

## ***Kaduva* and the Evolution of a Theory— A Sociolinguistic Survey<sup>1</sup>**

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The genesis for my study is the Theory of Resistance in/through language (Parakrama, 1995). Two main tenets in the theory are the 'use of antagonistic descriptors' (stage II) and 'the practice of anti norms' (stage III). This paper through empirical evidence identifies that these two tenets have undergone an evolutionary process. '*kaduva*' is symptomatic of the first tenet and was formerly considered as an antagonistic descriptor for English. Some of the key words associated with the lexical item in existing theory and research on *Kaduva* are: elitists, privileged, language of power, social indicator, rural masses, oppression, subjugation, resistance etc. This paper explores the current sociolinguistic status of the term and theorizes that the usage has undergone a semantic change. The findings of the study are interpreted as reflecting an attitudinal shift which is indicated by the new terminology associated with *Kaduva*. Yet within a minority of undergraduate respondents the former derogatory associations are still very much alive. Code bashing/ odd mixing which is symptomatic of the second tenet too has undergone an evolutionary process. The anti norms have evolved into a new usage. I bear evidence that SMS discourse is encroaching formal written genres and hypothesize that this spells pedagogical disaster.