

M.A. THESIS IN LINGUISTICS

**A SURVEY BASED ASSESSMENT OF THE
PROGRESS OF BILINGUAL EDUCATION
IN SRI LANKA**

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Abstract

The Bilingual Education programme was introduced to the system of education in Sri Lanka in the year 2002 as “ National Amity School Project”. According to the view of the Ministry of Education ,the bilingual teaching system paves the way for a better absorption of the English language and also for a better education performance.

However it is evident that there is a belief in the community as some students in the bilingual education classes face certain problems in their actual learning teaching process. Subsequently some students tend to leave the bilingual education class and join the classes conducted completely in the first language. Therefore the purpose of this study is to assess the Bilingual Education programme in Sri Lanka and there by to find out the problems encountered by the students who are studying in the bilingual education class and the measures taken by the teachers in order to solve these problems in the implementation.

Data was collected using different techniques such as questionnaires, note taking and interviewing. The questionnaires were prepared according to the information obtained by the literature review and the interviews that were conducted with the teachers and parents. The questionnaires for the students were administered to one hundred students in four different schools in the Kandy district. Five Sectional Heads, five class teachers and five English language teachers were interviewed and a questionnaire was administered to twenty subject teachers in order to find out about the implementation of the bilingual education programme. Additionally, thirty parents were interviewed to find out their point of view on bilingual education.

This study revealed that the bilingual education programme assists students immensely eventhough there are certain problems faced by some learners and challenges faced by the teachers due to various reasons.