

M. A. Thesis in Linguistics

# **Difficulties and Obstacles to Achieve Communicative Competence, in Learning English as a Second Language**

(A systematic study of the grade 10 and 11 students of  
WP/HO/Don Pedrick MahaVidyalaya, focusing the productive  
skills of English Language)

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December 2014

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FGS/LING/MA/09/102

## ABSTRACT

Learning English language has become a vital necessity in this competitive modern world. When English is learnt as a second language, students face various difficulties and obstacles in the process of becoming competent in that language. This research was conducted in order to reveal such difficulties, and to find solutions for them. The productive skills of a language: speaking and writing have been focused in this research study, as they are more challenging and problematic areas for a language learner. The research was implemented for the students in grade 10 and 11 at WP/HO/Don Pedrick MahaVidyalaya, Horana. Ten students who were selected randomly were involved in assessing their writing. Two classes, one from each grade were assessed when they engaged in speaking activities. In this research work, the common barriers for the students in learning a second language have been investigated. The possible causes for their inability to become competent in English even after a course of study are revealed here. The matters pertaining to this problem were studied, by analyzing the collected data, and remedial measures were suggested. In this study, questionnaires, observations, interviews, results of the student performance assessments and photographs have been used as data collection methods. Writing activities and speaking activities were used to assess student performance and to reveal the areas of difficulty. Generally, the main objective of this research was to help the learners who learn English as a second language. I hope the students as well as teachers of English would be benefitted out of this. This research was carried out with the help of the knowledge of Linguistics. It is mostly relevant to the subject, Applied Linguistics.