

M.A. THESIS IN LINGUISTICS

**A SOCIOLINGUISTIC STUDY ON YAKSHA  
TRIBAL LANGUAGE HAVING SPECIAL FOCUS  
ON THE LEXICON INTERMINGLED WITH  
SINHALA LANGUAGE USED BY THE CLAN AT  
MANEWA**

**DMJR JAYAWARDENA(B.A.)**

ප්‍රකාශ අංකය:	1000
වර්ග අංකය:	

**Department of Linguistics**

**University of Kelaniya**

**March 31<sup>st</sup> 2015**

**Index Number FGS/LING/MA/08/012**

## Abstract

The first chapter of the study explains briefly the importance of the sociolinguistics study of the aboriginal language focusing the research problem; whether the language used by the community at Manewa is decaying or getting preserved as a variety of Sinhala language keeping its limitations; only to study the variety of language rather to study the phonemic system or syntax of it, being limited to the village Manewa as the geographical limitation and so on. Further this chapter briefs the background of the study explaining the history of the aboriginal people called "Yaksha". The second chapter reviews related studies introducing why the aboriginal language should be preserved, by pointing out the information received from many researches, books and articles written on the importance and the preservation of the tribal language in the world. The third chapter examines the methodology utilized in gathering information required using an eclectic method as the lack of sources from which related information are obtained. Information gained from the folklore through interviews, observation and participation played a major role in the whole study. Forth chapter analyses the data received throughout the study aiming at the research problem classifying the lexical items depending on their usage and attempting to give the approximately accurate meanings of them. Fifth and sixth chapters have been dedicated to brief the core of the study presenting the findings; modernisation of the society, influence of the majority language and medium of the formal education etc. and giving constructive and practical suggestions while providing a guidance to the researchers who are interested in this regard.