NOMINALISATION IN COLLOQUIAL SINHALA

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HEMA WEERAKOON

Abstract

The subject studied here is the process of nominalisation in Colloquial Sinhala. For the purposes of this study , the T.G.framework and more particularly Chomsky's Extended Standard Theory has been utilised.

Chapter 1 discusses sentence embedding as a universal feature of language and examines briefly the different types of sentence embedding. This is followed by a definition. of nominalisation and a statement of the mode of analysis.

Chapter 2 deals with complementation and its relation to nominalisation. It forwards the position that the Sinhala complement which is base generated provides a base for nominalisation.

Chapter 3 is a brief discussion of the Transformationalist Hypothesis and the Lexicalist Hypothesis in relation to Sinhala nominalisations.

Chapter 4. discusses the different types of nominalisation processes found in colloquial Sinhala and the part played by the lexicon in the derivation of nominals.

The 5th and 6th Chapters study Classical Nominalisations and Complement Nominalisations respectively. The analysis aims at ascertaining whether these nominalisations are derived transformationally or lexically.

Chapter 7 , the concluding chapter, assesess the degree of verbal syntax and nominal syntax in each of the transformationally derived nominalisation types. The chapter concludes by placing each nominalisation type at a different point on the verbal-nominal scale of syntax.

Two sub-types of nominalisations which cannot be classified under the two main categories discussed in this study are examined in Appendix A and Appendix B. Appendix C is a verb index and Appendix D gives a list of Transformational Rules which are relevant to nominalisation in Colloquial Sinhala.