

M.A THESIS IN LINGUISTICS

**A STUDY OF THE MODIFICATION OF INDIVIDUAL
LEARNER VARIABLES**

ප්‍රවේශ අංකය:	1018
වර්ග අංකය:	

G.G.D.K.MALKANTHI

Department of Linguistics
University of Kelaniya

FGS/LING/MA/11/133

Abstract

This study explores whether the Individual Learner Variables such as attitude and motivation, personality and group dynamics could be modified by the teaching techniques applied in second Language Teaching by using the theoretical framework informed by the Linguistic theories. In order to investigate the problem, this study used a questionnaire consisting of 21 questions. The same questionnaire was distributed among the participants at the beginning and at the end of the study. The answers provided in the initial questionnaire by the participants of both the controlled and uncontrolled group reflect a single purpose to learn English, a positive attitude towards English, negative attitudes towards the target language community and teaching material, introverted personality traits and negative attitude towards peers. In contrast, the answers provided in the questionnaire by the participants of the uncontrolled group reflect diverse purposes to learn English, a positive attitude towards English, positive attitudes towards the target language community and teaching material, extroverted personality traits and positive attitude towards peers. This could be due to the special teaching techniques applied in Second Language Teaching. Therefore, it is possible to claim that the Individual Learner Variables such as attitudes and motivation, personality and group dynamics could be modified by the teaching techniques applied in Second Language Teaching. Thus, a study done on individual learner variables in relation to the teaching techniques applied in Second Language Teaching would widen the readers' understanding of the Individual Learner Variables and it would explain how learning process could be modified by the teaching process to cater to the needs of the learners.