

Enhancing TESL in Sri Lankan Universities through the use of Sri Lankan Literature
Written in English

This research study is an attempt to explore the possibilities of using English literary work by Sri Lankan authors to enhance the experience of learning English as a Second Language (ESL) in local Universities in Sri Lanka. This research bases itself on the premise that literature produced by Sri Lankans within a local context would enable students to gain a better understanding of the practical usage of the English language. Though the usage of literature has often been limited, the role of literature has been re-assessed and it is possible to view literary texts as providing rich linguistic input and effective stimuli for students to express themselves while acting as a potential source for learner motivation.

Therefore this paper wishes to delve into the manner in which Sri Lankan literature (mainly poems), which is culturally appropriate, can be used to enhance English language teaching to the University undergraduates. In addition to the expected outcome of the study, it is also assumed that a number of other objectives would be met through this research. The use of English literature within the ESL classroom would enhance the oral skills and reading habits of undergraduates, facilitate critical thinking and develop awareness and sensitivity among students.

The research will be conducted through classroom-based experiments and observation. This study will also seek to inform the production of teaching/learning materials that can be used effectively to ensure that the teaching/learning capacity within the ESL classrooms in Sri Lankan universities is enhanced through the use of Sri Lankan literature written in English.

Keywords: ESL, enhance, Sri Lankan Literature, culturally appropriate