

M.A. THESIS IN LINGUISTICS

**A PSYCHOANALYTIC STUDY OF
GENERAL PUBLIC PERSPECTIVE
TOWARDS ENGLISH LANGUAGE
OVER PAST 75 YEARS IN SRI LANKA**

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Abstract

English has evolved into unique linguistic systems in all recipient societies resulting distinct varieties known as “world Englishes.” Understanding these linguistic trends in a society is important when forming educational and economic reforms and in national cohesion. Based on this reality, this research study was carried out to determine the nature of change between English in Sri and the Standard British English and to predict the nature of the parallel psychological transformation in people. Data was collected by analyzing English and Sinhala newspaper articles, advertisements appeared on print media, Sinhala fiction works, popular Sinhala songs, and social media networks for deviations from the Standard English, borrowed words from English and for code switching. In addition to that, scholarly views on these deviations and opinions of the society regarding English language were collected through interviews and were analyzed. Findings show that English in Sri Lanka has penetrated to all segments of the society in some form resulting less fear and a flexible attitude towards English in the minds of people. At the same time, results show that society has not yet been able to get rid of the nervousness and the sense of prestige has that has been a part of our colonial heredity from the beginning.

Keywords: Standard British English, Sri Lankan English, code switching, phonology, morphology, syntax, semantics