

ABSTRACT

In planning to face future challenges that appear as trends in the rapidly developing world, Armies of every country are implementing mechanisms, enabling troops to operate internationally among multi ethnic communities in various regions. Even within their own boundaries, armies are dealing with various linguistic communities speaking different languages. In that context armies are compelled to overcome huge language barriers. As per the nature of operations conducted by the armies and the minimal time of response available to them, they do not get a fair chance to be accustomed to evolving situations at short notification. When it comes to Sri Lanka, the Sri Lanka Army too is facing problems of similar nature. Our forces are consisting primarily of Sinhala speaking personnel operating in areas where Tamil is the spoken language.

When taking into consideration historical examples and lessons of our country, we are in a stance that language differences should not exist or interfere with cohesiveness of various cultures and ethnicities. In a nutshell, Sri Lankan forces should be proficient enough in handling Tamil as a native second language comfortably as to deal with many social, political and military matters.

Fortunately, we had identified the epicentre of the problem of using language in order to face the fact with positive perception, so the Army has already taken the necessary steps to open Tamil language training schools for service personnel within the organisation. However, with the drastic and frequent fluctuation of requirements and situations, the inadequacy and inappropriateness of these programs have surfaced. In this research, the author is attempting to study the problems concerning the usage of Tamil language among the members of the Sri Lanka Army and the possible measures to overcome those.