HETC Project
Quality and Innovation Grants

Window 3
Postgraduate Research Programs

Mid Year Forum for January - June 2013

4th June 2013
Hotel Janaki, Colombo 5
University of Kelaniya

Humanities (+ Medical)

Documenting Evidence of Discourse Communities of Sri Lanka

03

09 Approved by BOS, FGS [Registration in process]
01 pending [Medical Faculty]
Contract Signed On: April 19, 2012

Dates of Project Implementation: 2012-2016

Amount: LKR 30,000,000 (30 million)
Research Proposals
02 Ph.D and 08 M.Phil

• Contemporary use of English language As L2 in the post conflict speech community of Jaffna Peninsula-K.Sivaji- Ph.D
• Colonial Political Influence in Later Buddhist Art (1796-1948) and its Role in Shaping Key Strands in Contemporary National Buddhist Discourse-V.Jayatilaka-Ph.D.
• Marginalized Community and the Language of the Adivasis- R.R. Attygala
• Variation in dialect and usage of specific vocabulary among different castes in the Jaffna Peninsula- T.Arunakirinathan
• Identification of the role and function of the “Parai” in creating and maintaining a distinct discourse community of practitioners- S. Wimalashankar
• An Analysis of Language Learning difficulties of blind children- In Jaffna peninsula Vany Pushparaj
• Employment Prospects of Young adults with Stammering-N.K.Kulasekara
• A Study of Slow Learners and Learning Disabled of selected Primary Schools in the Negombo Educational Zone-S. Dias
• Does hearing impairment among adolescents learners serve to create a hidden discourse community? An empirical study of similarity in diversity-L.C.Seneviratna
• Educational Achievements And Language Acquisition Of Children With Special Needs Receiving Inclusive Education: H.K.G. Asanka Ishan Dayapala
Performance Indicators / Achievements

Recruitment of students from diverse areas of research and diverse geographical locations (see map below)

- Orientation for Research in Documenting Evidence of Discourse Communities of Sri Lanka has been completed. Three workshops conducted.

- The most outstanding performance was the collaborative training workshops (3), mainly because of the use of cash payments. These were achieved despite the trade union action of 2012.

- Pilot study conducted to the Discourse Community of “Tulu” (Telegu) speaking community, formerly earning a living as snake charmers and palmists in Aligambay (Eastern Province)
In Jaffna District
• Contemporary use of English language
• An Analysis of Language Learning difficulties of blind children-
• Variation in dialect and usage of specific vocabulary among different castes in the Jaffna Peninsula-
• Identification of the role and function of the “Parai”

In Uva Province
• Marginalized Community and the Language of the Adivasis

In Western Province
• A Study of Slow Learners and Learning Disabled of selected Primary Schools in the Negombo

In Southern Province
• A Study Of Sinhala Speaking Children With Communication Disabilities At Special Schools, Probationary And Rehabilitation Institutes In The Western Province, Sri Lanka

• Colonial Political Influence in Later Buddhist Art (1796-1948)
Activity 1 (Details)

Name: Training on Collaborative Research

Objectives: Training of Trainers/Students

Innovative Features: To document evidence of discourse communities of Sri Lanka – marginalized due to disability, ethnic identity and caste

Expected and actual physical progress for reporting period:

• Purchasing recording equipment and data analysis software – with constraints (see constraints below)
• Undertaking linguistic fieldwork – pilot study 22-25 May 2013 to Aligambay, Eastern Province
• Training of M.Phil and PhD candidates – streamlining research steps
Activity 2 (Details)

• **Name:** Archiving for Database

• **Objectives:** Keeping record of discourse communities

• **Innovative Features:** Create a database of the languages and their related cultures in the Sri Lankan context, through the research. The main objective of this project is to survey and record the linguistic diversity of Sri Lanka

• **Expected and physical progress for reporting period:** AC machines, refrigerator, microwave oven, large screen television and DVD players have been purchased. Refurbishing of allocated space has been started, AC machines were installed. Specifications for all necessary equipment have been submitted

• **Actual physical progress:** (in detail but in bullet form)
Activity 3 (Details)

• **Name:** Publishing & Dissemination  

• **Objectives:** Individual research & preparation of proposals  

• **Expected outcome for reporting period:** Registration & Presentations  

• **Physical progress:** Research proposals received approval and ethical clearance, Presentations at Annual Research Symposium  

• **Financial progress:** None so far
Innovations

• Documenting Evidence of Discourse Communities of Sri Lanka
• In marginalized groups
• Marginalized through disability
Portrait of Queen Victoria in Southern Sri Lankan Temples
Identification of the role and function of the “Parai” in creating and maintaining a distinct discourse community of practitioners.
Marginalized Community and the Language of the Adivasis
What happened to the Snake charmers by the way?