

English Language Teaching Unit

Senior Lecturer Romola Rasool

1.0 Introduction

The English Language Teaching Unit originally functioned as a sub-department of the Department of English and was under the Head, Department of English. Even while it was part of the Department of English, it managed to retain its own identity, primarily through the personality of its head: Professor Kamal de Abrew, Mr. A.M. G. Sirimanne and politician/ academic Prof. Doric de Souza are some of the luminaries who adorned the office of Head, ELTU, in the past.

In 1981, the English Language Teaching Unit was declared a unit in its own right, and moved out of the shadow of the Dept. of English. Unlike most other English Language Teaching Units/ Centers within the university system, the ELTU of the University of Kelaniya has always been headed by a member of the academic staff. Professor D. C. R. A. Goonetilleke, Prof. Kamal de Abrew, and Prof. Doric de Souza are a few of the renowned academics who have held the post of Head, ELTU.

Among the personalities who have served as ELTU instructors, the poet Lakdasa Wikkramasinha, actors Lakshman Fernando and Trilicia Gunawardene, Irangani Goonesinghe (daughter of politician A. E. Goonesinghe), and Ms. Kamini de Abrew (sister of Professor Kamal de Abrew) have lent color and personality to the ELTU.

Since its inception, the ELTU has been headed by Prof. D. C. R. A. Goonetilleke, Ms. Mireille Jayawardena, Professor Manique Gunasekera, Rev. Tapovanaye Sutadhara, Dr. B. D. Nandadeva, and Ms. Romola Rasool.