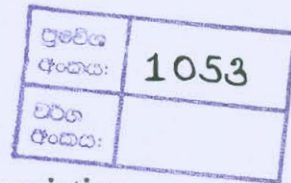


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M.A. THESIS IN LINGUISTICS

**MOTIVATIONAL IMPACT ON LEARNING ENGLISH
AS THE SECOND LANGUAGE IN RURAL
SCHOOL CHILDREN**

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March 2015

FGS/LING/MA/09/089

Abstract

The school system of Sri Lanka an inheritance from the British colonial period been one of inequality in several aspects; access, retention and achievement. Various educational reforms aimed at narrowing these disparities that exists in the school system could achieve very little. Even four decades after independence achievement vary from one type of school to another.

Teaching English as the second language to all Sri Lankan students irrespective of their social, economical and geographical background has been a major educational policy of the government in Sri Lanka the achievement level of second language learning significantly low in rural areas.

The objectives of the study are to ascertain the scope of motivation on learning English as the second language in rural school children. It was carried out on the basis of the assumption that the motivation is a determinant factor which affects the successful second language learning in students. The study was guided by three main research questions; what type of relationship exists in between the motivation and the low achievement level in English as a second language in rural schools, what are the influential factors that affect the motivation in such students and how motivation could be created in students.

Those questions were examined in relation to twenty four students of two different schools situated in a remote area in Sri Lanka. Questionnaires, informal chat, and informal observation with teachers and students have been utilized...The findings of this study reveals that the lack of motivation conducive to low performance level of the students in rural areas and the factors such as lack of parental support , the motivation lack class room environment, negative attitudes , inability to establish goals affect the situatioThe assumption that second language can be learned successfully by each and every student in Sri Lanka equally by using the same learning materials based on the same teaching approach is challenged by the study.