

87
1083

M. A. THESIS IN LINGUISTICS

**DIFFICULTIES FACED BY SINHALA
STUDENTS LEARNING ENGLISH AS A
SECOND LANGUAGE: AN ERROR
ANALYSIS**

THE STUDY IS BASED ON ENGLISH SIMPLE
PRESENT TENSE VERB FORMS

D. M. H. DISSANAYAKE

1083	පොත අලු
	පොත පලව

DEPARTMENT OF LINGUISTICS

UNIVERSITY OF KELANIYA

MARCH 2015

FGS/LING/MA/13/94

Abstract

The research deals with the difficulties faced by the secondary level Sinhala students learning English as a second language, with special reference to error analysis based on the simple present tense. The main aim of this research is to find out the different types of errors done by the secondary level students in second language teaching learning process. The objective is to identify plus uplift the poor performances of the students in learning a second language as well as to recognize the structure and the correct verb form in simple present tense. A pretest, posttest and creative writing on a simple topic were administered to a group of 20 students of Sri Saranankara Vidyalaya, Welimada. The outcome of the research reveals that the students found it very difficult to present their ideas in writing using simple present tense. However, simple activities and teaching strategies used by the teacher made students to learn the grammar rules effectively. The teacher should create a free learning environment to the students. Through the knowledge I got from literature review the reasons for commit errors are also discussed in the research. The reasons for commit errors by the students are identified. Lack of exposure to the target language, teaching strategies, critical period of the students, motivation of the students, overgeneralization, and fossilization, inter language, lack of opportunities to use the second language in real life situations are recognized as difficulties faced by the secondary level students in Welimada area, in learning a second language.