

M.A.THESIS IN LINGUISTICS

**A STUDY OF THE TEACHING AND  
LEARNING OF ENGLISH GRAMMAR  
AT JUNIOR SECONDARY SCHOOL  
IN KINNIYA ZONE**

AHAMED AHSAN SAMEERA

Department of Linguistics

University of Kelaniya

November 2014

ප්‍රවේශ අංකය:	1069
වර්ග අංකය:	

FGS/LING/MA/12/026

## **Abstract**

This thesis deals with the approaches to teaching and learning English grammar and the teachers' difficulties encountered by teachers in applying CLT in teaching grammar to junior secondary students in Kinniya zone. It also points out the reasons leading to those difficulties and the solutions to overcome them as well. The curriculum specifies Communicative Language Teaching (CLT) as the teaching methodology that should be used in Sri Lankan schools for teaching English. The data was analyzed in relation to three the main principles of CLT, namely use of a variety of teaching materials, reasonable use of the students' mother tongue and a pupil-centred teaching approach. It was observed that the textbook was the sole source of teaching material and classroom activity and that teachers and students depended excessively on the mother tongue during classroom activities. Furthermore, it was also evident that the classrooms were more teacher-centred than pupil-centred.

A mixed methods research design was used for this research. Participants for this study were 20 teachers of English and Grade seven students. The main modes of data collection consisted of questionnaire for teachers and classroom observation and interviews with teachers and students. The results show that the teachers confront various difficulties in implementing CLT in their classrooms. These difficulties stem from four directions, namely, the teacher, the students, the education system and CLT itself. The teachers in Sri Lanka are not quite optimistic about the complete adoption of CLT, and thus feel that only by overcoming the difficulties from those sources, and by establishing more favorable conditions for the implementation of CLT can teacher truly benefit from CLT in their English classrooms.