

A Comparative Study on the Sound System of Japanese and Sinhalese

ABSTRACT

Pronunciation difficulties and writing difficulties can be identified as basic problems that occur when students learn Japanese as a second language. In order to reduce these issues to a certain extent, one could compare Japanese with the mother tongue (Sinhala). This dissertation would help the native Sinhala students who study Japanese as a second language to reduce any pronunciation difficulties and wrong pronunciation. Vowels and consonants in Japanese and Sinhalese, the accent in the Japanese language, the way different accents cause a change of meaning, the written form of the Japanese language, the change of pronunciation depending on the context in which accent and consonants are used, are presented in this dissertation. Thus, this will be of great support for Sinhala native speakers to reduce pronunciation errors when learning Japanese as a second language. The first chapter discusses the expansion of the Japanese language and the second chapter deals with vowels and consonants. The third chapter highlights the sound system in the Sinhalese and Japanese languages while the fourth chapter is about sound balance and accent. The pronunciation errors that occur when Sinhala native students study Japanese as a second language are presented in the fifth chapter

Keywords: Japanese, Pronunciation errors, Second language, Sinhala native students,