

Sri Lankan English: A realized reality or a reality waiting to be realized.

Being a phenomenon that is fluid and intrinsically colored by contextual realities, language constantly evolves and alters to suit the moment, the context and the user. Such alterations if sustained for a long period of time permeate to the core realities of its linguistic structure. An overhaul of core linguistic realities warrants either the birth of a new language or a new variety depending on the potency of the overhaul. English in Sri Lanka, separated from its place of origin and forced to find a footing in a strange land, evolves into a variety with a unique identity. The form of English brought to us by the colonizers, over the years, equip itself with phonological, morphological, syntactic and semantic features to assert a unique identity as Sri Lankan English. The paper looks into what such features constitute the Sri Lankan variety of English and its evolution from Ceylon English, Lankan English to Sri Lankan English. Using a sample of hundred university students, awareness of Sri Lankan English is gauged along with the associations linked with it. A mixed methodology is used to harness the benefits of both qualitative and quantitative methodologies. A questionnaire and a literatures survey are used to gather the data. Frequencies, central tendencies and variance are used to analyze quantitative data and all sets of data are analyzed with the aid of graphical representation modes such as graphs and tables. The analysis of results reveals whether the respondents realize the local use of English constitute features unique to it and it differs from the other varieties of English found in the world.

Key words: Language varieties, world Englishes, Sri Lankan English, university undergraduates, and linguistic awareness

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