ABSTRACT 04

Attitudes towards Sri Lankan English lexis and grammar

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In Sri Lanka, English has long been a language of authority granting access to the higher classes of society. However deviating from the "British" standards and speaking Sri Lankan English is not always regarded in a positive light. The research was conducted to explore the acceptance, the notions on grammatical accuracy and lexical validity of Sri Lankan English among undergraduates and graduates of the University of Kelaniya. The findings are compared with responses from the older users of English. It is seen that both the younger generation and the older generation hold a more permissible attitude towards the use of English, which can be attributed to the increased acceptance and the popularity of Sri Lankan English. However there is less willingness to bend certain hard core rules, especially grammar rules and rules governing the pronunciation of words.

Key Words: Sri Lankan English, Acceptance, Accuracy, Validity