

M.A THESIS IN LINGUISTICS

**PREFERENCE OF MEDIUM FOR HIGHER
EDUCATION: A STUDY BASED ON GRADE
13 STUDENTS OF ANANDA BALIKA
VIDYALAYA**

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Abstract

The research has concentrated upon the preference of medium for higher education. The research problem is “What are the factors that contribute in selecting the medium of instruction for higher education”. To gather data for the research, questioner were given to 100 grade 13 students of Ananda Balika Vidyalaya and further non formal interviews were held to clarify answers they have given. There were several aims and objectives in doing the research. They are; to identify the most preferred medium of instruction for higher education, to identify the reasons for selecting that specific medium, to identify whether such reasons vary due to subject fields. The method of data analysis was using simple statistical methods such as central tendency in order to analyse data. According to the research it is found that there are several reasons for selecting English as a medium of instruction. Some of them are; it gives social prestige and recognition to the student as well as the course, heighten the demand for them in the job market, easy to survive in the job environment, the courses are only providing in English, give practice to be comfortable around English language. Social class and family motivation also place a major role in the selection of medium for higher education. There is a connection between the fluency of English students and social class and motivation. The students who are in hope of having their education in Sinhala medium have chosen that language because of their lack of fluency in English language. But it is not worthy that they are in the opinion that if there is no language barrier they would have their education in English medium. This proves that majority of the students are in the attitude of choosing English as their medium of instruction for higher education.

Key words: Higher education. Preference of medium. Medium of instruction, Social Prestige, social recognition, Motivation, Job market, Fluency, Language Barrier, Learning, Second Language