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Usage, Attitudes and Issues of Cursive Handwriting faced by Learners using English as a Second Language in the University of Kelaniya, Sri Lanka.

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The research intends to focus on a less researched area and is designed to find the level of usage, the issues and attitudes of cursive writers and non- cursive writers using English as a second language in the University of Kelaniya, Sri Lanka. Moreover, when the history of research in the field of English language is considered, there have been various studies conducted on cursive handwriting on an international level focusing on the level of clarity, performance at examinations, teachers' attitudes and writing speed. However, a study on cursive handwriting has not been conducted so far in Sri Lanka. Thus this is an initial step for further research. The results of the study prove that cursive writing mainly relies on personal interest and students are not encouraged to learn cursive handwriting at school. In addition, the majority prefers manuscript style in an examination and taking notes in a lecture. Moreover, the majority have stressed on the proper practice and proper format when writing cursive handwriting. Meanwhile, a majority admires the beauty of cursive script and they enjoy reading when they find a properly written piece of cursive writing. Significantly, certain individuals do not measure the intellectual level of the writer through cursive handwriting. Nevertheless, due to the lack of systematic training only a minority uses cursive writing. The number of difficulties faced by the Sri Lankan cursive users is quite high, and the issues identified need to be addressed cautiously for its improvement.

Keywords: Clarity, Cursive, Issues, Manuscript, Speed, Usage