

**A PERSPECTIVE OF THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE CURRENTLY USED
IN THE JAFFNA REGION - A MORPHOLOGICAL ANALYSIS**

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The objective of this paper is to shed light on the peculiarities in the usage of English in the Jaffna region. This study is limited to the morphological features of the English language currently used in Jaffna. In order to achieve this objective, a comparative and descriptive methodology is undertaken. In this analysis, corpus includes randomly selected voice recordings during informal discussions with students, a few professionals and personnel from commercial sector; samples from written works of the secondary and tertiary level students; selected literary works and observations of speech and writing patterns of English day competitions; code-mixed conversations and sign boards. It must be stressed that nowadays in Jaffna, English is used as an inter-language. Jaffna is one of the native places of the Tamil ethnic community in Sri Lanka. Even though, English education was established in Jaffna as early as 1816 and it was widespread in working fields, the impact of the ethnic war for the last three decades has limited the exposure to the English Language among the inhabitants of the Jaffna peninsula. For more than three decades Jaffna has been forced to be a monolingual society, cut off from the rest of the world even from the rest of the country. Thus, the use of English has been limited to specific fields. In addition there is a trend to use more and more English with direct influence of Tamil Language. It is clear that usage of English in Jaffna has its unique flavour and it is peppered with local forms and idioms. It is very much related to the lifestyle, culture and society of the Jaffna Tamils. The English words that mingle in the day to day communication are used without knowing its exact spelling, pronunciation or meaning. Many of the English words are wrongly transliterated in the Tamil daily newspapers and these are commonly used by the people in a very irregular way. With the rising commercialization and the flow of visitors and dignitaries soon after the end of war, there is an on-going trend of using English in a highly accented manner among the commercial sector and Non-Governmental Organizations. This study will investigate the morphological variations that are to be found in the English Language usage in the Jaffna region.