

English language Usage in the Educational Sector of Jaffna Peninsula after 2009:

A descriptive Analysis

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Abstract

This paper aims to provide a detailed description of how English language (L2) is used in the educational sector of 'Jaffna peninsula' after 2009. Jaffna Peninsula in this study is defined as a discourse community which uses 'Jaffna Tamil' as its main spoken dialect. The use of English remarkably characterizes divergences within this research context and documentation of these varying features gains significance in the L2 research context of Sri Lanka. Thus English medium classroom sessions of both secondary and tertiary educational contexts were audio- video recorded for this analysis. While highlighting how language is used for teaching/learning, responding to questions, discussions, individual interaction and managing the classroom in the above sector with the data obtained, this paper also attempts to provide phonological, morphological and syntactic description of the spoken language used in order to highlight distinctive features such as use of non-segmental patterns, alternative use of tense forms, collocations and question forms. The limitation of this study is that the research area covers only two zones- Valikamam and Jaffna in Jaffna Peninsula.

Key words : English language usage, Educational sector, Discourse community, Distinctive features