

Abstract 4

A Comparative Analysis on Cases in Sinhalese and Tamil Languages

H. M. Nayomi Dimanthika Hearth¹, R. A. Ushani Madhushika Ranathunga²,
Y. W. Sachini Nilanka Amarasooriya³

The Sinhalese language which belongs to the Indo-Aryan language family and the Tamil language which belongs to the Dravidian language family have been co-existing and interacting in different social situations and contexts for a long time. As pointed out by linguists, a large number of differences as well as similarities can be seen between the two languages. The purpose of this study is to comprehensively analyse the differences in cases between the two languages. Primary data were collected through self-observation and analysing a given set of sentences translated from Sinhalese into Tamil by students reading translation studies at the University of Kelaniya. The books 'Pe:chhuth Thamilukku Arimuham' and 'Pe:chhuth Thamilum Eluththuth Thamilum' by S. J. Yogaraja and online lessons were used as secondary resources. A case is a form of a noun, adjective or pronoun that expresses a semantic relation of a word to the other words in a sentence. In this study it was observed that the Sinhalese speakers who do not have clear knowledge on the case inflection of the Tamil language find it difficult to write or speak fluently in Tamil. On the other hand, since one case suffix in Tamil represents several suffixes of Sinhalese, various problems occur in translation. Therefore, the failure to identify the differences in cases can result in defective translations. According to above findings, a number of dissimilarities regarding cases can be identified between both languages. Further, it is noteworthy that they cause difficulties in learning Tamil as a second language and translation.

Key words: cases, case suffixes, dissimilarities, Sinhalese, Tamil

¹ Translation Studies (Special) Second Year

² Translation Studies (Special) Second Year

³ Translation Studies (Special) Second Year

nayomiherath.1993@gmail.com

ushanimadhu@gmail.com

sachininilanka123@gmail.com