

M.A. THESIS IN LINGUISTICS

**THE IMPACT OF MOTIVATION ON SECOND
LANGUAGE ACQUISITION**

E.P.MOHAN EDIRIWEERA

Department of Linguistics

University of Kelaniya

31.03.2015

| | |
|------------------|------|
| ප්‍රේමී අංකය: | 1044 |
| වර්ග අංකය: | |

FGS/LING/M.A. /11/71

ABSTRACT

English language is given a very high priority almost throughout the island. There are several significant factors which affect the learning and teaching of English in the second language classroom. The motivation of learners is one such significant factor. This study examined the impact of motivation on second language acquisition/learning. As such, its contribution in writing was examined. In order to find necessary data and information two questionnaires were administered to the sample of learners and the sample of teachers. Further, a semi-structured interview was also held with sample of parents. A written test was given to the students to create a story based on a picture which showed a sequence of events. For this research the sample was comprised of 20 English medium Commerce students, 20 Sinhala medium Arts students, a sample of teachers those who take General English classes at Grade 12 and 13 and a sample of parents whose children are and were studying in English medium. Significant factors which contribute in successful learning of a second language were evident. As such, through this study it was proved that motivation plays a significant role in the acquisition of English as a second language at St. Sylvester's College, Kandy. The learner performances of the English medium Commerce students when compared with the Sinhala medium Arts students were better and it was proven in the research. The reason was the impact of motivation by the teachers, the parents and also the self -motivation of the students.