

M.A. THESIS IN LINGUISTICS

**AN ADOPTION OF A LINGUISTIC  
APPROACH TO  
CATECHISM IN CONVERSATION  
FOR  
ENGLISH LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY  
AND  
WORLDWIDE DHAMMADŪTA  
SERVICES**

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## Abstract

Catechism means both questions and answers through which we get information that can then be designated as knowledge and it ultimately and theoretically causes enlightening the all parties: questioner, addressee or the other third parties. It is also believed to be widely religious in Christianity. Yet, we argue that this method had practically and identically been used Before Christ (B.C.) by writing the 'Milindapañhā' - 'The Questions of Milinda'. There is not any doubt that this great book of Buddhism is the master-piece of such prose of Buddhism spared for its class. Thus the opening Chapter withstands for the general discussion and it explains what we are going to do in the thesis. Here, an effort is made to recognize the scope of linguistics and its related areas of discussions as Language, Semantics and Pragmatics. Instead we attentively discuss here what 'Pragmatics in Buddhism' is and it is also a newly found approach for the Buddhist Studies. These all are simultaneously coupled with Catechism; making questions and supplying answers, and both directly function to widening the subject knowledge in the field. Truly 'Catechism feeds milk for the babies and balance diets for the adults' since it touches every nook and corner of any subject. We know that no any conversation, discussion, debate, argument, chat, dialect etc. is successful without questions. Catechism is of speech and writing which aims the twin efficiencies known 'Language Knowledge' and 'Subject Knowledge'. This catechetical method is to form the 'Interrogative Pattern' (Question Form) before the other Forms of Speech. Here we discuss the way that the Buddha had answered the questions of life and world asked by many at the time. Because of this, one certainly acquires 'the (English) language through Dhamma and Dhamma through (English) language' which is amiably confronted for worldwide Dhammadūta Services.