

M.A. IN LINGUISTICS

**THE LINGUISTIC DIFFICULTIES
ENCOUNTERED BY JUDICIAL
INTERPRETERS IN SRI LANKA**

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December 2014

FGS/LING/MA/2013/87

ABSTRACT

This research was primarily formulated to outline the problems in relation to linguistic competency encountered by the judicial interpreters in Sri Lankan judicature. Since introduction of the Roman-Dutch Law to our country, the service of judicial interpreters has existed. Although there are researches done on this subject in other countries, thus no one has done any research here to mitigate and to find solutions to the problems related to this profession.

In this research, the technique of purposive sample was employed in the sampling frame and empirical data was obtained from judicial interpreters working in different parts of our country. The sample included the judicial interpreters of Sinhala-English and Sinhala-Tamil who have working experience of four years to thirty-five years. To obtain primary data for this research, an observation, a survey and working experience of the researcher himself were employed. The survey included a questionnaire and an interview.

It was found that, the problems of transferring the meaning (Semantic and pragmatic level), incomprehensible input and the limited exposure to the source and target languages, to the linguistic competency, to the knowledge of the world and to the community he/she is interpreting for are the main causes for most of the linguistic difficulties encountered by judicial interpreters in Sri Lankan judicature.