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ACHIEVING THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE
PROFICIENCY IN SRI LANKAN SECONDARY
EDUCATION SYSTEM

By

Major RAJG GUNAWARDHANA SLSC

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CERTIFICATION OF SUPERVISORS

NAME OF THE STUDENT

:Maj RAJG Gunawardhana SLSC

NAME OF SUPERVISOR

: Lt Col GWA Seneviratne USP psc SLE


SIGNATURE OF THE SUPERVISOR

: 

NAME OF THE SUPERVISOR

: Ms.Nalinika Rajapakse

SIGNATURE OF THE SUPERVISOR

: 

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ABSTRACT

1. A majority of students who study English as a second language in Sri Lankan schools cannot achieve the English language proficiency. English language plays a major role because it is the primary medium which is essential to maintain social discourse. And also it is an important demand made by the job market in Sri Lanka.

2. Under the 'Free Education for all' policy the Sri Lankan government spends a considerable amount of financial provisions on education considering it as a future investment. But the general argument is that the productivity of the country's education system does not serve the national expectations. The teaching of the English subject in schools also falls into this category with around 10 per cent of the students of total student population achieving the proficiency in English according to a World Bank report.

3. In that background, my work tries to discover the factors that hinder students' English language acquisition in secondary education system. This study is based on survey conducted with students and English teachers from two different schools which are belong to different environments.

4. The results indicate that the majority of students do like English as a subject. Also they feel the need for the language but they are not getting enough exposure to the language and opportunity to use it in real life, which inhibits their use. Therefore, in order to achieve the English language proficiency, it is essential to replace the present, outdated teaching-learning strategies by more efficient and productive systems.