

A Phonological Study on the Nouns used in ‘Shānthikarma’

A study based on the ‘Daha Ata Sanniya’ and ‘Devol Maduwa’ rituals practiced in the Western Province

ABSTRACT

‘Shānthikarma’; exorcism ceremonies, are well-known in the Sri Lankan rural society as a religious ritual and an indigenous mode of treatment. This is a phonological study conducted on the nouns used in the language related to ‘Shānthikarma’. The analysis is divided into five categories. Initially, a brief definition on ‘Shānthikarma’ was provided in relation to Sociology and Biology. Secondly, the significance of the language was revealed. Thirdly, the nouns used in the ‘Shānthikarma’ were divided according to traditional grammar. In the fourth section, the vowels and consonants of the classified nouns were separated with additional factors of such sounds being analyzed. In the last section, the classified data was analyzed with a focus on the sub systems of sounds, based on the theories of Structural Linguistics.

Keywords: Nouns, Phonology, Shānthikarma, Structural Linguistics