

## **Exploring the Coping Strategies Employed by Congolese Students in a South African University**

**Michael Somniso<sup>1</sup>, Madoda Cekiso<sup>2</sup>, Baba Tshotsho<sup>1</sup> and Mumbembe Lydy<sup>1</sup>**

*<sup>1</sup>University of Fort Hare, South Africa*

*<sup>2</sup>Tshwane University of Technology, South Africa*

**KEYWORDS** Foreign Language. Medium of Instruction. Extensive Reading. Academic Work. Native Speakers

**ABSTRACT** The study sought to establish the coping strategies used by the international students from the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) pursuing their degree studies in one of the universities in South Africa. A purposeful sample of nine (9) Congolese French speaking students was used in this study. Data was collected through individual interviews. The findings of the study revealed that DRC students indicated that they employed several coping strategies such as the use of dictionaries, asking other English speaking persons to explain the meaning of a sentence, practicing English with other English speakers, reading extensively, using computers, watching television and using the Teaching and Learning Centre (TLC) where students were getting intense individualized tutorship to get them to use correct tenses, vocabulary, grammar and pronunciation. It was concluded that the university management be made aware of the coping strategies used by the DRC students so as to introduce intervention programs to develop these strategies.