

Lack of Proficiency in English Language among Tamil Medium Advanced Level Students of Arts Stream

Rustha M R F

Department of English Language Teaching, South Eastern university of Sri Lanka
rusdharizvi22@gmail.com

English Language is one of the keys to success in the contemporary world. As English is recognized as an international language, it is, indeed, necessary for a country like Sri Lanka which has multilingual population. As per Sri Lankan education system, English language is taught as a subject from primary to Advanced Level, yet the school leavers fail to acquire a complete proficiency in the language. In this context, this study is conducted to illustrate the reasons the Tamil medium Advanced Level students of Arts stream lack proficiency in the English Language in schools with special reference to Ukuwela DS division of Matale district. Purposive sample method is used for this study and the sample size is ninety students and five teachers. Interview, questionnaire and observation are the primary data collection methods while records, journals, articles and websites are the secondary data sources used for this study. Collected data were analysed using qualitative and quantitative methods and is presented in a descriptive way. According to the analysed data, there is a drastic difference in the pass rate of the students in General English compared to the other main subjects they offered. The study found that most of the students lack fluency and interest in learning General English as majority of the students learn only to pass the examination and not to improve their proficiency. The teachers also mainly focus on the examination results to maintain their performance at school in a higher level rather than focusing on students' language development. Furthermore, the Tamil medium Advanced Level students do not pay adequate attention in learning English on parallel to the other subjects as a pass in the General English subject is not required for university entrance. Also, they had failed to realize the importance of English Language and think that they could learn it later by following some diploma courses. The study also explored that General English is taught in traditional teaching methods with the absence of incorporating all the four language skills, which as a result, has failed to enhance the English Language proficiency of the students.

Key words: *Advanced level students, Education, English, Language, Skills, School*