

A Linguistic Study on the influence of the Tamil lexicon on Sinhala folk language

ABSTRACT

The main aim of this research named “A linguistic study on the influence of the Tamil lexicon on Sinhala folk language” is to analyze the borrowed Tamil words that appear in Sinhalese. The focus was given to the Morphology and Semantics which are the basic fields, considered to be important in a linguistic analysis of a language. The reason for such an insertion of the Tamil lexicon and language units, is borrowing. Moreover, the language merge happened as a result of cultural merging, causing the mixing of the Tamil lexicon and language units into Sinhala. The center of this research is such Tamil words. The Tamil words seen in Sinhala have got a style unique to Sinhalese and a creation of new words is seen by combining them with noun roots and stems. In the first chapter, an introduction to the research, the research problem, methodology, theories, background and previous literature are briefed. In the second chapter, the background of Sinhala, the origin and evolution and the features of borrowing in Sinhala are discussed. In the third chapter, the Tamil language, its origin, its social and regional distribution and the expansion of Tamil within Sri Lanka are described. The fourth chapter is a historical explanation on the influence of the Tamil lexicon in Sinhala, the Dravidian features said exist in Sinhala, and though there is an influence of the Tamil lexicon on Sinhala, the reasons for Sinhalese not being a Dravidian Language are discussed together with the borrowings which are caused due to merging which lead to the evolution of Sinhala. Moreover, Tamil words in the Sinhala lexicon are also identified. As a Morphological analysis, the structure of Tamil words which came into Sinhala were analyzed. An analysis was conducted regarding the use of the Tamil lexicon in the Sinhala language. Language is a collection of meanings. The sixth chapter deals with a very important level of language analysis which is Semantics. The change of meaning, the expansion of the meaning of such Tamil words added to Sinhalese, the Tamil lexicon which influenced the change of the dictionary meaning and the grammatical meaning are given consideration. Finally, the topic is summarized and the conclusions are briefly described in the sixth chapter.

Keywords: Lexicon, Morphology, Semantics, Sinhala Language, Tamil language