A STUDY OF GRAMMATICAL ERRORS IN THE WRITTEN
ENGLISH OF TAMIL STUDENTS

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DECLARATION OF ACADEMIC WORK

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TGBKDO0042 hereby declare that this Dissertation entitled:

A STUDY OF GRAMMATICAL ERRORS IN THE WRITTEN

ENGLISH OF TAMIL STUDENTS is my own academic work

with the exception of citations which have been acknowledged.

Signature: ........................................... February 2005
ABSTRACT

The aim of this study is to investigate the grammatical errors found in the written English of 50 ESL Tamil students who were selected from three lower secondary schools in the Klang Valley. This study also attempts to explain the possible sources of the errors in terms of interference of mother tongue (interlingual) and generalization about the target language rule system (intralingual). The socio-economic and sociolinguistic status of the subjects was also investigated which revealed that these two factors affected the second language acquisition process. Low proficiency level of the second language could have contributed to grammatical errors. The errors examined are the five basic grammatical items namely; verbs/verb phrases, pronouns, articles, prepositions and conjunctions. These errors were identified and categorized based on Corder’s taxonomy of errors, namely misselection, omission, addition and misordering errors. The analysis of errors showed that verbs/verb phrases errors ranked the highest % of errors which constituted 47%, followed by article errors 18%, pronoun errors 15%, preposition errors 15% and conjunction errors 5%. The errors were attributable to both interference of the Tamil language and the overgeneralization and simplification of the English language rule system by the subjects. The study also suggests implicitly for the teaching of English as a second language to Tamil students.
ABSTRAK


Kesalahan-kesalahan yang diteliti adalah unsur-unsur tatabahasa seperti kata kerja/frasa kata kerja, kata sifat, artikel, preposition dan conjunction. Kesalahan-kesalahan yang dikenalpasti dikategorikan di bawah salah pemilihan, pengguguran, penambahan, dan salah tertib berdasarkan taksonomi Corder. Analisa kesalahan-kesalahan menunjukkan 47% kesalahan dalam kata kerja/frasa kata kerja, 18% dalam artikel, 15% dalam kata sifat, 15% dalam preposition dan 5% dalam conjunction. Kesalahan-kesalahan ini berlaku kerana pengaruh Bahasa Tamil dan pandangan umum tentang sistem peraturan Bahasa Inggeris. Kajian ini juga telah mencadangkan dengan jelas pengajaran Bahasa Inggeris sebagai Bahasa Kedua kepada pelajar-pelajar Tamil.
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