

ABSTRACT

CREATIVE PROJECT: Searching for Comprehension at a Critical Time: A Survey of International Students About the Accessibility and Usefulness of Current International Student Orientation Materials

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This study examines whether the materials provided during new international student orientation contain comprehensible input for the large number of low-level English speakers attending the sessions. When the number of low-level speakers increases, the challenge becomes how to communicate ‘critical first day’ information in language that is comprehensible to all students. Materials are not effectively communicating key information to low-level speakers, especially during a time period when they must familiarize themselves with a new campus or facilities. The ultimate goal is to be able to provide this demographic with accessible materials that will help them acculturate to the university campus environment.

A survey, comprised mostly of open-ended questions, was distributed to current Intensive English Institute students to see what aspects of the orientation should be adapted to make content more appropriate for low-level English speakers.