

M.A.THESIS IN LINGUISTICS

**THE IMPORTANCE OF LISTENING
ACTIVITY IN LEARNING A LANGUAGE**

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ABSTRACT

Listening serves as the basis of language acquisition and enables learners to interact in communication. It is the listening skill that begins with life. The most neglected aspect of the four skills learning and teaching a Language is listening.

The fundamental objective of this study is to identify what listening skill is about and why and how, the teachers of English transfer listening skills into the classroom situation. Hence, much attention should be paid to listening skills.

This research study aims at (a) highlighting the crucial function played by listening activities in learning a language (b) the problems faced by the Sri Lankan students when using this skill due to varieties found in phonology, syntax and semantics currently found in the usage of "New English" e.g. American, Indian & Sri Lankan English, (c) finally, the different types of listening skills effectively employed using variety of listening material.

The research comprises of about 30 students chosen from St. Joseph's College, Colombo-10, and the students from Aquinas University College, Colombo 08. They are selected from all three mediums- English Sinhala and Tamil . As a result of the research done, the researcher ventures forward a suggestion that, since there is no learning without developing the skill of listening, more importance should be given to the sub-skills in the aspect of listening; such as, facing what people are talking about, identifying and retaining, relevant points and rejecting irrelevant information for the purpose of note taking and summarizing and gauging the speakers attitudes, all of which lead the learners gradually towards mastering the spoken Language and to have a successful communication in the society.