

M.A. THESIS IN LINGUISTICS

**THE SPELLING INTERFERENCE: A
LINGUISTIC STUDY OF THE
ADVANCED LEVEL STUDENTS
LEARNING ENGLISH AS A SECOND
LANGUAGE AND FRENCH AS A
FOREIGN LANGUAGE**

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Abstract

The main purpose of this research is to present a comprehensive analysis of the occurrence of spelling interference or deviations from spelling rules. The research focus is drawn to students in Advanced level classes in Sujatha Vidyalaya, Matara who offer English as a second language and French as a foreign language. The necessary data was accumulated through questionnaires under quantitative methodology and the written task was assigned for the qualitative data. The present study is primarily conducted to suggest solutions to spelling mistakes and to find out why most students make such mistakes in spelling. The research revealed that the similarity between the two languages is one of the causes for the students' failure to spell words correctly. That means, since some of English vocabularies were borrowed from other languages such as Anglo Saxon, Roman, Norman-French, Latin and Greek, they lack uniform and consistent spelling rules. Besides this, the discrepancy between the pronunciation and written form of many English and French words along with less emphasis given to the spelling lesson contributed a lot to the students' spelling errors. The study suggested that teachers should teach and motivate the students to learn the correct spelling. Moreover, students should give attention to learn the correct spelling of English and French words. So as to overcome the afore-said phenomenon, this research draws the attention of responsible authorities to take necessary steps.

Keywords: spelling errors, students, transfer, language