

**M.A. Thesis in Linguistics**

**Second Language Learning Comportment of the  
Grade 8 & 9 students**

*A study based on Royal Institute - International School,  
Havelock Town - Sri Lanka*

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# CHAPTER 01

## GENERAL INTRODUCTION

### 1.0 Background of the study

Among a number of methods that have been explored so far in Applied Linguistics Error Analysis (EA) plays an indispensable role. This Study, Second Language Learning Comportment of Grade 8& 9 students of Royal Institute-International School, Havelock Town Sri Lanka: An error Analysis mainly focuses on analysing the errors done by Grade 8 and 9 students who would be facing their exam under the Edexcel Curriculum. In the research , the errors committed by the students have been analysed and the reasons for such deviations in their 'interlanguage'(IL) have been studied. By doing that the researcher intends to see whether there is a correlation between the lack of exposure of these learners to their Second Language (SL) and the errors they commit. Here the regular exposure of these learners to their first language is also experimented as an influential variable. Further, it aims to study whether the students are benefited from error correction.

These students have taken English as their main subject under the Edexcel curriculum. Most of them are not from English speaking social milieu but are keen on improving their English yet have not seem to master proper study skills in order to face this challenge. Lack of supervision at home front and the impression that private coaching would be sufficient to overcome the obstacle have hindered their perseverance and effort. Also poor reading habits.

Definitions of the important terminology and standard abbreviations used in the present work are interpreted as follows.

### 1.1 Second Language (SL/TL/L2) and Second Language Acquisition (SLA)

The term 'second language' (SL) is used as an umbrella term for any language learnt by a learner who already possesses one language which is referred to as the 'first language',