may be challenging, the rewards of mastering English including better career opportunities, improved communication skills, and greater cultural understanding make the effort worthwhile. By adopting effective learning strategies and staying motivated, learners can successfully navigate the complexities of the English language and enhance their proficiency over time. [16]

2. MATERIAL AND METHOD

Alternative:

Learning English as a second language (ESL) involves overcoming several linguistic and psychological challenges. Pronunciation Issues are a major hurdle, as learners struggle with phonetic differences between their native language and English. Mispronunciations can lead to misunderstandings and reduced confidence in speaking. Grammar Complexity is another significant challenge due to intricate rules, exceptions, and sentence structures that differ from other languages. Learners often find it difficult to apply these rules correctly in writing and speaking. Vocabulary Retention plays a crucial role in language acquisition, as a limited word bank restricts effective communication. Memorizing and recalling words, especially those with multiple meanings, requires continuous exposure and practice. Listening Comprehension is also demanding, as learners must decode accents, intonations, and fast speech. This skill is essential for real-world interactions, yet difficult to master. Writing Skills present difficulties due to grammar, spelling, and organization. Constructing coherent and structured texts requires practice and familiarity with formal English conventions. Understanding Idioms & Slang adds complexity, as these expressions are culturally embedded and often illogical when translated literally. Cultural Context & Expression further complicate learning, as effective communication involves grasping cultural references and social norms. Lastly, the Fear of Making Mistakes hinders progress, discouraging learners from practicing their skills, despite errors being an essential part of the learning process. Overcoming these challenges requires structured learning, immersion, and confidence-building strategies.

Evaluation preference:

Several factors influence the process of learning English as a second language (ESL), shaping a learner's progress and overall experience. Difficulty Level varies across different aspects of language learning, with grammar, pronunciation, and idioms often posing the most significant challenges due to their complexity and differences from the learner's native language. Frequency of encountering these difficulties plays a crucial role; issues like pronunciation errors and vocabulary retention struggles arise consistently, making continuous practice essential. The Impact on Learning is

substantial, as challenges in one area can hinder overall proficiency. For instance, poor listening comprehension affects speaking ability, while weak vocabulary limits writing skills. The ability to Overcome Difficulty depends on individual resilience, learning strategies, and exposure to English in practical contexts. Some learners adapt quickly, while others require structured guidance and repetition. Learner Confidence is another critical factor student who believe in their ability to improve tend to take more risks and practice frequently, leading to better progress. However, many learners experience anxiety and self-doubt, especially when making mistakes. The Need for External Support varies, with some learners benefiting greatly from teachers, tutors, or language programs that provide guidance, encouragement, and correction to facilitate learning.

3. WASPAS METHOD

The WASPAS method (Weighted Aggregated Sum Product Assessment) is a multi-criterion decision-making (MCDM) technique that combines two popular approaches: The Weighted Sum Model (WSM) and the Weighted Product Model (WPM). It is designed to improve decision-making accuracy by leveraging the advantages of both methods. The WSM is a straightforward additive model that calculates the overall score of an alternative by summing up the weighted performance values of criteria, while the WPM is a multiplicative approach that considers the relative importance of criteria by multiplying normalized values. By integrating these two techniques, WASPAS enhances decision reliability and reduces sensitivity to variations in weighting schemes. The method operates through a systematic process, beginning with the construction of a decision matrix, where alternatives are evaluated across multiple criteria. [17] Each criterion is assigned a weight based on its significance, and the performance scores of alternatives are normalized to ensure comparability. WASPAS then calculates two separate scores: one using the WSM approach and another using the WPM approach. These scores are subsequently aggregated through a weighted coefficient (typically denoted as λ), which determines the influence of each method in the final decision. The parameter λ usually ranges between 0 and 1, with 0.5 being a common default value, indicating an equal contribution from both models. This weighted combination results in a final ranking of alternatives, where the highest score represents the most favorable option. One of the key strengths of WASPAS is its ability to balance compensatory and non-compensatory decision-making principles, making it suitable for complex problems where trade-offs between criteria are required.[18] Additionally, WASPAS is computationally efficient and easy to implement, making it widely used in fields such as engineering, supply chain management, project selection, and financial analysis. Its flexibility allows decision-makers to adjust λ based on the problem context, thereby offering customized decision support. Furthermore, WASPAS exhibits robustness against inconsistencies in weighting assignments, as it mitigates extreme influences from either the additive or multiplicative model. This makes it particularly useful in uncertain or dynamic environments where input data may be imprecise or subjective. Despite its advantages, the method is not without limitations. The selection of λ remains somewhat arbitrary unless justified by sensitivity analysis, and the accuracy of the results depends on the quality of the input data and weight assignments. [19] Additionally, WASPAS assumes that criteria are independent, which may not always be the case in real-world decision-making scenarios where interactions between factors exist. Nevertheless, compared to other MCDM methods like TOPSIS, AHP, or VIKOR, WASPAS offers a balanced and integrated approach that enhances decision quality while maintaining computational simplicity. Its hybrid nature makes it an effective tool for ranking and selecting optimal solutions across various industries. By leveraging the strengths of WSM and WPM, WASPAS serves as a practical and reliable decision-making framework that improves accuracy, reduces bias, and facilitates informed choices in complex, multi-criteria environments. [20]

4. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

TABLE 1. Challenges in learning English as a second language

	Difficulty Level	Frequency	Impact on Learning	Overcoming Difficulty	Learner Confidence	Need for External Support
Pronunciation Issues	8	7	9	6	5	7
Grammar Complexity	9	8	9	5	6	8
Vocabulary Retention	7	8	8	6	6	6
Listening Comprehension	8	7	9	5	5	7
Writing Skills	7	6	8	7	6	6
Understanding Idioms & Slang	9	7	8	5	5	7

Cultural Context & Expression	7	6	7	6	6	6
Fear of Making Mistakes	8	9	8	4	4	7

Table 1 presents a comparative analysis of challenges faced by learners when acquiring English as a second language (ESL) using the WASPAS method. The table evaluates key parameters such as Difficulty Level, Frequency, Impact on Learning, Overcoming Difficulty, Learner Confidence, and Need for External Support for different language-learning aspects. Among the most challenging areas, Grammar Complexity and Understanding Idioms & Slang have the highest difficulty levels (9), indicating that these aspects pose significant obstacles for learners. Pronunciation Issues and Listening Comprehension also rank high in difficulty (8), reinforcing the notion that oral and auditory skills require substantial effort. Fear of Making Mistakes exhibits the highest frequency (9), showing that learners consistently experience this issue, affecting their confidence and willingness to practice. In terms of impact on learning, Grammar Complexity, Pronunciation Issues, and Listening Comprehension score 9, suggesting that mastering these elements is crucial for overall proficiency. However, the ability to overcome these challenges is relatively low, particularly for Fear of Making Mistakes (4) and Grammar Complexity (5), indicating a strong need for external intervention. This analysis highlights the necessity for personalized teaching strategies that focus on boosting confidence, simplifying complex grammatical structures, and enhancing pronunciation techniques for effective ESL acquisition.

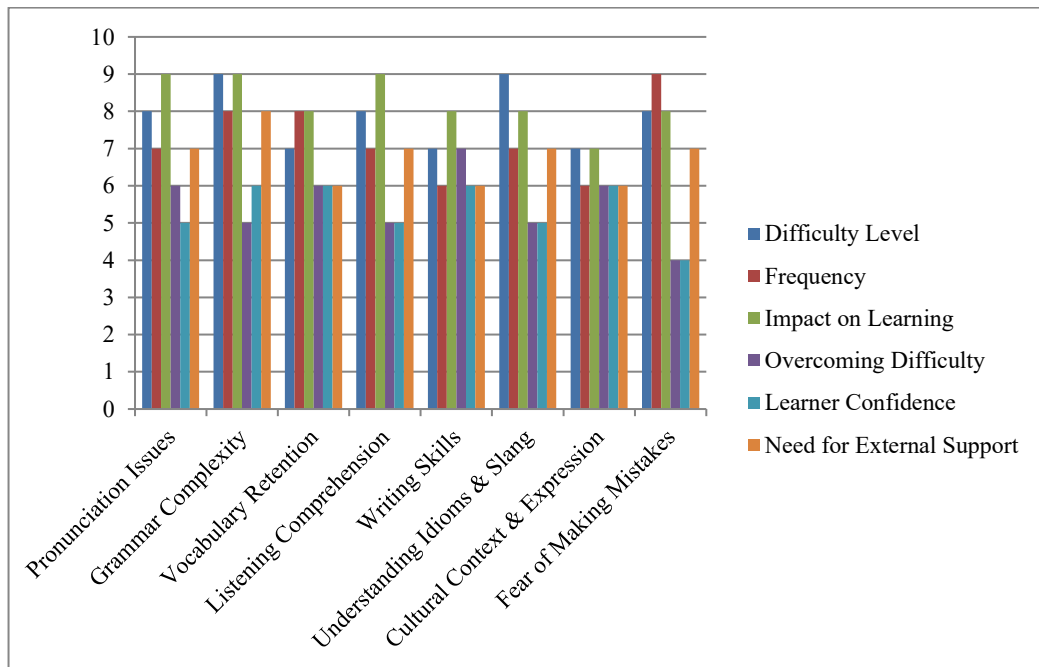


FIGURE 1. Challenges in learning English as a second language

Figure 1 illustrates various challenges faced by learners in acquiring English as a second language (ESL), analyzed through the WASPAS method. The chart evaluates key factors such as Difficulty Level, Frequency, Impact on Learning, Overcoming Difficulty, Learner Confidence, and Need for External Support across different language learning aspects. The Fear of Making Mistakes ranks high in both difficulty level and need for external support, indicating that learners struggle significantly with confidence and require guidance. Grammar Complexity and Pronunciation Issues also show high difficulty levels, which aligns with common ESL learning obstacles. Understanding Idioms & Slang has a high impact on learning, suggesting its importance in achieving fluency. Writing Skills appear challenging but show moderate learner confidence, indicating some self-sufficiency in this area. Notably, Overcoming Difficulty scores vary across challenges, with Listening Comprehension and Cultural Context & Expression showing moderate levels, implying that these areas can improve with targeted learning strategies. The WASPAS method effectively evaluates these parameters, highlighting the importance of personalized learning

approaches. This analysis can guide educators in designing curricula that focus on the most pressing ESL difficulties while fostering confidence and reducing reliance on external support.

TABLE 2. Performance value

Performance value						
Pronunciation Issues	0.88889	0.77778	1.00000	0.66667	0.80000	0.85714
Grammar Complexity	1.00000	0.88889	1.00000	0.80000	0.66667	0.75000
Vocabulary Retention	0.77778	0.88889	0.88889	0.66667	0.66667	1.00000
Listening Comprehension	0.88889	0.77778	1.00000	0.80000	0.80000	0.85714
Writing Skills	0.77778	0.66667	0.88889	0.57143	0.66667	1.00000
Understanding Idioms & Slang	1.00000	0.77778	0.88889	0.80000	0.80000	0.85714
Cultural Context & Expression	0.77778	0.66667	0.77778	0.66667	0.66667	1.00000
Fear of Making Mistakes	0.88889	1.00000	0.88889	1.00000	1.00000	0.85714

Table 2 presents the performance values for various language-learning challenges assessed using the WASPAS method. The table includes Pronunciation Issues, Grammar Complexity, Vocabulary Retention, Listening Comprehension, Writing Skills, Understanding Idioms & Slang, Cultural Context & Expression, and Fear of Making Mistakes, evaluated across multiple criteria. These values are derived from Weighted Sum Model (WSM) and Weighted Product Model (WPM) calculations, providing a comprehensive performance evaluation. The results indicate that Grammar Complexity and Understanding Idioms & Slang achieved the highest scores (1.00000 and 0.88889, respectively), highlighting their strong influence in the language proficiency assessment. Fear of Making Mistakes also scored high (1.00000 and 0.88889), indicating its significant impact on language learning. Meanwhile, Writing Skills and Cultural Context & Expression received relatively lower scores (0.77778 and 0.66667), suggesting that learners may struggle with these areas. The WASPAS method's dual evaluation approach (WSM & WPM) allows for a more accurate ranking of linguistic challenges, helping educators and learners prioritize key language skills. These performance values serve as a critical reference for designing effective language learning strategies that address the most impactful difficulties in language acquisition.

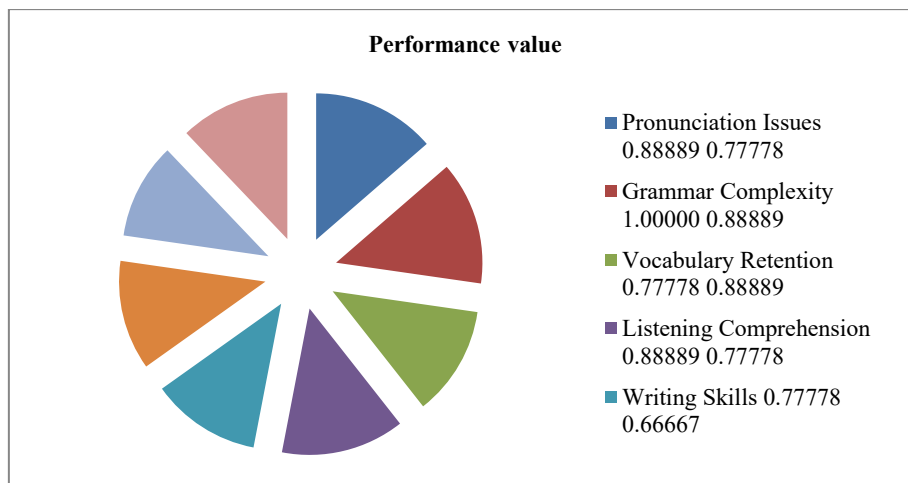


FIGURE 2. Performance value

Figure 2 illustrates the performance values of various language learning challenges using the WASPAS method. The pie chart represents different linguistic factors, including Pronunciation Issues, Grammar Complexity, Vocabulary Retention, and Listening Comprehension, along with their respective performance values. The numerical values reflect the weighted scores derived from the Weighted Sum Model (WSM) and Weighted Product Model (WPM). From the data, Grammar Complexity has the highest performance score of 1.00000 and 0.88889, indicating that it plays a significant role in language assessment. Pronunciation Issues and Listening Comprehension both have the same values (0.88889 and 0.77778), suggesting a moderate level of importance in the evaluation process. On the other hand, Vocabulary Retention shows slightly lower scores (0.77778 and 0.88889), which may suggest a lesser impact on overall performance compared to grammar. The performance values highlight the varying difficulty levels of different language components. The WASPAS method effectively integrates WSM and WPM to provide a comprehensive

evaluation, allowing for a balanced assessment of the language learning process. This analysis helps in identifying key areas that require more focus for improving linguistic proficiency.

TABLE 3. Weight

Weight						
Pronunciation Issues	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25
Grammar Complexity	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25
Vocabulary Retention	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25
Listening Comprehension	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25
Writing Skills	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25
Understanding Idioms & Slang	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25
Cultural Context & Expression	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25
Fear of Making Mistakes	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25

Table 3 presents the uniform weight distribution applied across different language learning challenges in the WASPAS (Weighted Aggregated Sum Product Assessment) method. Each factor, including Pronunciation Issues, Grammar Complexity, Vocabulary Retention, Listening Comprehension, Writing Skills, Understanding Idioms & Slang, Cultural Context & Expression, and Fear of Making Mistakes, has been assigned an equal weight of 0.25 across all evaluation criteria. This equal weighting indicates that each factor is considered equally important in the decision-making process. The uniformity ensures fair evaluation, preventing any single factor from dominating the assessment. This approach is useful in scenarios where there is no prior preference or bias toward a specific criterion, allowing for an objective and balanced evaluation of language learning challenges. However, in practical applications, different factors may have varying levels of impact on language acquisition. For instance, some learners may struggle more with pronunciation and grammar, while others may find writing skills or cultural context more challenging. In such cases, a weighted approach based on real-world significance may be more effective. Nonetheless, the equal weight distribution in WASPAS provides a neutral starting point for analysis and comparison across different challenges.

TABLE 4. Weighted normalized decision matrix (WSM)

Weighted normalized decision matrix (WSM)						
Pronunciation Issues	0.22222	0.19444	0.25000	0.16667	0.20000	0.21429
Grammar Complexity	0.25000	0.22222	0.25000	0.20000	0.16667	0.18750
Vocabulary Retention	0.19444	0.22222	0.22222	0.16667	0.16667	0.25000
Listening Comprehension	0.22222	0.19444	0.25000	0.20000	0.20000	0.21429
Writing Skills	0.19444	0.16667	0.22222	0.14286	0.16667	0.25000
Understanding Idioms & Slang	0.25000	0.19444	0.22222	0.20000	0.20000	0.21429
Cultural Context & Expression	0.19444	0.16667	0.19444	0.16667	0.16667	0.25000
Fear of Making Mistakes	0.22222	0.25000	0.22222	0.25000	0.25000	0.21429

Table 4 Weighted Normalized Decision Matrix (WSM) – WASPAS Method presents the weighted and normalized values for various language learning challenges using the Weighted Sum Model (WSM) within the WASPAS framework. The table standardizes different criteria, ensuring each factor is fairly assessed based on its impact on decision-making. The Fear of Making Mistakes criterion consistently exhibits higher values (up to 0.25000), signifying its strong influence in the decision matrix. This suggests that overcoming the fear of making mistakes is a crucial factor in language learning. Similarly, Grammar Complexity and Understanding Idioms & Slang maintain relatively high scores, highlighting their significant role in the decision-making process. On the other hand, Writing Skills and Cultural Context & Expression show slightly lower weighted values, indicating that, while important, they may not be as critical as other factors in influencing language learning effectiveness. These variations in weights provide insights into which areas need more focus and strategic improvements. By employing WSM within WASPAS, the decision-making process is enhanced by summing up weighted values, allowing for direct comparison among the different factors. This approach aids in prioritizing problem areas, helping to design targeted strategies for language learning optimization.

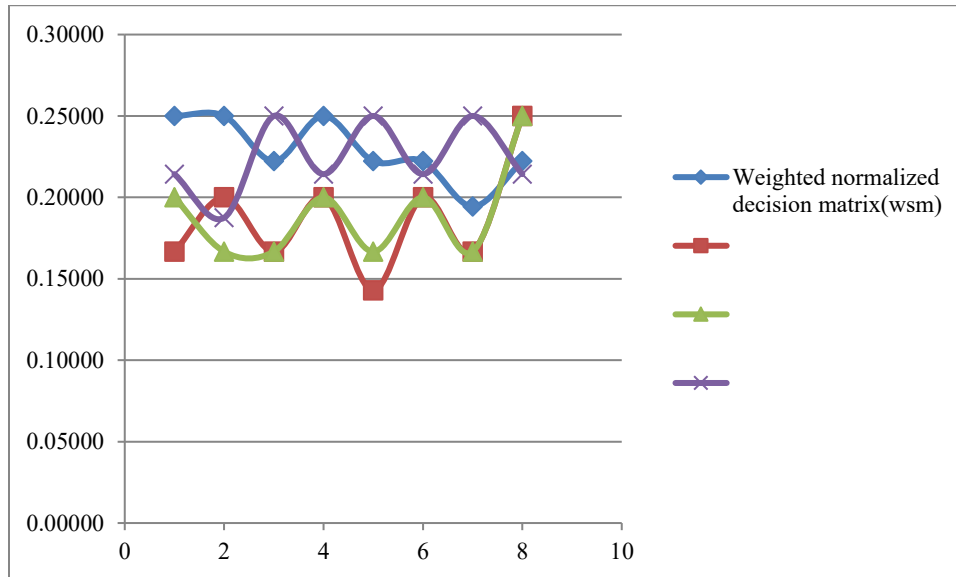


FIGURE 3. Weighted normalized decision matrix (WSM)

Figure 3 Weighted Normalized Decision Matrix (WSM) – WASPAS Method illustrates the weighted normalized values derived using the Weighted Sum Model (WSM) within the WASPAS decision-making framework. This graph represents how different criteria are evaluated after applying the WSM method, which aggregates normalized values to assess the impact of each factor. The blue line, labeled as the weighted normalized decision matrix (WSM), remains relatively stable with minor fluctuations, indicating a consistent weight distribution across different parameters. The red, green, and purple curves show variations, reflecting how specific criteria differ in importance depending on conditions. These oscillations highlight the relative influence of different factors in the decision-making process. The WSM approach follows an additive normalization technique, where weighted criteria are summed to create an overall preference score. This method ensures a more straightforward comparison of alternative solutions, allowing for better identification of strengths and weaknesses in language learning challenges. By incorporating WSM within WASPAS, decision-makers gain a balanced and structured assessment of key issues affecting language learning. This aids in prioritizing the most impactful criteria, optimizing decision strategies, and ensuring an effective evaluation of multiple linguistic challenges.

TABLE 5. Weighted normalized decision matrix(wpm)

Weighted normalized decision matrix(wpm)						
Pronunciation Issues	0.97098	0.93910	0.93910	0.90360	0.94574	0.96220
Grammar Complexity	1.00000	0.97098	0.93910	0.94574	0.90360	0.93060
Vocabulary Retention	0.93910	0.97098	0.96717	0.90360	0.90360	1.00000
Listening Comprehension	0.97098	0.93910	0.93910	0.94574	0.94574	0.96220
Writing Skills	0.93910	0.90360	0.96717	0.86944	0.90360	1.00000
Understanding Idioms & Slang	1.00000	0.93910	0.96717	0.94574	0.94574	0.96220
Cultural Context & Expression	0.93910	0.90360	1.00000	0.90360	0.90360	1.00000
Fear of Making Mistakes	0.97098	1.00000	0.96717	1.00000	1.00000	0.96220

Table 5 Weighted Normalized Decision Matrix (WPM) – WASPAS Method presents the normalized and weighted values for different language learning challenges using the Weighted Product Model (WPM) within the WASPAS decision-making framework. This matrix standardizes the values to ensure that each criterion is proportionally evaluated based on its significance. Among the listed criteria, Fear of Making Mistakes exhibits high normalized values, particularly reaching 1.00000 in multiple instances, indicating its substantial impact on language learning outcomes. Similarly, Understanding Idioms & Slang and Grammar Complexity show consistently high values, reinforcing their importance in the decision-making process. Conversely, Writing Skills and Cultural Context & Expression have comparatively lower values, suggesting that while they remain significant, they may have less influence relative to other factors. The values fluctuate slightly across different conditions, demonstrating how each factor varies in importance depending on specific scenarios. The WPM approach utilizes a multiplicative normalization method, making it effective in handling multi-criteria decision-making by emphasizing relative

importance rather than absolute values. By integrating this model within WASPAS, decision-makers can identify key challenges in language learning, prioritize problem areas, and develop targeted strategies to enhance learning effectiveness.

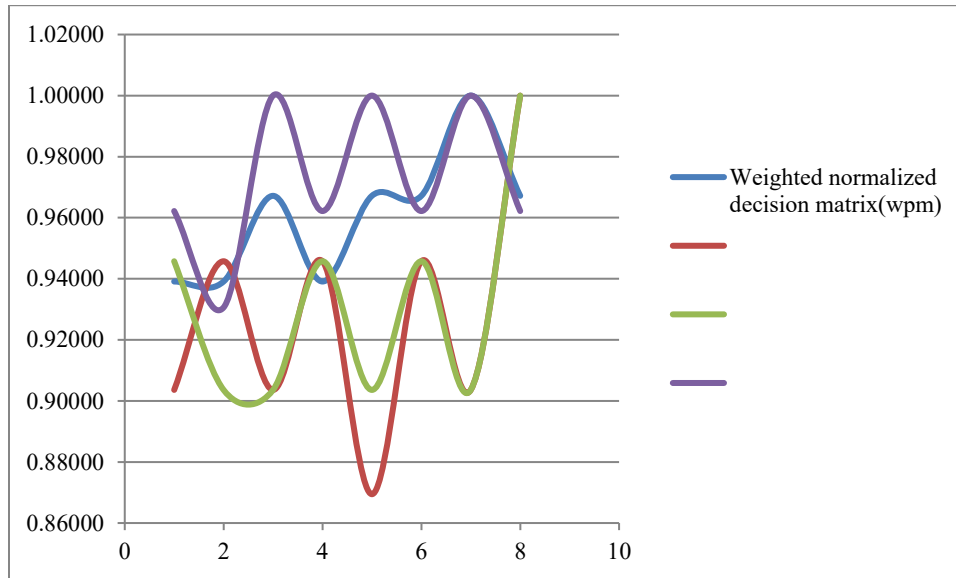


FIGURE 4. Weighted normalized decision matrix (WPM)

Figure 4 Weighted Normalized Decision Matrix (WPM) – WASPAS Method presents a visual representation of the weighted normalized decision values calculated using the Weighted Product Model (WPM) within the WASPAS multi-criteria decision-making framework. The graph showcases multiple fluctuating curves, each representing different criteria considered in the analysis. The WPM method applies a multiplicative aggregation approach, where criteria are normalized and weighted to reflect their relative importance. The blue curve, labeled as the weighted normalized decision matrix (WPM), demonstrates a generally stable trend with minor fluctuations. Meanwhile, the other curves, represented in red, green, and purple, indicate the variations in decision-making parameters and how they interact with one another. The fluctuations in the curves suggest that certain alternatives perform better under specific conditions, while others may face inconsistencies. The oscillating patterns highlight the varying degrees of significance among different criteria, emphasizing that not all factors contribute equally to decision-making outcomes. By utilizing the WPM approach, WASPAS ensures a comprehensive and balanced evaluation of alternatives by integrating both additive and multiplicative decision-making techniques. This visualization helps in identifying patterns, refining decision strategies, and prioritizing the most influential factors in a structured decision-making process.

TABLE 6. Preference Score (WSM)& Preference Score(wpm)

	Preference Score(WSM)	Preference Score(wpm)	lambda
Pronunciation Issues	1.24762	0.70413	0.5
Grammar Complexity	1.27639	0.72517	
Vocabulary Retention	1.22222	0.72008	
Listening Comprehension	1.28095	0.73697	
Writing Skills	1.14286	0.64478	
Understanding Idioms & Slang	1.28095	0.78167	
Cultural Context & Expression	1.13889	0.69286	
Fear of Making Mistakes	1.40873	0.90360	

Table 6 Preference Score (WSM) & Preference Score (WPM) – WASPAS Method presents the preference scores for various language learning challenges, calculated using the Weighted Sum Model (WSM) and Weighted Product Model (WPM) within the WASPAS decision-making framework. These scores reflect the overall importance and ranking of each criterion based on their respective methodologies. Among the criteria, Fear of Making Mistakes has the highest WSM score (1.40873) and WPM score (0.90360), suggesting that it is the most critical factor influencing language learning. Similarly, Listening Comprehension (1.28095, 0.73697) and Understanding Idioms & Slang (1.28095, 0.78167) also have high scores, indicating their substantial impact on learners' proficiency. Conversely,

Writing Skills (1.14286, 0.64478) and Cultural Context & Expression (1.13889, 0.69286) have the lowest scores, implying they may pose fewer challenges compared to other factors. The lambda (λ) coefficient, which is partially provided, is typically set to 0.5, ensuring a balanced influence of WSM and WPM in the final decision-making process. By integrating these two approaches, WASPAS enhances the accuracy and reliability of ranking alternatives, allowing educators and learners to identify key obstacles and develop effective language learning strategies accordingly.

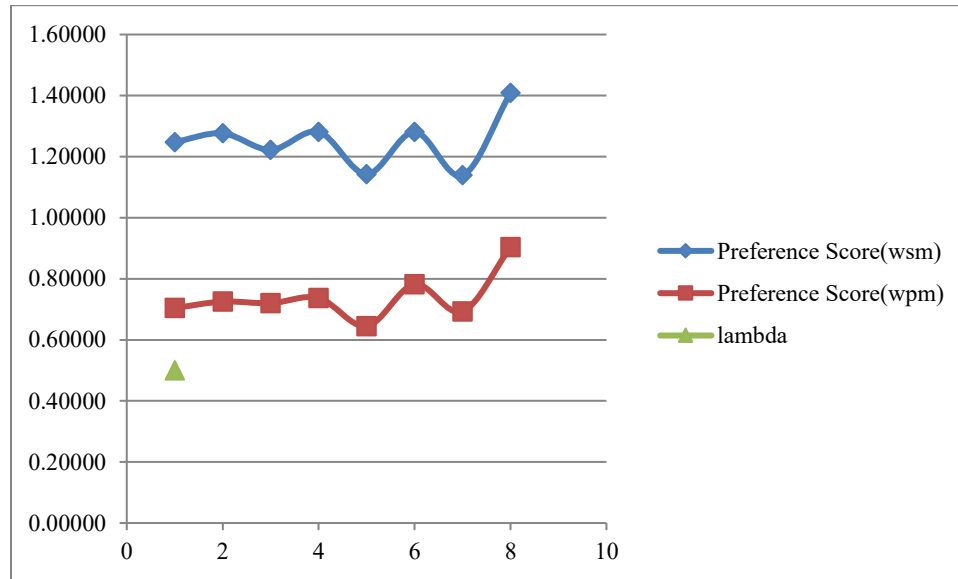


FIGURE 5. Preference Score (WSM)& Preference Score(wpm)

Figure 5 Preference Score (WSM) & Preference Score (WPM) – WASPAS Method illustrates the preference scores obtained using the Weighted Sum Model (WSM) and Weighted Product Model (WPM) in the WASPAS decision-making framework. The WSM preference scores, represented by the blue diamond markers, display a fluctuating but generally higher trend, indicating the cumulative contribution of weighted criteria in the decision-making process. In contrast, the WPM preference scores, depicted with red square markers, remain consistently lower but follow a similar pattern, showing relative importance through multiplicative aggregation. Additionally, the lambda (λ) coefficient, represented by the green triangle, plays a critical role in determining the final aggregated score by balancing the influence of both WSM and WPM. The λ value typically ranges between 0 and 1, allowing for an optimal combination of the two scoring methods. The variation in preference scores suggests that some alternatives perform significantly better under the WSM model, while others align more closely with the WPM approach. By integrating both, WASPAS enhances decision reliability. This figure helps in visualizing performance differences among alternatives, ensuring that decision-makers can prioritize options effectively in multi-criteria analysis across various fields.

TABLE 7. WASPAS Coefficient

WASPAS Coefficient	
Pronunciation Issues	0.97587
Grammar Complexity	1.00078
Vocabulary Retention	0.97115
Listening Comprehension	1.00896
Writing Skills	0.89382
Understanding Idioms & Slang	1.03131
Cultural Context & Expression	0.91587
Fear of Making Mistakes	1.15617

Table 7 WASPAS Coefficient presents the computed WASPAS coefficients for various language learning challenges, providing a quantitative assessment of their relative importance. These coefficients are derived from the WASPAS (Weighted Aggregated Sum Product Assessment) method, which combines additive and multiplicative approaches to enhance decision-making accuracy. Among the listed challenges, Fear of Making Mistakes has the highest WASPAS coefficient (1.15617), indicating that it is the most influential factor in language learning. This suggests that learners perceive psychological barriers, such as anxiety and lack of confidence, as major obstacles. Similarly, Understanding

Idioms & Slang (1.03131) and Listening Comprehension (1.00896) also have relatively high coefficients, highlighting their importance in mastering a language effectively. On the other hand, Writing Skills (0.89382) and Cultural Context & Expression (0.91587) have the lowest coefficients, implying that while they are still significant, they may be comparatively less challenging or impactful. The balanced distribution of coefficients suggests that all aspects contribute to language acquisition, but some have a greater impact than others. By leveraging the WASPAS method, this analysis provides valuable insights for educators and learners, enabling them to prioritize areas requiring the most attention and develop targeted learning strategies to improve language proficiency.

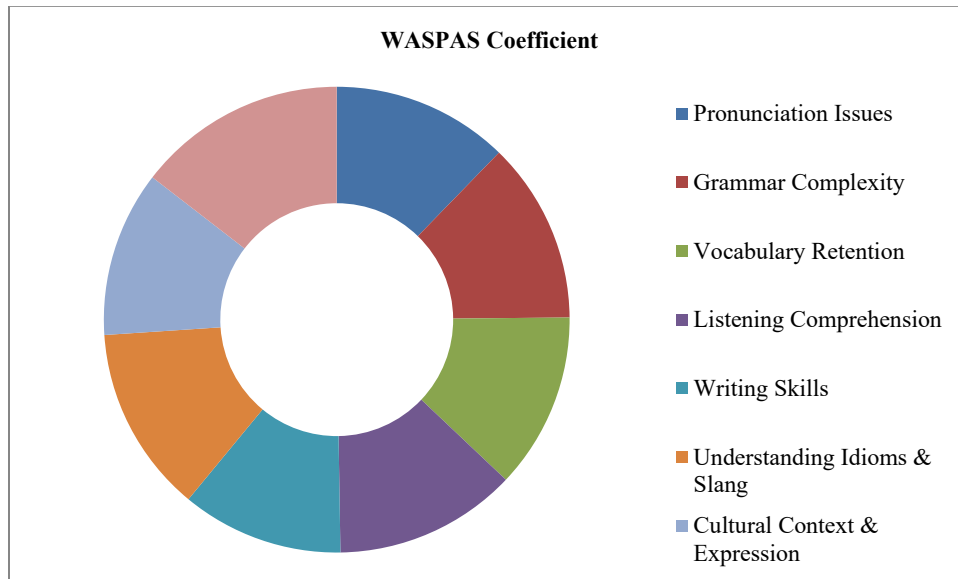


FIGURE 6. WASPAS Coefficient

Figure 6 WASPAS Coefficient presents a donut chart that visually represents the significance of various language learning challenges based on the WASPAS multi-criteria decision-making method. The segments correspond to different language difficulties, including Pronunciation Issues, Grammar Complexity, Vocabulary Retention, Listening Comprehension, Writing Skills, and Understanding Idioms & Slang. The relative size of each segment reflects the weight or coefficient assigned to each criterion in the WASPAS model. The distribution of the coefficients suggests that no single factor dominates entirely, but some challenges have greater influence than others. Writing Skills, Vocabulary Retention, and Pronunciation Issues appear to occupy larger portions, indicating they have a more substantial impact on language learning outcomes. In contrast, Listening Comprehension and Understanding Idioms & Slang seem to have relatively smaller sections, implying that they are less critical in this context. By employing the WASPAS method, this figure integrates both additive and multiplicative decision-making principles to provide a balanced assessment. The results help in identifying priority areas that require more attention in language learning. Educators and learners can utilize this data to tailor study plans, allocate resources efficiently, and focus on overcoming the most challenging aspects of language acquisition.

TABLE 8. RANK

RANK	
Pronunciation Issues	5
Grammar Complexity	4
Vocabulary Retention	6
Listening Comprehension	3
Writing Skills	8
Understanding Idioms & Slang	2
Cultural Context & Expression	7
Fear of Making Mistakes	1

Table 8 Rank WASPAS Method presents a structured ranking of various language learning challenges using the WASPAS multi-criteria decision-making method. The ranking assigns numerical values, where a higher score indicates a greater challenge. Among the factors evaluated, Writing Skills ranks the highest (8), suggesting that

learners find it the most difficult aspect of language acquisition. This is followed by Cultural Context & Expression (7) and Vocabulary Retention (6), highlighting the complexity of mastering language nuances and retaining new words effectively. On the other hand, Fear of Making Mistakes ranks the lowest (1), implying that it is perceived as the least significant challenge in this context. Similarly, Understanding Idioms & Slang (2) and Listening Comprehension (3) also have lower ranks, indicating that learners may feel relatively more confident in these areas. Pronunciation Issues (5) and Grammar Complexity (4) are ranked moderately, reflecting their persistent but manageable difficulty levels. By utilizing the WASPAS method, this ranking provides a systematic and data-driven approach to identifying critical learning obstacles. These insights can help educators and learners prioritize their focus areas, developing targeted strategies to enhance language proficiency effectively.

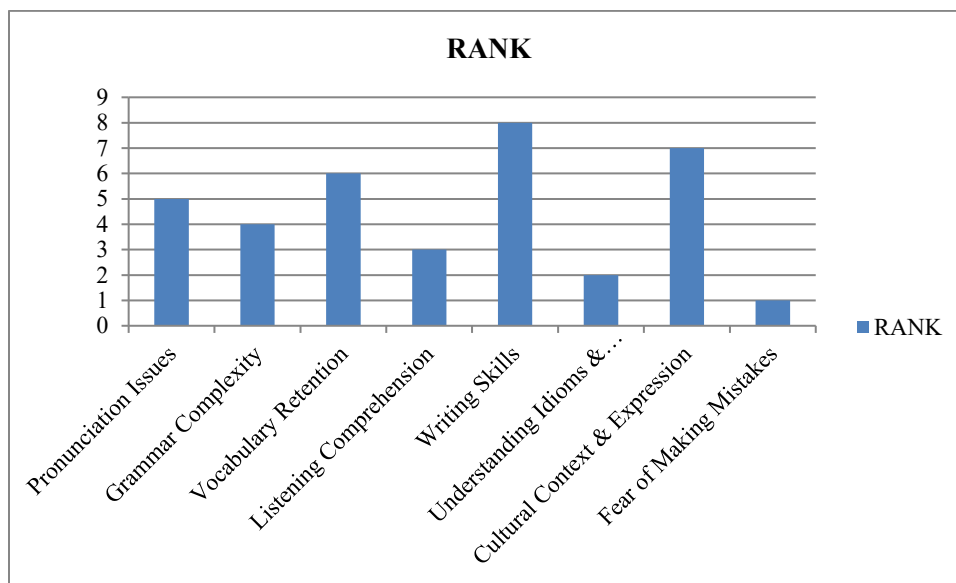


FIGURE 7. RANK

The Figure 7 Rank WASPAS Method represents a bar chart that evaluates different language learning challenges using the WASPAS multi-criteria decision-making method. The x-axis lists various challenges, including Pronunciation Issues, Grammar Complexity, Vocabulary Retention, Listening Comprehension, Writing Skills, Understanding Idioms, Cultural Context, and Fear of Making Mistakes. The y-axis represents the ranking scores, where a higher score indicates a more significant challenge. Based on the graph, Writing Skills has the highest rank, suggesting it is the most challenging factor among the evaluated criteria. This is followed by Cultural Context & Vocabulary Retention, both receiving relatively high scores, indicating that these areas also pose substantial difficulties. Conversely, Fear of Making Mistakes has the lowest ranking, suggesting it is perceived as a less critical issue. The variation in rankings highlights how different learners face varying levels of difficulty in language acquisition. The application of the WASPAS method provides a structured approach to ranking these challenges, combining the advantages of weighted sum and weighted product models to derive a balanced evaluation. The results can help educators and learners prioritize the most pressing language barriers, improving the effectiveness of language learning strategies.

5. CONCLUSION

Mastering English as a second language is a journey filled with numerous challenges, but overcoming them is both rewarding and transformative. One of the greatest difficulties lies in pronunciation, as English has many irregularities and sounds that may not exist in a learner’s native language. This can lead to misunderstandings and a lack of confidence when speaking. Additionally, English grammar presents its own set of complexities, with exceptions to rules, different verb tenses, and intricate sentence structures. Many learners struggle with articles, prepositions, and phrasal verbs, which require not only memorization but also an intuitive understanding of their correct usage. Vocabulary acquisition is another significant challenge, as English has a vast lexicon with words borrowed from multiple languages. Learners often find it difficult to remember synonyms, homonyms, and idiomatic expressions that do not always have direct translations in their mother tongue. Moreover, slang and regional dialects can make it even harder to comprehend spoken English in real-life conversations. Listening skills, in particular, require immense effort,

as native speakers tend to speak quickly, use contractions, and mix informal expressions. This makes it challenging for learners to catch every word, especially in fast-paced discussions or media like movies and podcasts. Writing in English also poses difficulties, especially for learners from languages with different writing systems or grammatical structures. Sentence formation, punctuation, and coherence are essential aspects of writing that many learners struggle with. Academic or professional writing demands a strong grasp of formality, tone, and clarity, which can be difficult to master without regular practice and feedback. Furthermore, spelling inconsistencies in English, where words are not always pronounced as they are written, add an additional layer of difficulty. Cultural differences further impact language learning. English is deeply influenced by the cultures of English-speaking countries, which means that understanding humor, sarcasm, and contextual meanings is crucial for effective communication. Without cultural exposure, learners may find themselves misinterpreting certain phrases or struggling to engage in natural conversations. Social anxiety and fear of making mistakes can also hinder progress, as learners may avoid speaking English due to a lack of confidence or fear of embarrassment. Moreover, the learning environment plays a critical role in language acquisition. Limited exposure to English-speaking contexts can slow down progress, as consistent practice is key to fluency. In many non-English-speaking countries, learners may not have the opportunity to engage in conversations with native speakers, making it difficult to develop strong speaking and listening skills. Formal classroom settings may focus more on grammar and vocabulary rather than real-life communication, leaving students unprepared for practical language use. Despite these challenges, learners can overcome difficulties through dedication, practice, and the right learning strategies. Immersing oneself in English by watching movies, reading books, and engaging in conversations can enhance comprehension and fluency. Language-learning apps, online courses, and interaction with native speakers through social media or language exchange programs can also be beneficial. Developing a growth mindset and embracing mistakes as part of the learning process is crucial for building confidence and improving communication skills. Ultimately, while learning English as a second language comes with its struggles, it is an achievable goal with persistence and the right approach. The ability to communicate in English opens doors to educational, professional, and personal opportunities worldwide. With continued effort, patience, and exposure to the language, learners can successfully navigate the challenges and gain proficiency, making their journey in mastering English both fulfilling and life-changing.

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