

M.A. THESIS IN LINGUISTICS

**DIALECTAL VARIATIONS
IDENTIFIED IN SELECTED TAMIL
SHORT STORIES**

D.G.T.A. JAYASINGHE

Department of Linguistics

University of Kelaniya

March 2015

ප්‍රවේශ අංකය:	1023
මධ්‍ය අංකය:	

FGS/LING/MA/13/11

ABSTRACT

Dialects are forms of one language which differ geographically or socially with the other form of the same language. Tamil, which is the focus of this study, is considered a language which has got a history over 2000 years. As in many other languages, Tamil is also rich in its own dialects. Many social and regional dialects are identified in Tamil. Some are based on caste and occupation. However, this dissertation pays attention on three (3) selected Tamil dialects identified from three Tamil short stories, such as “Oru pidi chōru”, Pārvai and Oru nāl kalintatu”. The dialects identified from them are Northern Province Dialect in Sri Lanka, “Cēri” (Slum) Dialect and “Pillai” Dialect in India. The aim of this study is to find the dialectal variations of the words that are identified in those short stories. The dialectally different words of Pillai and Cēri dialects are compared and contrasted with the Northern Province variety of Tamil in Sri Lanka and the words of the Northern variety of Sri Lankan Tamil are compared with Indian Tamil. A qualitative analysis is done in order to find the relevant words that depict the particular dialect and those words are listed under several categories and they are compared and contrasted using comparative methodology. The difference between the three dialects and how they occur are found accordingly. Thus, using totally new words, same and different affixes, same word with different shapes, different grammar and sentence structures, are used in these dialects, while showing variations in Phonological, Morphological, Syntactic and Semantic aspects.