

The Changing role structure of English

Manique Gunasekara

Department of English/ELTU, University of Kelaniya

ABSTRACT

This study deals with language change from a socio linguistic perspective. It deals with the changing role of English from changing models to varieties as in the case of the dethroning of Standard British English within the last half-century. Additionally, the changes in the structure of English in relation to the different varieties or Englishes will also be analyzed. This will include changes in phonology as in the case of /æ/ the open front vowel, which has come "up market" in Standard Sri Lankan English, although looked down on as a class marker for generations. The implications of change in terms of teaching English in Sri Lanka with emphasis on notions of correctness are analyzed; as in the case of the overuse of Prepositions in syntax, compounding of borrowed roots and English affixes in morphology.