

M.A. THESIS IN LINGUISTICS

THE ACQUISITION OF NOUNS BY THE SINHALA- NATIVE
CHILDREN AT THE AGE OF TWO – FOUR:

A CASE STUDY

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March 2014

FGS/LING/MA/13/79

Abstract

In relation to this dissertation, the focus will be the acquisition of nouns at the ages between two to four and the way in which they acquire nouns. In this age limit, it is said that the child acquires his first language. The first language in this dissertation will be Sinhala language. Thus, the nouns acquired by the Sinhala speaking children at the age of two to four will be collected and analyzed in this research. In the first chapter, the discussion will be the introduction of the title: the acquisition of nouns by Sinhala-native children at the age of two to four and the research problem related to the title is the types of nouns acquired by the children at the above age limit and in which types of nouns they have difficulties in acquiring nouns. The literature review will be the second chapter. As the literature review the key concepts related to the title: Language, The connection between Language and the Cognitive System, Language Acquisition, The first Language Acquisition, The Critical Period, The Pattern of Language Development, The place of nouns in a child's Vocabulary and Nouns are going to be discussed. A pre -school was selected to have both primary and secondary data and about six weeks were spent there with the children to get the data. As the findings, it is visible that, there was a gradual development in acquiring nouns parallel with the age limit and the environment in which the children live has influenced on the level of acquiring nouns.