

A Linguistic Analysis on the Methodology used in Teaching English as a Second Language

ABSTRACT

English as a Second Language is taught in the primary education commencing from the second main stage. In the first main stage (grade 1 and 2), English is not taught as a Second Language based on the syllabus. However, several government approved private schools teach English as a Second Language to students in the first main stage, using trained English teachers, based on a syllabus. St. Peter's College in Colombo also teaches English in the first main stage. The teaching process using the 'Eclectic Method' for students in the first main stage at St. Peter's College, Colombo, was conducted in a way that it is not an additional burden and that it does not interfere in teaching the mother tongue and mathematical concepts when teaching English to the first main stage students. According to data, the student who come to government approved private schools, possess knowledge of English in entering the first main stage. The reason for that is the pre preparation of the child who has to face an interview in order to enter the private schools and the influence of the educational background of parents. The students who enter grade 1 have prior knowledge of English, background of English, and stay in an environment in which the parents encourage them to speak in English. Therefore, teaching English as a Second Language in government approved private schools does not hinder the development of mathematical and mother tongue concepts. To teach English as a Second Language to the students without the that background is a challenge.

Keywords: English, Second Language Teaching, Government authorized private schools