

SC



**Introducing an Alternative Testing and
Evaluation Mechanism for the Improvement of the
Quality and Relevance of Teaching English in the
Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences at the
University of Ruhuna.**

By

Samaweera Gamaralalage Sarath Samaraweera BA, MA

This dissertation is presented in part fulfilment of the requirements of
the degree of Master of Philosophy in Linguistics

University of Kelaniya

Sri Lanka

March 2009.

ප්‍රවේශ අංකය	627
වර්ෂ අංකය	

Abstract

This thesis is based on a case study carried out at the University of Ruhuna in relation to some changes observed in a transition from a grammar-oriented lesson programme in English named as Common English Programme to a communication-oriented one named as General English Programme. In fact the thesis captures in a theoretical light mainly the radical changes the testing and evaluation mechanism in the Common English Programme underwent according to the innovation introduced in the General English Programme. In the early programme testing and evaluation did not have any impact on the curriculum and the teaching procedure but under the innovations the new programme is basically governed by the testing and evaluation components. The centrality the testing and evaluation component holds in the new programme has led to many improvements in the teaching and learning of English at the Faculty of Humanities & Social Sciences. On the basis of the experiences the present writer has had with both the former Common English Programme and the present General English Programme, this thesis attempts to analyze the newly-experienced improvements in the light of the principles of testing and evaluation professed in various types of theoretical literature. Basically, it supports the application of the testing and evaluation mechanism in the present General English Programme to the streamlining of all aspects of the conditions and strategies developed for teaching English to the readers of other disciplines at the University of Ruhuna Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences.