

M.A. THESIS IN LINGUISTICS

**THE EFFECTIVENESS OF ENGLISH
LANGUAGE TEACHING METHODS
TO ENHANCE THE LANGUAGE
COMPETENCE AMONG LEARNERS**

(With special reference to three government schools in Sri
Jayawardenepura Kotte Divisional Secretariat, Colombo District,
Western Province, Sri Lanka)

L.Y.K. MEDIS

Department of Linguistics

University of Kelaniya

December 2014

ප්‍රවේශ අංකය:	1045
වර්ග අංකය:	

FGS/LING/MA/13/41

Abstract

The fluency in English is an essential requirement in present Sri Lankan context and this vital necessity has asserted a high demand of language proficiency among learners. Therefore, the Ministry of Education, Sri Lanka has taken initiative to implement effective and efficient English language teaching methods to enhance the English language competency among learners in secondary school education. Hence, this study is specifically based on evaluating the effectiveness, successes and weaknesses of prevalent ELT methods which facilitate the students' language competency. This research was conducted with 150 students and 20 English language teachers randomly selected from three government schools (Anula Vidyalaya, Hewawitharana M.V. and Wijayarama M.V.) in Sri Jayewardenepura Kotte divisional secretariat, Western province, Colombo district, Sri Lanka. A test paper in English was given to the students under the self-observation of the researcher to test their language proficiency. Further, the questionnaires were administered to ELTs and ELLs to get their views regarding this issue. According to the findings of the research, it became apparent that majority of the students had a weak performance in English and that occurred predominantly as a result of the weaknesses in prevailing ELT methods since teaching methods have a massive influence on the learners' language development. In conclusion, this study recommends various ELT methods to improve the quality and effectiveness of language teaching which enable the learners to become more interested in learning the language. Moreover, the ELTs should motivate their ELLs to improve their competency in English to cater more opportunities in future.

Key Words: Effectiveness, English language teaching methods, Language competency, Performance, Teachers and learners