IRCHSS
2021
International Research Conference
in Humanities & Social Sciences

BOOK OF ABSTRACTS

THE SEVENTH INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH CONFERENCE ON HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES
IRCHSS – 2021

Collaborate and Discover: Break the Barriers

18th & 19th March 2021

Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences

University of Sri Jayewardenepura

Nugegoda, Sri Lanka

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INTRODUCTORY REMARKS AND ACKOWLEDGEMENTS

"Multidisciplinary research teams are essential to making fundamental progress in any field. Indeed, collaboration defines the modern mode of scientific research."

- Nobel Prize winning scientist 2020- Jennifer A. Doudna

On behalf of the organizing committee, we warmly welcome all invitees, presenters and participants to the 7th International Research Conference on Humanities and Social Sciences (IRCHSS-2021) of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura, Sri Lanka. This year's IRCHSS, like it has been in the past, is committed to provide a platform for renowned intellectual key profiles and emerging scholars working in humanities and social sciences to disseminate their knowledge, inspire new ideas and build networks with fellow researchers around the world. We sincerely hope that this year's virtual conference— IRCHSS-2021—would bring a novel experience to both its presenters and participants.

Thanks to all local and international researchers who responded to our call for abstracts last year. We received 205 abstracts in total for presentation at IRCHSS-2021, out of which 90 abstracts were selected for oral presentation while 10 abstracts were chosen for poster presentation, with an acceptance rate of about 50%. The selected papers will be presented at this conference under six different tracks: *Buddhist Studies, Religion, and Philosophy*; *Communication, Media and Society*; *Environment, Governance and Development*; *History, Culture and Heritage*; *Language and Literature*; and *Technology, Innovation and Education*. In addition, this year's conference is also featured by a special symposium on Language Teaching and Learning, and a total of twelve papers on different aspects of language teaching and learning will be presented in two sessions on March 19th. Meanwhile, all selected posters will appear on the conference website on March 18th and 19th accompanied by a short video description on each poster. The complete proceedings of the conference will be published on SSRN-Elsevier following the conference event.

The theme of this year's IRCHSS is *Collaborate and Discover: Break the Barriers*. In many parts of the world today, researchers in humanities and social sciences are confronted with diverse challenges and barriers. Some of those barriers/challenges include limited funding available for humanities and social science research, the marginalization of research in these disciplines with the assumption that humanities and social science research is 'less important' compared to research in STEM disciplines, the relegation of research methods used in humanities and social sciences as non-scientific, and the application of bibliometric measures intended for natural sciences to evaluate the impact of researchers in humanities and social sciences. While these challenges are daunting and overwhelming, we believe that one of the ways in which the fields of humanities and social sciences can overcome at least some of these challenges is by promoting collaboration among researchers. Even though collaboration has indeed become the norm in natural sciences today, it has generally been viewed with considerable skepticism in the two disciplines as it disrupts the kind of autonomy researchers in humanities and social sciences have traditionally enjoyed in their work.

The employment of multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary approaches resulting from collaboration among researchers is likely to produce more benefits in the modern academic world, including increased funding, greater visibility and more productivity for researchers in humanities and social sciences. It is in this context that our theme 'Collaborate and Discover: Break the Barriers' becomes truly meaningful.

Organizing IRCHSS-2021 would not have been possible without the unyielding support of many individuals. To begin with, we thank all authors for submitting their abstracts for presentation at IRCHSS-2021 and all reviewers for their rigorous support and service during the abstract review process. Next, we express our sincere gratitude to our keynote speakers who volunteered to share their expertise with the audience at IRCHSS-2021. We are also thankful to Ms. Alaina B. Teplitz, the US ambassador to Sri Lanka and the Maldives, Senior Professor Sampath Amaratunge, the Chairman of the University Grants Commission of Sri Lanka for gracing the inauguration ceremony. We also thank all chairs, conveners and the technical team for their contribution to make this event a success. In addition, we thank the Vice Chancellor, the Dean of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, the Registrar, the Bursar and all members of staff of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura for their immense contribution for making IRCHSS-2021 a reality. Finally, we thank all members of the organizing committee for their untiring efforts.

We wish you all a memorable, productive and healthy stay at IRCHSS-2021.

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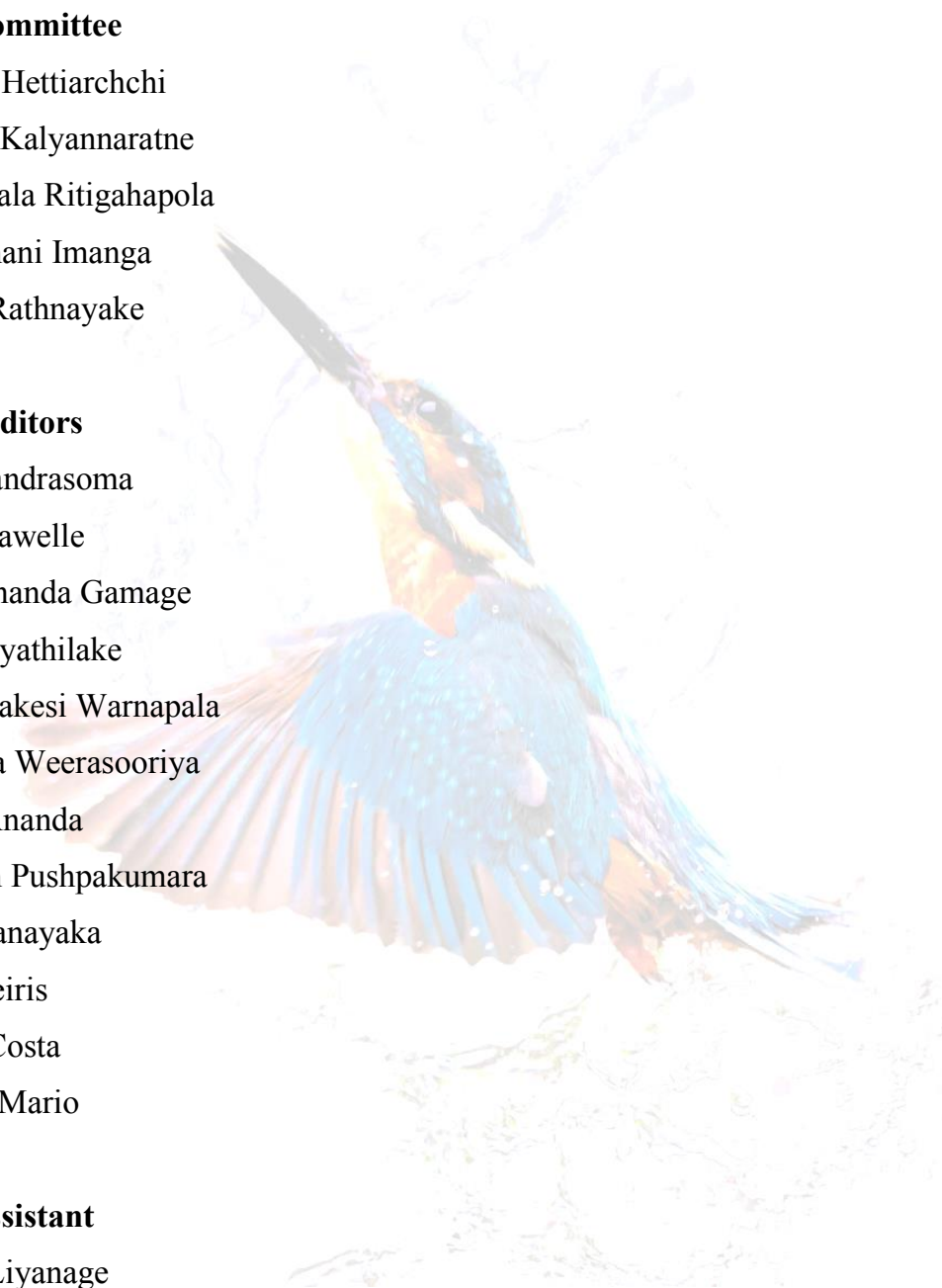
MESSEAGE FROM THE VICE CHANCELLOR

On behalf of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura, Sri Lanka, I, as the Vice Chancellor of the University, wish to extend my sincere congratulations and a warm welcome to all of the participants attending IRCHSS 2021 – the 7th International Research Conference on Humanities Social Sciences of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences of the university. It is an event that is much sought-after by the academics and practitioners worldwide.

Since its establishment in the late 1950s, the University of Sri Jayewardenepura has won the recognition for its remarkable achievements in promoting research, innovations and inventions. Moreover, IRCHSS is proud of its past, is confident about its present and is excited about its future.

Hence, themed *"Collaborate and Discover: Break the Barriers,"* IRCHSS 2021 embarks on a process of making new research discoveries focusing on humanities and social sciences. Following the path of IRCHSS, this year's conference also aims to provide a fruitful space not only for distinguished intellectual key profiles, but also for emerging scholars to share their research findings. IRCHSS 2021 specifically characterizes collaborative research that take an interdisciplinary, multidisciplinary or trans-disciplinary approach to research. This conference brings together representatives from vibrant academic communities with excellent and emerging scholarly standards from around the world to discuss and promote research findings beyond humanities and social sciences. Moreover, the collaborative discourse of IRCHSS 2021 is hybrid; conducted both through online and in-person sessions, confronting the current ongoing Covid-19 pandemic confidently.

I would like to express my appreciation to all committee members of the conference, including the Dean of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences. On a final note, I hope that IRCHSS 2021 will be a great success.

Senior Professor Sudantha Liyanage
BSc (Hons) (USJ), PhD (Cardiff), C Chem, FRSC, FIChem C, FPRISL
Vice Chancellor

MESSEAGE FROM THE DEAN

It is with great pleasure that I convey this message to the 7th International Research Conference on Humanities and Social Sciences (IRCHSS), an international research platform initiated by the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura.

The faculty takes pride in achieving significant milestones in research that have enhanced the insights into the world we live in. IRCHSS, organized by the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences is one such endeavour. Since its inception in 2012, scholars and professionals from different parts of the world have assembled to share research-based knowledge, thus contributing more to the broadening of horizons of theoretical and practical understanding of the various disciplines involved in the main areas of the humanities and social sciences.

This year, the faculty looks forward to expanding the possibilities of research with the conversion of the Multi-Disciplinary Research Centre (MDRC) as the International Centre for Multidisciplinary Studies (ICMS). I believe that through this restructuring, researchers are allowed to reach out and network with international research communities and become participants in the production of significant and transformative research and knowledge at the international level. No doubt, IRCHSS provides an excellent forum for them to showcase their contribution to these different fields of knowledge.

The faculty continues to unearth valuable insights into the world of Humanities and Social Sciences while gaining a strong foothold in the research culture. However, as a result of the limitations of funding and broader collaborations especially with the international research community, it has been a challenge to enhance the research output of the faculty. Hence, I believe that IRCHSS is an invaluable opportunity for scholars to explore more possibilities in research carried out both at local and international levels.

Finally, it would be difficult to think of today without considering the magnitude of the problem faced by humanity around the world due to COVID-19 outbreak. A pandemic was simply not something we were fully prepared to deal with. The shift of the conference proceedings to a virtual platform is an attempt to forge ahead with the important findings in multifaceted areas in Humanities and Social Sciences. After all, there is no better time to reconsider the value of the disciplines of humanities and social sciences as it has already been proven that biomedical science alone cannot provide all the answers to the ongoing health crisis.

Together, we hope to develop strategic innovations to further enrich the research culture that is already prevalent at the faculty. Our accomplishments present us with the indisputable imperative that we must not only sustain our contribution in the domain of Humanities and Social Sciences but also move to the next level of excellence.

Professor S.C.B. Heenkenda
BA (Hons) (USJ), PGD in Statistics (USJ), MSSc (Kelaniya), MA (GRIPS-Tokyo), PhD (Nagoya)
Dean, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences

PLENARY SPEECH - "ANTHROPOMORPHISM AND ZOOMORPHISM: RESOLVING THE PRAXIS"

Praneeth Abhayasundere

University of Sri Jayewardenepura

Beginning from the fourteenth century, there had been efforts to examine whether the human is an animal. The general acceptance since the 17th century has been that the human is in fact an animal. The 'human animal' is also called a social, political, cultural, and civilized animal. It is evident that the human is thinking and acting under the assumption that the earth belongs to him. Thereby, the human is engaged in a process of destroying the very nature that sustains him. In this vein, the focus of this talk is to highlight the concepts of 'Anthropomorphism' and 'Zoomorphism' due to this paradoxical truth that confronts us as humans. Anthropomorphism is the attribution of human nature and characteristics to animals (or gods, objects etc.) while Zoomorphism is the attribution of animal nature and characteristics to humans (or gods, objects etc.). The primary objective of this talk is to review the two concepts in an anthropological perspective. Such a review is of timely importance as such knowledge could contribute towards efforts of preserving the earth for future generations by making humans realize that they must co-exist with nature in order to ensure the survival of themselves as well as others. Content analysis and thematic analysis were employed as research methods. 'Animalistic Fiction' is a literary genre associated with Anthropomorphism and Zoomorphism in which humans and animals are used as metaphors, symbols and signs. 'Semiotics', which is the study of sign processes, is thus involved here. The two concepts are associated with religion as well. According to the Buddhist concepts of 'Karma' and 'Sansara', the rebirth cycle could include both human and animal lives; 'Jataka stories', in which human and animal births of the Bodhisattva are featured, can be given as examples. Hindu Gods such as 'Lord Ganesha' and 'Lord Hanuman' are depicted in animal form. In the talk, attempts are made to explore how these two concepts are represented in a variety of literary and religious texts.

PLENARY SPEECH – "FRUITS OF THE FOREST: SRI LANKA AND ITS GLOBAL PREHISTORY"

Oshan Wedage[a], Siran Deraniyagala[b], Michael Petraglia[c], Noel Amano[d], Michelle C. Langley[e], Patrick Robert[f], M.M. Pathmalal[g]

Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History, Germany[a,c,d,f], Department of Archaeology, Sri Lanka[b]. University of Queensland, Queensland, Australia[c,f], National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution, Washington DC, USA[c], Griffith University, Queensland, Australia[e], University of Sri Jayewardenepura, Sri Lanka[a,g]

In the 1980s, Deraniyagala catapulted Sri Lanka onto the international stage, revealing evidence for 'microlith' technologies older than those present in the archaeological record of Europe at the time. Four decades on, and Sri Lanka remains at the Centre of global discussions of the Pleistocene migrations and behaviours of *Homo sapiens*, as it moved beyond Africa. Here, we celebrate the collaborative work of our team of international, multi-disciplinary scholars. Our work has pushed back the date of the first human occupation of Sri Lanka to ~45,000 years ago. Furthermore, by analysing preserved plants and animal remains, and applying novel geochemical methods, we have demonstrated specialized adaptations of humans to tropical rainforests on the island. Finally, our detailed analysis of remarkable bone and stone tools under the microscope have shown some of the earliest uses of bow and arrow technology, and potentially also clothing, outside of the African continent. This work has not only enriched the cultural heritage of Sri Lanka. It has also seen Sri Lanka begin to drive international discussions in archaeology and anthropology on what it means to be human. The archaeological record of this 'Resplendent Isle' shows that tropical forests are not 'Green Deserts', but rather key sites of deep human history. Moreover, it showcases the cultural and ecological adaptability that enabled our species to colonize most of the world's continents and environments by the close of the Pleistocene. We hope that the work presented here stimulates further interdisciplinary, multi-national work into Sri Lanka's past, with Sri Lankans continuing to lead ground-breaking insights into the origins of our species.

PLENARY SPEECH - "TOWARD EXPLAINING LANGUAGE: THE MINIMALIST PERSPECTIVE"

T. Daniel Seely

Eastern Michigan University, USA

Humans have a remarkable capacity to acquire knowledge of language and to use it in speaking, thinking and understanding others. As introduced by Noam Chomsky in the mid 20th century, "Language study" is focused on this human capacity, seeking to determine its nature. But the 'generative enterprise,' the broad label given to this line of research, has, from the outset, been concerned with explanation. The central question is not only 'What is the form of this biologically determined cognitive capacity (i.e. 'language' in the biolinguistic sense)?' but '*Why* does it have the form and the properties that it does?' The concern for explanation is particularly prominent in a specific line of inquiry related to this enterprise–one referred to as the Minimalist Program for Linguistic Theory. The goal of this talk is to introduce the Minimalist Program in a general and non-technical way, tracing key elements of its history and exploring leading ideas and analyses right up to Chomsky's current work.

We begin by tracing key features of the biolinguistic approach to human language. From this perspective, language is the biologically determined, genetically endowed cognitive capacity present in each individual. The research goal is to try to determine, and construct a theory of, the initial state of this capacity and the states it can attain given exposure to and interaction with the 'linguistic' environment. A question is: what must this cognitive capacity (i.e. language in the narrow sense) be like in order to provide an explanation for the rapid and uniform growth of language in children? Our theory of language is constrained in that it must be formulated so as to provide an answer to this question.

Having set up the orientation and goals of the research program, we next consider properties of the theory itself, focusing on the narrow syntax and on the form and function of the central operation of the syntax, namely, Merge. We present a history of this fundamental structure building device, from old-style Phrase Structure rules (graph-theoretic and linear-order-encoding) to successive stages in the development of Merge--from its introduction in "Bare Phrase Structure" (Chomsky 1994/95) to its formulation in "Problems of Projection" (Chomsky 2013, 2015), showing why and how these successive steps in the development of the theory lead to deeper modes of explanation.

Finally, we trace the "maximize minimal merge" program, reviewing work by Epstein, Kitahara, and Seely (among others): The idea is to maximize the effects of Merge, while minimizing its form, i.e. posit internal to the narrow syntax as little as possible beyond simplest Merge, striving ultimately for the thesis that recursive Merge, operating in conformity with general laws of nature, and shaped in part by its interaction with the interfaces of sound and thought takes important steps toward yet deeper explanation of the fundamental properties of language.

ABSTRACTS: PAPER PRESENTATIONS

Track 1: Buddhist Studies, Religion and Philosophy

THE IMPACT OF CULTURAL UNTRANSLATABILITY IN YASHODARA'S LAMENT ON THE TARGET READERSHIP WITH REFERENCE TO THE ENGLISH TRANSLATION OF YASHODARAWATHA BY R. OBEYSEKARA

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Cultural Untranslatability is a property of a text or utterance in one language for which no linguistic and/ or cultural equivalent can be found in another language. The study involved a textual comparison of the original literary text, Yashodarawatha and its translation, Yashodara's lament (Obeysekara, 2005). There were two primary objectives of the current study:(1) it examined whether the element of cultural untranslatability exists in the selected translation; (2) it studied the impact of untranslatability (if it exists) on the target readership. The study involved the mixed methodology approach. The researcher carried out a textual comparison between the two literary texts. The data was also collected from questionnaires which were distributed among 20 undergraduates who had studied the literary texts for their degree. Questionnaires contained questions on the opinions about the untranslatability in Yashodara's lament. The researcher also used the books, journal articles as secondary data. The findings of the study revealed that the cultural untranslatability exists in the translation of Yashodarwatha and it has an adverse impact on the readership. The study also reported that the translator has failed to entertain the target reader. Therefore, the findings are indicative of the fact that cultural untranslatability is a limitation to convey the meaning of the original text effectively to the target reader.

Keywords: *Culture, Cultural untranslatability, Literary translation, Readership*

ANTHROPOLOGICAL STUDY OF NEW TRENDS IN THE CATHOLIC RELIGIOUS INSTITUTION OF SRI LANKA THROUGH CULTURAL DIFFUSION WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO THE CHILAW AREA

Praneeth Abhayasundere[a*], W.K.M. Wijayarathna[b], D. M.K.G.K. Dissanayake[c], G.A.A.N. Sri Shan[d]

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Christianity is a religion based upon the teachings and miracles of Jesus. Catholic people in Chilaw, in Sri Lanka participate in religious activities actively more than those in the other areas in Sri Lanka to fulfil their spiritual needs. Due to various reasons, there can be changes and modernizations in their belief and ritual system. A prominent example being, during their early practices, using Latin as the official language, the community did familiarize themselves with the church despite the language difference. After that the administration made the native language as their main performing language. This explorative research is based on the faith and their significant characteristics. In this particular research, the sample size is 40 and includes clergy - reverend fathers, sisters, brothers, and devotees purposively selected for this research. The main purpose of this research is to provide a quantitative anthropological knowledge of the latest trends in Catholic beliefs and rituals, through the changes of the Sri Lankan social system and Christianity incorporating Chilaw as the research area. Several data collecting tools such as interviews, general observation, and participant observation were used to collect data. Half of the research was completed by using the interview method for the data collection. When considering the subjective value, this whole research was based on the socio-cultural anthropology as well as the anthropology of religion. The researcher observed that, the administration as well as the Catholic devotees still protect the physical cultural materials of the Church. One of the major findings implied by this study is that the Catholics of modern Sri Lanka are engaged in daily religious activities while defending their belief system and admitting that the evolution of their belief system has been minimal.

Keywords: *Culture, Diffusionism, Catholic, Jesus, Denomination*

THE MIND WANDERS FAR; DOES THIS STATEMENT DEFACE THE PURE THERAVADA BUDDHIST INTERPRETATION?

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Misinterpretation of the propagation of Dhamma creates dis-advantages and could have adverse consequences. This matter is mentioned in Anguttara Nikāya as **"Bahujana hitāya patinnā Bahujanāsukhayā, Bahuno janassa Anatthāya ahitāya dukkhāya dēvamanussānaṃ".** Misinterpretation and dictation of the propagation of Dhamma create defilements. Many individuals have wrong views about Dhamma. Sometimes they distort Dhamma for personal benefits. Currently we can see that one of the most famous Buddhist sacred stanzas in **Dhammapada** is misinterpreted. The purpose of the **citta vagga** is to eradicate the wrong views about Citta and objectives. This matter is described in Dhamma school and Piriven textbooks. The study refers to the suttas in text literature and commentaries to create accurate information. Primary resources, secondary resources as well as various scholars' comments are important in this regard, to understand the contradiction of the views of the various scholars and to clear misinterpretations. Mind does not travel long distances. The nature of the mind is to take objectives as its own. Old memories help us to do this especially the empiricism that makes prejudices. The nature of the process is metaphysical. Mind only recognizes the distance objectives, which are suitable for the occasion. Buddhism emphasizes that the **prabashvara** - mind distorts from the external objectives.

Keywords: *Miss-interpretation, Mind, Purposes, Thoughts, Experience*

THEORETICAL ANALYSIS OF THE BUDDHIST PHILOSOPHICAL TEACHING IN MODERN CONFLICT RESOLUTION, INTERVENTION AND MEDIATION

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This research focuses on the study of conflict resolution, intervention and mediation in Buddhist teachings from a theoretical perspective and also on how to express those modern concepts with strategies in Buddhist philosophical teachings. Conflict resolution is a subject that analyses violent and non-violent behaviour in the face of social crises. It studies the mechanisms of action, guidance and processes that lead to some of the most acceptable humanitarian conditions. With regard to political conflict, a unique process for resolution of those conflicts must be created. In the Buddhist philosophy, there is a variety of Buddhist teaching in order to resolve conflicts that arise in politics. This research analyses the sutras preached by the Buddha relevant to politics. Intervention method was used to solve human problems and conflicts through history. Intervention is an important factor in international conflict between individuals, societies and states. The focal Buddhist sources of this research are the Dighanikaya, Majihima Nikaya, Parajika Pali and Jathaka path. The research objectives are to study the role of Buddhist philosophical teaching in conflict resolution, intervention and mediation and study the Buddhist philosophical techniques for conflict resolution in Buddhist teachings. This is a qualitative research based on literature review and was mainly carried out by using secondary sources such as statutes, international treaties, academic writings, journal articles and sources. According to the research, Buddhism has a complex process for resolving political conflicts. Buddhism is the historical key route of mediation and conflict resolution. Buddhism thus eliminates the conflict that arises in the class, caste, religion and race. The study found that references to these in the Dighanikaya, Majihima Nikaya, Parajika Pali and Jathaka path. The study shows that Buddhist philosophy could be used for conflict resolution successfully.

Keywords: *Buddhist philosophical teaching, Conflict resolution, Intervention, Mediation*

Track 2: Environment, Governance and Development

GIS-BASED SPATIAL ANALYSIS OF LANDSLIDES IN RATHNAPURA DISTRICT, SRI LANKA

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The levels of landslide hazards are dependent on physical attributes of land, agricultural practices and other human activities. Landslides are a serious concern in steep land areas where intensive storms are common. Southwest monsoon brings heavy rains and strong winds to Sri Lanka. Rathnapura District is a landslide prone area in Sabaragamuwa Province, Sri Lanka due to southwest monsoonal rain. GIS technologies could provide a powerful tool to model the landslide hazards, for their spatial analysis and prediction. This is because the collection, manipulation and analysis of the environmental data on landslide hazard can be accomplished much more efficiently and cost effectively. The objective of this study was to identify the spatial distribution of landslides in Rathnapura district. Four variables, slope, elevation, rainfall, soil type and land use, were evaluated as landslide inducing factors in the area. Eighteen Divisional Secretariat Divisions in Rathnapura district were used as the sample area for the study. Four Landslide locations and risk areas in the area were identified by GPS coordinates and through the analysis of soil samples collected in identified areas. Grain size distribution that was used to classify the soil was done by sieve analysis. Stream ordering was calculated by Shreve and Strahler method and the water volume, number of streams and slope gradient were analyzed to create classified layer of slope, rainfall intensity, land use, drainage and slope. Classified layers were weighted according to their percentage of contribution for the landslides. By applying weighted overlaying method, study area was categorized into five groups as high-risk area, risk-area, moderate-risk area, low-risk area and no-risk area. Natural factors like slope, soil type and drainage density as well as man-made factors cause the landslides in the area. Landslide events in Rathnapura district are strongly correlated to many factors such as the slope of the land, soil saturation, land use for crop production, agricultural activity and removal of deep-rooted permanent vegetation. The study also showed that as slope increased, the percentage of land affected by landslides also increased.

Keywords: *Landslide, Spatial analysis, GIS*

CURRENT PATTERNS IN THE USE OF DOMESTIC WELLS IN THE VILLAGES IN DEVINUWARA DIVISIONAL SECRETARIAT DIVISION, SOUTHERN SRI LANKA

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At present, freshwater is rapidly becoming scarce with increasing demand from humans for different purposes and also as a result of climate change. In this context, sustainable use and conservation of freshwater aquifers and reusing wastewater at the domestic level play a significant role in facing challenges in water management and ensuring food security. In the past, rural people used to dig wells to meet their water requirements while protecting and conserving their surrounding environment. Patterns in the use of domestic wells, which are very unique to Sri Lankan villages, are mutually connected to the society, environment, and culture. However, nowadays the village lifestyle has changed significantly with the increase in the standard of living of people. It leads to changes in their behaviour including how they made use of natural resources like domestic wells. Accordingly, such changes affect the sustainability of wells and domestic food security. Therefore, this study examines the current patterns in the use of wells to identify the factors affecting such behavioural changes and their impact on rural households. The sample consisted of 100 randomly selected owners of domestic wells from five Grama Niladari Divisions in Devinuwara Divisional Secretariat. Findings show that only 24 % of well owners directly accessed their wells daily to fulfil their water requirements. 76% of well owners did not directly access their wells daily as they have water pumped into their households. The main reasons for this were the ease of use and the ability to save time (33%), the ease of use and water depth (24%), location and water depth (14%), and the location of the wells (8%). According to the chi-square test, it was statistically proven that there is no relationship between the adoption of pumped water and the distance to the well from home, the number of family members, depth of the well and the occupation of the housewives. Further, it was revealed that 60% of well owners did not use land near wells for crop cultivation. In contrast, 39% of householders have planted crops near their water tanks while 77% of the respondents planted crops near their outdoor taps. 60% of well owners' wives maintained their kitchen gardens using well water. 47% of well owners' wives used once-used well water to maintain their kitchen gardens while 53% of them did not utilize waste form their kitchens for any purposes. Accordingly, this study statistically proved that there is a relationship between the attitude of the housewives regarding water conservation at home and wastewater reuse. Further, this study also found that there is a negative impact between the absence of an awareness of the relationship between wells and the changes in water level, water quality, domestic well condition, and the dryness of surrounding environment.

Keywords: *Domestic wells, Current well use patterns, Water conservation, Water security*

HUMAN-ELEPHANT CONFLICT AND RURAL LIVELIHOODS - A CASE STUDY OF THENUWARA AND MAILANKULAMA GRAMA NILADHARI DIVISIONS - SRI LANKA

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Competition for space is one of the major reasons behind the human-wildlife conflict. With the increase of population, the humans have invaded the natural habitats of wild animals. Human-elephant conflict is one of the burning problems identified in Sri Lanka. Therefore, this study is conducted to assess the threats to elephants and their impact on humans in Thenuwara Grama Niladhari Division, Sri Lanka. The main objective of this study was to identify the threats to elephants from the villagers and the elephants' impact on villagers' livelihoods. A questionnaire survey was carried out among 30 randomly selected villagers who live in areas identified as elephant hotspots through a pilot survey. Microsoft excel and SPSS were interactively used, and a priority matrix analysis was performed to analyze the data. The study identified seven elephant passes in the area. The study further revealed that the number of elephants venturing into the village has increased by 10 times in 2019 compared to 1985. The analysis of the questionnaire survey suggested the clearance of forest areas for agricultural purposes and destruction of natural habitats of elephants due to human activities as the two main causes of elephant-man conflict in the area. 27% of the elephants coming to the area had been killed with Hakkapatas and 23% was killed by electrocution and 14% with shot guns and another 14% had succumbed to injuries. According to the results of the priority matrix analysis, killing of villagers and damages to crop were the most significant consequence of the behaviours of elephants on human lives. In conclusion, the study revealed that the invasion of elephant settlements by humans as the major reason for this conflict.

Keywords: *Competition for the space, Human-elephant conflict, Destruction of natural habitats, Human activities*

AN ASSESSMENT OF THE SPATIOTEMPORAL PATTERN OF DOMESTIC WATER CONSUMPTION IN THE DOMPE GRAMA NILADHARII (GN) DIVISION, SRI LANKA

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Domestic fresh water is a fundamental requirement for human welfare and economical activities, and it has become the third largest consumer from total water consumption. The demand in the world for domestic water is increasing day by day due to rapid urban expansion, lifestyle changes, socio-economic activities and etc. The higher standard of living is changing the demand for water and the pattern of water consumption. Therefore, the domestic water consumption pattern is varied from one community to another. The aim of the current study was to identify the domestic water consumption patterns in semi-urban and rural sectors in the Dompe GN Division. The research also identified the water resources and their distribution patterns in the study area. Both primary and secondary data were used in this study. Primary data collection was mainly conducted with a hundred (N=100) sample household questionnaire and sample households were selected based on the main drinking water source (groundwater and tap water) using stratified random sampling method. Moreover, the study has examined the households' daily and activity wise water consumption, water sources, quality, water consumption duration, frequency of water supply and socio-economic data to understand domestic water consumption pattern. A field survey was also carried out to identify the spatial locations of groundwater sources over the study area. Descriptive analyses (Correlation Analysis and Percentage Analysis) and spatial analysis (Kernal Density and point pattern analysis) were used to fulfil the research objectives. All analyses were carried out using ArcGIS 10.1 and Excel 2013 software. The results revealed that there were 392 domestic groundwater wells in the Dompe GN Division and the daily average water consumption of the study area is 119.44L per person per capita per day and bathing is the highest water usage activity in the study area. During the wet season, a majority of households (65%) use the groundwater resources for their daily activities, but in the dry season most of them use the government water supply for daily activities. Further, a different water consumption pattern can be identified which mainly changes due to the income, number of household members, age and distance. Finally, it is hoped that the results of the study would benefit the policy and planning executives in the study area to optimize the existing water resources for future.

Keywords: *Domestic water consumption, GIS, Water supply*

SPATIAL AND TEMPORAL CHANGES IN THE ECOSYSTEM SERVICE VALUE OF THE HANTANA MOUNTAIN RANGE

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Land use/land cover (LULC) dynamics change ecosystem service value (ESVs), yet research based on a quantitative evaluation of changes in ESVs are occasionally attempted in Sri Lanka. This study investigated the changes in land use and ecosystem service values of the Hantana mountain range from 1956 to 2019. The objectives of this study are to identify the changes of the ESVs and classify the ecosystems using remote sensing and GIS (Arc GIS 10.5) in the Hantana mountain range. Analysis changes of ESVs were conducted mainly by Geographic Information System (GIS) and Remote sensing (RS) using LULC Landsat datasets of the years 1956, 1988, 1997, 2008 and 2019 with their corresponding global value coefficients developed by Costanza et al. (1997). The results between periods revealed a decrease of total ESVs from Rs.547 million in 1976, to Rs.416 million, 208 million in 1997, 2007 and 2019, respectively. Between 1976 and 2019, land use changes resulted in a decrease of Rs.267 million. ESV was primarily caused by the outward and the inward expansion of build-up lands and the net increase in the bare land, both of which have a low ESV. These indicate that human encroachment into surrounding natural and man-made ecosystems result in a decrease of ecosystem service functions. The resulting LULC change and socioeconomic development are likely responsible for the overall decline of ESV. It is projected that increasing land use demand will place heavy pressure on the natural ecosystems and impair the ecological functions that are necessary to support the human dominated ecosystem. Therefore, sustainable development policies must address the impact of the loss of natural lands due to intense urbanization.

Keywords: *Ecosystem service value, GIS, Land use/land cover, Remote sensing*

IMPACT OF CORRECTIVE AND PREVENTIVE ACTIONS OF GREEN POLICIES ON ORGANIZATIONAL PERFORMANCE IN THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR IN ANURADHAPURA DISTRICT SRI LANKA

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Green policies and corrective and preventive actions are established to resolve the problem between environment and institutions. A number of research have explored the benefits and the status of manufacturing sector organizations in Sri Lanka. However, research in Sri Lanka has little attention focused on external or institutional factors for sustainability with regard to greening process. This paper aims to study the impacts of green policies and corrective and preventive actions for organizational sustainability performance. Green policies and actions are a key consideration in day-to-day business decisions. Therefore, this paper will look into the importance of greening for organization and increasing sustainability performance specifically in the manufacturing sector. A framework was developed for the current study based on a survey. The data were collected from 100 manufacturing sector organizations in Anuradhapura District by using convenience sampling method. Primary data was collected through self-administrative and 5-point Likert type questionnaire in addition to that questioners' reliability was checked with the alpha test. According to the correlation analysis there is a positive significant relationship. According to the multiple regression analysis researchers identified that green policies have a positive significant impact on organizational performance. As Beta value is positive (0.581) and significant value is (0.000) less than 0.05. Corrective and preventive actions and organizational performance have positive significant influence because of the positive Beta value (0.282) and significant value is (0.005). The findings of this study are useful for the society, decision makers and policy makers to identify green practices that could enhance the performance of the organization.

Keywords: *Corrective & preventive actions, Green manufacturing practices, Green policies*

STATISTICAL MODELING OF WEEKLY RAINFALL DATA FOR BETTER PLANNING

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Prediction in short-term rainfall and other forms of precipitation is one of the most critical factors determining the overall impact of climate change. Thus, in this study an attempt is made to predict weekly rainfall. The chaotic nature of weekly rainfall in South Asian countries indicates a necessity for methods which go beyond the conventional context. Alternatively, time series approach and artificial neural network (ANN) approach are employed to predict the weekly rainfall which exhibits the blend features of the linear and non-linear phenomenon. The rainfall data from 1990 to 2017 in Colombo city were obtained from the Department of Meteorology, Sri Lanka (DMSL). The correlation structure of the series confirmed seasonal length of 52 and it was found that there is no cyclic pattern. Seasonality of the series was removed by an additive decomposition method and then AR (1)-GARCH (1,1) for deseasonalized series was identified as the best fitted model to describe the pattern of weekly rainfall. ANN approach facilitates mapping the non-linear relationship between input and output using mathematical model without having proper prior knowledge of the considered phenomenon. The feed foreword Multi-Layer Perceptron (MLP) neural network and three recurrent neural network architectures: Simple Recurrent Neural Networks (SRNN), Long Short-Term Memory (LSTM) and Gated Recurrent Unit (GRU) were utilized to find the best one. The forecasting performance of the two approaches were assessed using root mean square error, absolute error, mean absolute error and coefficient of correlation measures. The models were trained using data from 1990 to 2014 and were validated using data from 2015 to 2017. Both approaches performed well and provided encouraging forecasting result. However, based on the forecasting degree, GRU model outperformed the time series model to forecast weekly rainfall series in Colombo city. The developed model can be used for better sort-term planning in rainfall.

Keywords: *ANN, Deseasonalized, GARCH, Recurrent neural, Weekly rainfall*

DOMESTIC DEMAND, EXPORT AND ECONOMIC GROWTH IN SRI LANKA

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Export and domestic demands are both important for economic growth and economic growth has an impact on export and domestic demand. The main objective of the study is to identify the impact of domestic demand and export on economic growth in Sri Lanka during the period from 1977-2019. Household final consumption, Government final consumption and Gross fixed capital formation were used as domestic demand variables; the value of exports is treated as export demand for national goods and services and economic growth proxied by gross domestic product (GDP). Result of Johansen co-integration test indicates the existence of long run relationship among the variables and found that household final consumption, gross fixed capital formation and export have positive and statistically significant impact on economic growth in long-run. However, general government final consumption expenditure has negative impact on economic growth in long-run. The Granger causality test result shows a dynamic relationship between domestic demand and economic growth also between export and economic growth in Sri Lanka.

Keywords: *Domestic demand, Exports, Economic growth*

A REVIEW OF LITERATURE IN APPLYING THE RICARDIAN MODEL TO ANALYSE ECONOMIC IMPACT OF CLIMATE CHANGE ON AGRICULTURE

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This literature review is based on the studies used on the Ricardian model to analyse the impact of climate change on agriculture. The model was named after David Ricardo (1772–1823) because of his original observation that the value of land would reflect its net productivity. Climate change results in long-term resource shortages such as water, worsening soil conditions, disease and pest outbreaks on crops and livestock etc. The importance of the method is its ability to measure long term impact from climate change including each farmer's ability to adapt. However, no approach is holistic or free of admonitions. There are two lines of research on the Ricardian Method which can commonly be distinguished: the coupling of approaches into hybrid models and the sporadic imposition of more detailed structure on existing approaches. The review is mainly on journal articles published in the peer-reviewed scientific journals. The main focus is to review the existing literature in applying the Ricardian model to investigate the economic impact of climate change on agriculture. It is also for the purposes of identifying the relevant focal points for future studies aiming to provide a deeper understanding of the underlying concerns. The bibliographical search was undertaken using specialised research databases and relevant websites concerning the economic impact of climate change on agriculture. The databases were accessed via the postgraduate library at the University of Colombo. The study carried out a marginal impact analysis of increasing temperature and changing precipitation and rainfall across different seasons. It examined the impact of uniform climate scenarios on farmers' net revenue per hectare. The results indicate that tropical countries are more sensitive to predicted climate changes in the 21st century. The cooler countries have quite a beneficial impact for the agricultural productivity. In general, small household farms and large commercial farms in tropical countries are highly vulnerable to temperature increases and changes in rainfall which would eventually impact on the livelihood of farmers.

Keywords: *Climate change, Agriculture, Economic impact, Ricardian model*

IMPACT OF GREEN ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING ON MANAGING WORK RELATED EMPLOYEE STRESS IN SRI LANKAN APPAREL COMPANIES

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Reducing stress levels of the employees is one of the major problems that apparel companies have been dealing with over the last several years. Human Resource is one of the major assets which brings a competitive advantage to an organization. Therefore, it is essential to provide better working environment for employees inside the organization. With regard to this situation, organizations are highly involved in different kinds of environmental planning today and Green Environmental Planning (GEP) is one of them. This study was conducted to assess the impact of GEP on managing Work Related Employee Stress (WRES) and to suggest appropriate ways and means of making GEP more effective to reduce WRES in selected apparel companies of Sri Lanka. The study was conducted using both quantitative and qualitative research methods. A sample of 120 workers was selected through stratified random sampling technique. It was found that there is a small but definite negative relationship between GEP and WRES while the use of eco-friendly colours is the most influential factor in reducing stress. The explanatory power of the model was 16.7 percent of the variance in the measure of WRES. With regard to face-to-face interviews done by the researcher, it was identified that employees would like to see the natural environment and have a dust free working environment as a way of reducing stress. Recommendations can be incorporated to enhance green solutions that create a stress free, healthy working environment for all employees in the companies selected.

Keywords: *Globalization, Human resource, Green environmental planning, Work related employee stress*

ROLE OF NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS IN BALANCING ENVIRONMENTAL RIGHTS WITHIN CHINESE FUNDED MEGA DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS IN SRI LANKA

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The 'economic growth' centred development discourse in Sri Lanka is driven by the financial assistance from China. It concentrates on Mega development projects (MDPs) entailing environmental costs and negative externalities which result in perceiving environmental rights in juxtaposition to development. The lack of policies tailor-made to address MDPs while protecting environmental rights poses a challenge to strike a balance between protection of the environment and achieving economic development. Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) were globally predominant since the 1950s given to their roles as operational and advocacy agents, particularly owing to their informational expertise linked to the grassroots. However, with the change of the development discourse driven by the Chinese Financial Aid Framework (CFAF) from expanding capabilities to economic growth, the role played by NGOs is rapidly transforming. This paper examines the responsibility vested with NGOs in ensuring that a top-down policy change is brought about by sharing information and expertise in environmental justice. Accordingly, the study engaged in a critical analysis of qualitative data collected by a library and field research. It embodied primary and secondary sources including data from case studies of MDPs undertaken in Sri Lanka as illustrations. The study identified challenges by comparing the traditional role of NGOs with the nature of MDPs, to be bifold: firstly, the inherent nature of CFAF; and secondly the constraints imposed by the recipient governments on NGOs. Consequently, the inability to voice out the needs of the grassroot results in "White elephant" projects rendering grave environmental consequences with inimical socio-economic impact falling short of expected developmental outcomes. In addressing these challenges, it was identified that welcoming NGOs into the developmental policy platform can be useful to balance environmental and developmental rights, especially given that the embryonic nature of CFAF leaves room to incorporate NGOs as legitimate stakeholders with substantial input.

Keywords: *Development aid, Environmental rights, NGOs, Mega development projects*

REALISM AND SRI LANKA'S STRATEGIC RELEVANCE IN INDIAN OCEAN REGION: ANALYSIS OF INDO-SRI LANKA RELATIONS

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Indian Ocean region is significant among the important sea regions in world politics because it has been focused by number of countries in the World. As well as that, among the other things, activities carried out by China within the Indian Ocean region and as well as relationship made towards the closest states seems to be vital and important. Among that, Sri Lanka is referred to as a small Island State, which is presently, engaged in direct relationship with China through strategic relations. As a result of these relations, country can be referred to as a place that is turning into internal development. Role of India does not make any favour towards Sri Lanka under these circumstances. Due to strategic location of Sri Lanka, it is important to have strategic relationships with great powers. Under such circumstances, Indian action has been conflicting towards Sri Lanka. In this research paper, nature of India's relationship towards Sri Lanka within the strategic location of Sri Lanka will be theoretically analyzed through theory of realism.

Keywords: *Realism, Strategic relevance, Indian ocean region, Geo-politics*

FIGHT FOR THE RIGHT TO A CLEAN AND HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT IN THE JUDICIAL CONTEXT OF SRI LANKA FROM AN INTERNATIONAL PERSPECTIVE

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At present, the society's interaction with nature is so extensive that environmental issues have assumed proportions affecting all humanity. With the industrial and technological development, mankind has not only improved economic conditions but also influenced the natural ecological balance. Therefore, the environment is negatively impacted at a rate never seen before and this is one such concern that has created a discourse on the protection of the environment at a global level. The realization that environmental problems have serious consequences for human health and well-being and could even threaten the very existence of human life on earth, have led to the dialogue on a right to a healthy and clean environment. While the highest human right accorded to a human being is the right to life, that right could become meaningless if the environment in which he lives is degrading day by day. Right to life is meaningful only if the right to a clean and healthy environment is legally guaranteed and enforceable. One can argue that could be due to the lack of an enforceable right to a healthy environment meaning that no one has a right to claim for a healthy environment. The right to a clean environment is not a purely individual right. Rather, it has a collective facet, belonging equally to such groups as future generations and indigenous peoples whose cultures depend on the environment for their existence and perpetuation. Internationally, the concept of a group of "rights of developing countries," "solidarity rights," also called "rights of third generation," is attributed to the French lawyer Karel Vasak, who enumerated the "right to environment" as one of them. The Fundamental Rights chapter found in the 1978 Constitutions of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka does not contain any provision for protection of ecological rights and while the directive principles recognize the importance of the environment and corresponding duties of the citizens of the country to protect and safeguard it, it is however not legally binding in a court of law. The objective of this literature research is to find out how the right to a clean and healthy environment is internationally and nationally recognized, to analyze on Judicial Activism of Sri Lanka regarding the interpretation of the said right and to elucidate on the international obligation of Sri Lanka to protect, promote and respect the right to a clean and healthy environment. In order to highlight the significance of a wholesome environment while achieving the above objectives, the doctrinal research method is used. For these qualitative methods primary and secondary legal resources have been referred.

Keywords: *Right to healthy and clean environment, Right to life, International obligation, Judicial activism*

MERGER CONTROLS IN SRI LANKA: A COMPETITION LAW PERSPECTIVE

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It has become evident in the recent past that many commercial firms enter into mergers in Sri Lanka to attain development goals. While some mergers positively contribute to facilitating the economic development of a country through strengthening the ongoing competition, some mergers operate against competition goals. This has led many countries to adopt merger controls within the competition law to restrict anti-competitive mergers from taking place. However, it is evident in Sri Lanka that, many mergers are allowed to take place irrespective of their adverse effects on the ongoing competition. Under these circumstances, this research aimed to analyse the Consumer Affairs Authority Act No 09 of 2003 as the main competition law in Sri Lanka to ascertain whether it has managed to incorporate provisions to restrict the institution of any anti-competitive merger. This research followed a qualitative approach where statutes, case laws, journal articles, and books were used as primary and secondary sources in the said analysis. Furthermore, a comparative analysis of the New Zealand competition law was carried out in arriving at the conclusion. The findings reveal that, the Consumer Affairs Authority Act No 09 of 2003 lacks legal provisions to prohibit any anti-competitive merger from taking place. These findings could hence be useful to policymakers in the future to re-address these vacuums and strengthen the competition law of Sri Lanka on merger controls.

Keywords: *Mergers, Competition law, Consumer Affairs Authority Act No 09 of 2003, Development*

THE US RESPONSE TO INTERNATIONAL CLIMATE CHANGE AGREEMENTS: FROM THE KYOTO PROTOCOL TO THE PARIS AGREEMENT

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The primary purpose of this paper is to analyse how realist politics shaped the US response to global climate change agreements till today. Secondly, the paper also discusses how realist politics that the US played out so far in international politics had led to the partial failure of the 1997 Kyoto Protocol. Thirdly, this paper would analyse how realist politics will decide the outcome of the 2015 Paris Agreement in the coming years. This paper analyses the question, how the US non-engagement with international climate agreements will lead to/are leading to the ineffective implementation of these climate agreements with particular focus on the Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agreement.

Keywords: *Climate change, Realism, Paris agreement, UNFCCC, Kyoto Protocol*
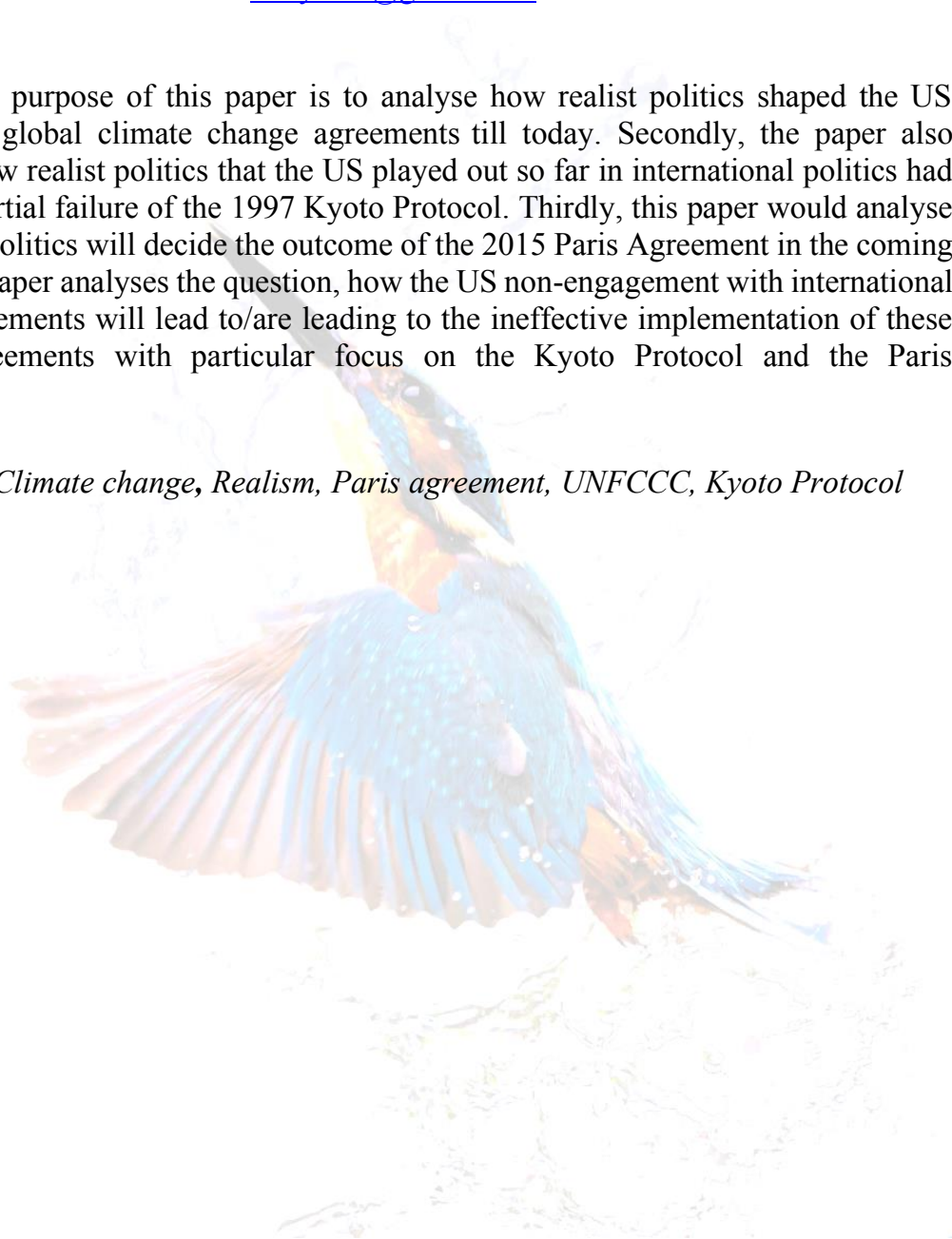
POSSIBILITIES OF RECOGNIZING RIGHT TO PERSONAL DATA PROTECTION NEXT TO RIGHT TO PRIVACY IN SRI LANKA: A LEGAL ANALYSIS

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As mentioned in the European Union General Data Regulation (GDPR) 2016, rapid technological developments and globalization have brought new challenges for the protection of personal data. The scale of the collection and sharing personal data has increased significantly. Technology allows both private companies and public authorities to make use of personal data on an unprecedented scale in order to pursue their activities. Use of personal data in an unprecedented scale and flow of data among irrelevant users would affect the personal life of any person. The protection of personal data has been covered under the concept of 'Right to Privacy' for so long. Previously 'right to privacy' was treated as an umbrella clause which included most of the concepts relating to the personal life of an individual. Protection of personal data was one among those. Interestingly, a tendency to recognize these concepts as two different concepts which has its own way of independency need to be emphasized. The problem of this research is based on the fact of analysing possibilities of recognizing protection of personal data as an independent right next to right to privacy in Sri Lanka. Thus, the methodology of this research is based on a normative research, hence the primary sources like European Charter of Fundamental rights 2012 and GDPR 2016/679 2016 and secondary sources like journals, scholarly articles are used. The conclusion centralized the idea of reconstructing right to personal data protection, next to right to privacy by way of recognizing it under the fundamental rights in Sri Lanka.

Keywords: *Technological developments, Personal data, Right to privacy, Right to personal data protection, Fundamental rights*

FASHION INDUSTRY IN SRI LANKA: THE FACTORS AFFECTING THE GROWTH

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Apparel industry in Sri Lanka plays a major role in Sri Lankan economy and is known for its quality export apparel manufacturing. Sri Lanka is also privileged to be having its own craft related fashion industry. Handloom, Batik, Tie dye, Crochet, Beeralu lace and Hand knitting are such crafts appreciated by the country's fashion. Export apparel industry in the country influences the local fashion industry in many ways. The purpose of this study is to identify the bottlenecks of local fashion industry growth. Study chiefly employs a qualitative approach in identifying the issues using an online questionnaire and semi-structured interviews conducted among two designers. Results of the study through an inductive reasoning, revealed that the majority of study population were influencing the country's fashion through healthy level of financial interactions and noted as style oriented and fashion active segment. The clothing habits of participants revealed, growth of local brands and consumer satisfactions could be enhanced as in Sri Lankan fashion industry growth model developed by the study: maintaining country's rich traditions of long-standing unique craft industry (primarily Handloom, Tie dye and Batik) up to the quality standards of global fashion with a consumer focus. The bottlenecks: lack of quality raw materials, limited production capabilities, longer production cycle and comparatively higher prices due to craftsmanship could always be compromised through the creativity, imagination together with implication of the best manufacturing technology available in the country. Outcomes of this study mainly influence the local fashion brands in understanding their business context and further studies are recommended on the behaviour of each craft sectors in the country's fashion.

Keywords: *Export apparel industry, Local fashion industry, Craft sector, Creativity, Sri Lanka*

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Track 3: Language and Literature

STRIVING FOR SUPERIORITY: A COMPARATIVE PSYCHOANALYSIS OF JAY GATSBY AND LORD VOLDEMORT

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The desire to gain more is an evolutionary struggle among mankind. Throughout literary history, we come across characters whose unending desire to achieve more drives the entire plot. This purpose of this study was to conduct a comparatively textual analysis of the two unlikely characters; Jay Gatsby and Lord Voldemort. This analysis was primarily supported by the theories of Alfred Adler on Individual Psychology. By and large, this study extensively analyses their individual characteristics, circumstances they faced as parts of their character development and driving forces behind their unending quest for more. From a psychoanalytical perspective, the study found that both Gatsby and Lord Voldemort are two individuals who could not be stopped by anything in their paths to gain what they desire which ultimately lead them to their ruin. Despite their larger than life personas, this study revealed them to be two normal human beings who strive for superiority. The study exposes, through a close analysis of the two characters, how and why they intend to appear superior. Further through an in-depth character analysis, this paper identified a major distinction between the two characters, while Gatsby goes to greater extents to gain power in order to win over his love, Voldemort discards love and all human emotions to gain power. This paper concludes that despite their different goals, both Gatsby and Voldemort reinvented themselves to achieve what they desired and ultimately became victims of their unending quest for more.

Keywords: *Adler, Desire, Gatsby, Superiority, Voldemort*

THE REVOLUTION OF DISCREDITED VOICES: EDNA AND BRETT AS PROTOTYPES OF "THE FEMALE INDIVIDUALIST"

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The Awakening by Kate Chopin and The Sun Also Rises by Ernest Hemmingway published in 1899 and 1926 respectively are two American novels that question the notions of gender ideology that prevailed at the time. The two novels were presented to the public during a time when there was a significant shift in the perceptions of gender roles in America. The Seneca Falls Convention in 1848 followed by the first-wave feminist movement brought into discussion social, civil and religious rights of women. The Awakening revolves around the literal and figurative 'awakening' of Edna Pontellier "who refuses to be caged by married and domestic life and claims for herself moral and erotic freedom." Edna defies the oppressive, traditional conceptions of marriage, motherhood and Victorian mores of the Creole community. The Sun Also Rises presents a redefinition of femininity and fusion of clearly gendered spaces in society through the characterization of Lady Brett Ashley. She comes across as a representation of the female self that underwent transformation from the "passive, private creature to [the] avid individualist in pursuit of new experiences." Numerous studies have been conducted into the exploration of the struggle for autonomy and sexual freedom of Edna Pontellier and the seductive power of the expatriate Englishwoman, Brett Ashely, over the men around her which qualifies her as an extraordinarily independent woman. Nevertheless, they have failed to underline the defiant nature of the two characters and their attempt at the redefinition of assigned gender roles in the face of hegemonic and masculine forces at work in society and the present study seeks to fill that gap in the current scholarship. The study is a critical textual analysis of the two novels. The postcolonial feminist theories of Judith Butler and Gayatri Spivak will be incorporated along with the social theoretical ideologies on power and hegemony by Michel Foucault, Antonio Gramsci and Louis Althusser to underline the self-individuation of the two women. Thereby, the intention of this study is to explore the gradual evolution and subversion of ascribed female gender roles in American literature corresponding to the social changes that took place in the late 1800s and mid-1920s, reflected through the progressive roles of Edna and Brett and its relevance to the self-liberation of women across time and space.

Keywords: *Gender, Redefinition, Femininity, Subversion, Individualist*

'QUEST FOR SELF': A COMPARATIVE STUDY ON MAYA ANGELOU'S "PHENOMENAL WOMAN" AND KAMALA DAS'S "AN INTRODUCTION"

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At the very outset of the creation of humankind, it is foreordained that man is superior to woman as God created Adam first and Eve was created from the rib of Adam to be his companion. The thoughts, feelings and nature of God's two creations are different. The masculine body is represented stronger than the feminine. From the beginning woman is represented as the weaker sex who is marginalised in the patriarchal society. Woman was known by her husband's or father's name, but all these myths about women are being challenged day by day by women who identify themselves by their own name. In this post-modern era a woman can fulfil her needs and wishes on her own. She is the writer of her own destiny. Back in the day, a woman was considered merely as a sexual object that has been created to satisfy the desires of men. She was muted and she could not voice her opinion. She had to go through every atrocity of men. The male poets interpreted women from their point of view which is far more different from the actual truth. The traditional notion of a woman's beauty and nature was a perennial topic in literature penned by male poets and the larger social discourse, nevertheless the female poets including Maya Angelou and Kamala Das have raised their voices in supporting women to grow up from the marginalised position in the patriarchal society. These female poets have tried their best to interpret the true definition of a woman. They are struggling for their rights to establish their identity. Maya Angelou and Kamala Das, two female poets coming from two different backgrounds and continents tried to break the system of male patriarchy and accepted woman as a human being who has an individual identity. Maya Angelou and Kamala Das, in their two poems "An Introduction" and "Phenomenal Woman" establish a notion of creating an individual identity of their own by liberating themselves from the male dominance through their constant struggle for freedom.

Keywords: *Feminism, Identity, Independence, Patriarchal society, Racism*

SRI LANKAN UNIVERSITIES DURING THE 1971 INSURRECTION THROUGH THE LENS OF SRI LANKAN ENGLISH FICTION: A COMPARATIVE STUDY OF SARACHCHANDRA'S *CURFEW AND A FULL MOON* AND WIJENAIKE'S *THE REBEL*

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A scrutiny of the post-independence English writing in Sri Lanka would reveal that most of the creative writers have attempted to capture the contemporary social realities in their work. As such, fictional representations of the 1971 insurrection have become a much-discussed topic among the Sri Lankan writers and critics. Against this background, this paper attempts to make a comparative study of Ediriweera Sarachchandra's Curfew and a Full Moon (1978) and Punyakante Wijenaike's The Rebel (1979) which both use Sri Lankan universities as the setting of their respective plots, with the objective of exploring how these writers have perceived the role of the university intellectuals, and what influenced their perceptions, by utilizing literary theories, such as psychoanalysis and Marxism. Further, it endeavours to demonstrate with evidence that, while Sarachchandra confesses to his guilt of not having disciplined the students, Wijenaike seems to present a balanced picture of the university intellectual. Moreover, the study showed that Sarachchandra tends to justify the revolutionary youth while Wijenaike, despite her fairly balanced outlook, directs her serious criticism towards the agents of the revolution. In light of literary theories, the study found the reasons behind the contradictory perspectives the authors hold about the insurrection. According to the Freudian concept of sublimation, Sarachchandra reveals his failure to assist his actual students. On the other hand, the Marxist notion of 'base and the superstructure' identifies Wijenaike's privileged background as the main cause of the criticism she levels at the revolutionary youth.

Keywords: *Ediriweera Sarachchandra, Insurrection in 1971, Lankan Universities, Punyakante Wijenaike, Sri Lankan English fiction*

ECHOES OF *MADAME BOVARY* IN *ANNA KARENINA*: A COMPARATIVE STUDY

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According to Julia Kristeva, '... any text is an intertext – the site of an intersection of numberless other texts' (Kristeva, 1966 as cited in Haberer, 2007). Inspired by and extended from Priscilla Meyer's journal article Anna Karenina: Tolstoy's polemic with Madame Bovary corroborating the possibility of Leo Tolstoy being inspired by Gustave Flaubert's Madame Bovary in writing Anna Karenina, the present study is a comparative analysis of these two masterpieces exploring their resemblance to claim the latter as an echo of the formerly written; Madame Bovary. As the preliminary stage of the study, the two texts were closely read and analyzed individually. Subsequently, the texts were studied comparatively to identify their similarities. The study led to the discovery that Anna Karenina bears a significant resemblance to Madame Bovary in four dimensions: the plot, themes, characterization and character development, and style. This study is intended to be a foundation for prospective comparative studies based on the two novels.

Keywords: *Anna Karenina, Comparative analysis, Intertextuality, Madame Bovary, Resemblance*

POETIC DEVISES USED TO PORTRAY THE MATERNAL FEELINGS IN THE POEM "MORNING SONG" BY SYLVIA PLATH

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Maternal feelings are universal and often considered to be unique and a blessing across almost all the cultures in the world. However, according to researchers, women express happiness, frustration and stress variably when they become mothers, a major life changing event in their life, depending on the available external factors as well as the internal self-possessed factors. As such, the poem "Morning song" written by Silvia Plath explores the confused maternal feelings of a female speaker towards her new born baby. This research article examines how poetic devises are used to show the confused maternal feelings in the poem. The study involved descriptive and argumentative research methods to analyse the selected lines from the poem. The findings of the study revealed that the confused image of motherhood which has been created through various descriptions in the poem as the author pictures the first time mothers' feelings and experiences through a female persona. However, it is understood that the mother's genuine feelings have been portrayed in the poem heavily with autobiographical elements as those maternal feelings do not occur automatically as they are learnt or desired but are acquired over the time. As such, the poem does not portray an unconventional image. Instead, it portrays genuine and true feelings of the mother. Thus, this research will contribute to future studies that intend to explore extended external factors in relation to the subject in this poem.

Keywords: *External factors, Internal actors, Maternal feelings, Morning song, Silvia Plath*

WHERE THE SILENCE SPEAKS: RESISTANCE CULTURE IN MOROCCAN POST-COLONIAL LITERATURE

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Resistance against colonial rule is a recurrent theme in post-colonial literature and writers have used their narratives to give voice and agency to the oppressed through authentic experience. Writers of post-colonial origins turn towards resistance literature in order to present stories that are unheard. Moroccan post-colonial fiction shows candor in presenting native stories that celebrate rich indigenous culture and a multi-faceted history. Yet, research pertaining to resistance culture in Moroccan fiction is limited and several texts belonging to this genre have been left unnoticed as Moroccan literature is often analysed with relation to other post-colonial themes such as local politics and white hegemony. This study examines to what extent resistance emerges successful against colonial power with regard to two Moroccan texts: *The Moor's Account* by Laila Lalami and *The Simple Past* by Dris Charaïbi. The two texts were chosen as the narrators are a part of the oppressed colonized group. Their voices are heard and their courage is celebrated as limited space is given to the colonizer. The study takes into account the silent resistance projected by the two narrators of these texts and traces events that project their defiance and rejection of colonial authority. The study also identifies that amidst the rebellion within them, they have to resort to two options in order to achieve their freedom: silence and patience. Both are in chains of obedience and must hide behind a façade of support and a feigned likeness in the colonial project only to be given the hope of returning home and to regain lost identity. To elaborate further on resistance culture presented in the two novels, the study refers to Edward W. Said's *Culture and Imperialism* paying attention to the theories and ideas based on Resistance Culture. The study identifies that despite the attempts at expressing resistance both narrators fail to completely achieve agency as the superior power of the colonizer paralyzes them. Although they are not liberated from the shackles of domination completely, the novels bring out the contrast between speakers with agency and the marginalized group, that the oppressed group is able to speak as much as any other, but their voices are silenced and unrecognized as the dominant discourse is that of the superior group consisting of the colonizer.

Keywords: *Post-colonial Moroccan fiction, Resistance Culture, Imperialism*

WITHIN AND BEYOND: A PSYCHOANALYTICAL STUDY OF PHILIP LARKIN'S PREOCCUPATION WITH DEATH AS A MANIFESTATION OF SUICIDAL IDEATION

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The identity of a poet plays a major role in the analysis of his/her work and the significance attributed to the poet in the field of literature. The volatile nature of a poet's identity can thereby be treated as an intriguing point of contention as it is arguably dependent on an intersection of a poet's biography and the fictional elements of his/her literary works. Despite the predominant theme of death within which Philip Larkin's poetry permeates, critics have failed to identify him as a suicidal poet upon the absence of the final act of committing suicide. Therefore, this paper explores Larkin's preoccupation of death as a manifestation of his suicidal ideation which contests the essentiality of the final act of committing suicide mandated for the identity of a suicidal poet by employing selected works of Larkin and psychoanalytic theories of the Death Instinct and Three Motivations of Suicide put forth by Sigmund Freud and Karl Menninger respectively.

Keywords: *Death, Freud, Larkin, Menninger, Suicidal*

THE EFFECT OF CULTURALLY FAMILIAR LITERARY TEXTS ON THE STUDENT PERFORMANCE IN THE SRI LANKAN LITERATURE CLASSROOM

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Schema or background knowledge is a vital component that helps an individual to understand a given text. There are many aspects of 'schema' and many studies have shown that there are different types of schema; one such being 'culture schema'. The current study investigated the importance of culture familiarity or culture schema of literary texts on student performance with respect to two novels, namely *Jane Eyre* and *Village by the Sea* studied for Ordinary Level school curriculum. The study included the grade 10 students at an international school in Sri Lanka. The research instruments employed to gather data for the study were (1) the questionnaires administered to examine the attitudes of students towards culture familiarity, (2) the tests conducted to examine their performance in relation to nearness to culture, and (3) the interviews conducted with ten select students to examine their attitudes towards the texts and the text-related performance. The study revealed that the majority of the students found the novel based on the Asian culture (i.e. *Village by the Sea*) was more familiar than the one with the European culture (i.e. *Jane Eyre*), and the students' cultural familiarity with the former enhanced their performance. However, the interviews showed that the culture of the country cannot always be assumed to be the familiar culture of the students; instead the way they live could be defined as their own culture. Therefore, the cultural familiarity may vary depending on their interests and the culture they admire, which can have a direct impact on their attitudes and the performance of a particular literary text.

Keywords: *Culture, Schema, Nativization*

ATTITUDINAL CONTRIBUTION TO THE VISUAL CENTRISM OF SINHALA SPELLING INSTRUCTION: A SOCIO-PSYCHOLINGUISTIC STUDY

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Though, recent studies have reported that the attitudes of Visually Impaired Sinhala Language Learners (VISLLs) and their spelling instructors on Sinhala spelling contribute crucially to the visual centrism of Sinhala spelling instruction, in-depth investigations on their attitudinal contribution to the visual centrism of Sinhala spelling instruction are not satisfactory. Therefore, the objective of the present study was to explore the attitudinal contribution to the visual centrism of Sinhala spelling instruction by VISLLs and their spelling instructors. Strong attitudes have been considered as good predictors of behaviour. However, recent studies which revealed the visual centrism of Sinhala spelling instruction have supported the 'social model of disability'. Accordingly, there is room for some socio-psycholinguistic factors which underlie the attitudinal contribution of VISLLs and their instructors to the visual centrism of Sinhala spelling instruction. Therefore, the present study was conducted on the basis of a socio-psycholinguistic theoretical framework. Phenomenological research paradigm along with an exploratory - qualitative research design was adopted in order to allow for an in-depth investigation on the topic under study. Secondary data were collected by reviewing literature whereas the primary data were collected through semi-structured interviews. Results of the present study indicate that visual centric attitudes arise from a visual dominant background which justify the visual centrism of Sinhala spelling instruction. Further, it suggests that effective spelling instruction for VISLLs will not be possible without an effective change in visual centric attitudes of VISLLs and their spelling instructors.

Keywords: *Visually impaired, attitudinal contribution, Sinhala spelling instruction, Visual centrism, Socio-psycholinguistics*

CODE-SWITCHING IN WRITTEN DISCOURSES: AN EXPLORATORY STUDY OF SINHALA-ENGLISH HYBRID EMAILS

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Code-switching – extrasentential shifts transferring the focus from one language to another – is undoubtedly a characteristic of cross-cultural encounter: it is generally assumed in the literature that bilinguals mix their two languages to considerable degrees. Code-switching in its oral production has largely been researched, devoting attention to its grammatical patterns, structure and meaning, and the like. Nevertheless, very little research focuses on code-switching in writing, particularly on Sinhala-English shifts in written e-communication methods. The overall intent of this study was to examine the use of code-switching in emails employed by Sinhala and English bilinguals. The fourfold question aimed (i) to explore the frequency of code-switching in emails among bilinguals of English and Sinhala languages, (ii) to investigate the possible relation between code-switching and email recipients, (iii) to determine the possible correlation between code-switching and the subject matter in emails, and (iv) to explore the reasons and functions for code-switching in such emails. A questionnaire, a semi-structured interview, and a collection of emails were employed as research instruments in this exploratory study. Over 100 Sinhala-English bilinguals contributed to the questionnaire: while 20 of their emails were analyzed to triangulate the data, and 5 participants were interviewed to ascertain further the data collected. Data analysis was performed both on a statistical test called a Chi-squire test and an evaluation of the content of emails. Evidently, code-switching is highly frequent, and preferred to a single language, in informal emails. It entails diverse socio-cultural and linguistics functions in line with the social solidarity between the two users. English is used to a higher degree in code-switched emails than Sinhala despite the participants' socio-cultural, educational, professional, and gender diversity. Code-switching in emails frequently constitutes a qualitatively better form of knowledge construction. Nonetheless, future studies are expected to gather a greater number of emails to enhance generalizability.

Keywords: *Bilingualism, Sinhala, Sri Lanka, Language hybridism, Code-mixing*

LANGUAGE OF TAXI-HAILING APPS IN THE DIGITAL ERA: SEMANTIC AND FUNCTIONAL SHIFTS

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Growing needs of commuting have led to advancement of technology with respect to transportation. Therefore, a brand of mobile apps called taxi-hailing apps that can be used to connect drivers with passengers seeking rides have been developed. Consequently, language used in these apps have undergone changes resulting in semantic and functional shifts. The present study approached the domain of taxi-hailing apps from a socio-linguistic perspective in order to determine the semantic and functional shifts that have occured in the vocabulary of the users of taxi-hailing apps in Sri Lanka. This mixed method study used two main research instruments: podcasts and questionnaires to collect data from the participants. Based on the podcasts collected through purposive sampling, possible functional and semantic shifts that occur in the linguistic domain of taxi-hailing apps were derived. Thereafter, responses on the identified semantic shifts and functional shifts were collected from a wider sample through a questionnaire developed. From the findings, it was evident that many words including "Map", "Zip", "Trip", "Nano", "Rider" and "Nano" had undergone semantic changes, as a result of the meanings they imply in the taxi-hailing apps. In addition, the word "tukking" is added to the linguistic domain of taxi-hailing apps, adding a functional shift to the word "tuk", meaning trishaw. Moreover, it was observed that semantic shifts occur more often than the functional shifts.Therefore, it could be concluded that such linguistic shifts are inevitably linked with changes to human lives created by technological advancements.

Keywords: *Functional shift, Semantic shift, Socio-linguistics, Taxi-hailing apps*

THE IMPACT OF FOOTNOTES ON READERSHIP: WITH REFERENCE TO SINHALESE TRANSLATION OF 'THE SUN ALSO RISES'

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Using footnotes can be identified as an essential compensation strategy to translate the untranslatable despite the general opinion of readers that footnotes are a hindrance. Footnotes occur at the bottom of the page as an explanation to present the text to the reader. The present research tries to investigate the impact of using footnotes in the translation on readership and thus it aims at finding whether it provides the facility of comprehensive reading. In-depth interviews were carried out towards a sample group of 24 readers belonging to different educational backgrounds and age groups. It was identified that footnotes were used to symbolize cultural background, time frame with thematic concerns, French and Spanish terms, places, and situational phrases and words. Thus, usage of footnotes has been used as a translation strategy to introduce and render the foreign cultural essence to the local Sinhalese reader. Qualitative results of the sample group showed that readers struggled to a great extent to read without footnotes. The readers who were provided with footnotes have been able to continue reading smoothly due to sufficient explanations; however, some readers gave negative comments about the use of footnotes. The sample group has also provided recommendations and suggestions. Based on the results of the present study, it can be concluded that footnotes have both positive and negative effects on the readership.

Keywords: *Footnotes, Impact, Readership, Compensation strategy*

DO CONSTRUCTIONS WITH INANIMATE SUBJECTS IN THE SINHALA LANGUAGE POSSESS A CONFIGURATIONAL STRUCTURE?

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Previous research on the use of Sinhala language supports its configurational structure by suggesting that a relatively free word-order does not always produce a flat-structure among the constituents (Kariyakarawana, 1993, Gair 1983). However, such studies focus mainly on sentences where an animate noun occupies the grammatical subject position. Unlike some languages, the Sinhala language consists of sentences where inanimate nouns can be the grammatical subjects. The current study, therefore, examined whether the Sinhala sentences consisting of inanimate-inanimate constructions possess a configurational structure. The study employed the nature of scrambling effects to analyse the data. The tested stimuli consisted of two types of sentences in which both subject and object nouns were comprised of inanimate nouns. One set of stimuli consisted of an object noun that accompanies an inflectional marker. The study hypothesized two scenarios. First, if the sentences with no particle result in scrambling effects, it is highly likely that there is a hierarchical system within inanimate nouns during online processing in the human cognition system. Second, the sentences with the inflectional marker may illustrate scrambling effects due to the markers' information. The study employed a computer-based program, the DMDX, and the results were analysed using ANOVAs. The overall results of the study did not show any statistical significance in scrambling effects in either sentence type. This study concludes that, sentences consisting of intransitive verbs with inanimate subject and object nouns possess a non-configurational structure in the Sinhala language.

Keywords: *Sinhala language, Inanimate constructions, Configurational structure, Scrambling, Sentence processing*

BREAKING INTERGROUP BARRIERS THROUGH HETEROGLOSSIC PRACTICES: BILINGUAL EDUCATION FOR ETHNOLINGUISTIC INCLUSIVITY IN SRI LANKA

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Educational institutes have a legitimate responsibility to enhance social cohesion through cultural inclusivity. This is no exception in Sri Lanka as depicted in the National Goals of Education. Nonetheless, the very system is linguistically, and hence ethnically divided due to Mother-tongue instruction (MTI). An exception is Bilingual Education (BE) classrooms in a few bi-media schools where some subjects are delivered through English medium instruction (EMI). This enables Sinhala, Tamil and Muslim students to interact and cooperate with each other in new "socially situated conditions" (Bourdieu, 1990). This paper draws evidence from a broader inter-disciplinary qualitative study that collected, analysed and interpreted data through Pierre Bourdieu's theory of "Logic of Practice". The major findings show that shared lived experiences in multi-ethnic bilingual education classrooms facilitate the reorientation of students' identities from ethnocentricity to inclusivity. The paper focuses on how heteroglossic language policies and practices enacted in BE classrooms facilitate mutual trust and interdependence while reducing linguicism and thereby ethnocentrism. It is suggested that through cooperative group work in ethnolinguistically heterogeneous groups, the students' stereotypical intergroup misconceptions can be reduced while intercultural understanding and respect for the language of the 'other' are nurtured. The implications are significant to multiethnic societies whose systems of education are bounded by both explicit and implicit rules to ensure cultural inclusivity and social cohesion.

Keywords*: Bilingual education, Language policy, Medium of instruction, Heteroglossia, Cultural inclusivity*

SINHALA BUDDHIST NATIONALISM FROM LANGUAGE LOYALTY TO LANGUAGE DISLOYALTY IN SRI LANKA

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Language disloyalty is a sociolinguistic phenomenon – denial and loss of loyalty of native speakers to their language. An instantaneous observation of the current linguistic landscape of Sri Lanka suggests that Sinhalese people show a significant tendency to choose English over Sinhala for many purposes. Thus, the main purpose of this paper is to explore the trends towards language disloyalty among Sinhalese people. Sinhala language is important for Sinhalese ethnicity in two ways: first, it demarcates the social boundaries of the group. Second, when the history of Sinhala-Buddhist nationalism is considered, it was through language that nationalism was manifested into politics. Fuelled through nationalism, language loyalty for Sinhala language became the basis of a mass political movement and culminated in the state declaring Sinhala as the official language. This loyalty led to an unprecedented language revival and then later to many complexities and a civil war. Hence, language was the most contentious issue of nationalism and one of the focal components in the construction of Sinhala ethnic identity. In this context, linguistic behaviour of the Sinhala people at present is unique and warrants a scientific investigation. Thus, this research, exploring the trends of language disloyalty, analysed the data gathered in three different sites to observe language in use in (i) traditional Sinhala-Buddhist weddings (50 invitation cards), (ii) 410 nameboards in a predominantly Sinhala-Buddhist nationalist area and (iii) wall paintings (*thaappa chitra*) (25), which were created to show support for a nationalist leader. A qualitative descriptive analysis of data showed that 100% of the wedding cards used English. Of the nameboards observed, 74% were written only in English while only 7% were written entirely in Sinhala. Language in most of the wall paintings, which had words or phrases, had used English. Therefore, in conclusion, this data shows that Sinhala people in present Sri Lanka are being disloyal to their native language which they have fought hard throughout history at very high social, political and economic costs to preserve and develop. This linguistic behaviour indicates an interesting political paradox as it is happening at a time when nationalist politics in the country has gained momentum through electing a nationalist president and a government. Further research needs to be carried to explore why a group of people who are nationalist in many ways are being disloyal to their native language – the most significant characteristic of ethnic identity and nationalist ideology.

Keywords: *Sinhala-Buddhist nationalism, Language disloyalty, Language loyalty, Sri Lanka*

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Track 4: Communication, Media, and Society

AN ASSESSMENT OF UNDER-AGED MARRIAGES IN THE NOCHCHIYAGAMA AREA IN THE ANURADHAPURA DISTRICT

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Marriage is a basic social foundation in the human culture and a universal phenomenon. It is considered an important lawful and societal position. On the off chance that an individual gets married without satisfying these important elements, it will make their lives substantially more difficult. In a locale like Anuradhapura, underage marriages have become a serious social issue. In this study, the selected area is located in North central province, Anuradhapura District where the highest number of underage marriages were recorded. There are only a few analytical studies on under age marriage in Sri Lanka. None of the reports with statistics can be found on under age marriages whereas it has become a severe social problem. As a result of underage marriages, early child bearing can be seen island wide. The main objective of this study was to identify the factors affecting under aged marriages and to suggest solutions to minimize them. This study focuses on the different factors affecting continuous under aged marriages. Data was collected by trained data collectors. The sample was selected with the assistance of the Mid wife of the area. Forty questionnaires were completed by the 40 under aged teenage married women selected in the area. Finally the findings of the analysis and results concerning the research study were analyzed by using descriptive statistical analysis, with the aid of Microsoft excel and statistical package for social sciences (spss) . According to the study, lower levels of education of children and parents, economical problem due to low income and social issues were the major factors affecting underage marriage in this area. Underage marriages in this area can be minimized by providing them with proper education and helping them to continue their education while helping them economically. Also, continuous acknowledgement on adverse effects of underage marriages and the importance of education is crucial.

Keywords: *Marriage, Underage marriages, Social, Economical factor, Education*

CHALLENGES FOR CAREER ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN INSTIGATED BY SOCIAL TRIBULATIONS

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Women are taught to accept tribulations that arise from traditional roles, customs values, and attitudes as natural without being rational. Gender related qualities initiated from antiquity, the barriers emerged as customs, values, and attitudes within certain social communities are rarely questioned. Women, mostly in rural contexts are expected to live with the man-made behavioural roles accept them as their destiny. Also prominent is the fact that, rural women in contrast to the men are to pursuit on traditional gender roles in terms of family care and household responsibilities. In this context, only a small minority of women attain career advancement while the rest fail to attain their employment based aspirations since they are destined to pay more attention on domestic affairs. This study explores the societal elements which moderate the desires of rural women, while dealing with dissimilar concerns. The study also offers a set of recommendations. The sample consisted of 200 women in a rural setting in both Kurunegala and Monaragala districts with the representation of 100 employed and the balance 100 unemployed. The age limits specified were from 18 to 55 years. Applied data collection process included; questionnaires, focus-group discussions, case studies and observations and a further analysis done via SPSS. One of the findings was that 67% of the sample representing the unemployed category stated that they are satisfied on the decision-making processes prevailing at home settings. In contrast, 40% of the employed category of respondents expressed that they are not happy about the status of decision-making at domestic level. The study disclosed that applying for jobs after G.C.E. Advanced Level (A/L) examination or while continuing a Degree were supported in the traditional settings. Majority of respondents were un-employed due to several factors such as; disapproval of parents for applying for jobs immediately after A/L exam, influence of loved ones, inadequacy of qualifications to apply for a job or else their involvement in certificate courses. Accordingly, to empower these women in rural setting, the study recommends that a partnership oriented approach which would diagnose sensible problems needs to be initiated. Opportunities in developing careers pathways while protecting their rights in developing career opportunities need to be initiated. Establishment of National Committee for Controlling Gender Based Discrimination (NCCGBD) is identified as a crucial factor with the intention of decreasing all types of discrimination, existing within the society.

Keywords: *Career, Female's role, Gender discrimination, Rural, Social barriers*

PSYCHO-SOCIAL ISSUES FACED BY CHILD MOTHERS IN SRI LANKA

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Children who become child mothers have given birth to babies in their childhood. This is a contemporary social problem faced by many countries in the world. Therefore, the main objective of this study is to understand the psycho-social issues faced by child mothers who have become a social problem in Sri Lanka. The study focused on the psychological and social issues faced by child mothers and on actions that can be taken to minimize them. For this descriptive study, quantitative and qualitative data were collected by using direct observation, semi-structured interviews, case study and informal interviews. This study can be considered as qualitative dominant mixed research. The sample of this study was selected by the purposive sampling method. Ten child mothers from Ampara district, ten child mothers from an institution, three mothers and three fathers of child mothers and five government officers who work with child mothers were selected as the study sample. Perceptual and phenomenological approach and existential approach were used for theoretical analysis. The narrative analysis method was used for data analysis. According to the findings of the study, children who become mothers are more likely to be diagnosed with mental disorders and emotional disturbances such as having low self-esteem, suicidal thoughts, negative thoughts, nutritional problems and rejection of breastfeeding. Among social issues they face are disruption to their education, unstable family conditions, negative social image and inability to establish a plan for their future. For this reason, it is necessary to educate children on how to prevent such problems, make laws to mitigate these issues, and educate the community on such issues. There is the timely need to regularize the role of government officials dealing with child mothers.

Keywords: *Child mothers, Sri Lanka, Psychological problems, Social problems and descriptive study*

THE CURRENT STATUS OF DNA FINGERPRINTING PROCEDURES IN CRIMINAL AND CIVIL INVESTIGATIONS – AN ANTHROPOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVE

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The discovery of DNA (Deoxyribo Nucleic Acid) is considered to be the greatest discovery which revolutionized the whole genetical analysis system straight away. This unique hereditary material is considered as one of the best ways of prooving scientific elements. Therefore, it can be directly utilized to identify victims and perpetrators in crime scene investigations and resolve civil cases. Even though DNA fingerprinting technology is utilized in Sri Lanka, criminal and civil investigations consume lot of time and delay the results of the investigation procedures. Therefore, this research was conducted to find out the current status of DNA fingerprinting procedures in criminal and civil investigations. Secondary analysis and in-depth interview methods were used as a mode of data collection from the Government Analyst's Department of Sri Lanka. Randomly selected 100 negative and positive DNA records of four different crimes and civil cases which extracted five types of biological samples were studied. Further, 08 scientists of the DNA Section were interviewed through an interview and data was analysed via Microsoft Excel Application. It was revealed that blood and buccal cells are the most commonly used for DNA extractions and the majority of the cases have been matched with suspects and victims with 100% of accuracy in criminal and civil investigations. Comparatively a gradual increase in establishing parental and child support litigation can be recognized since DNA technology is the only way to prove such kind of incidents. The current status of DNA fingerprinting technology is positive and a significant improvement and influence can be seen in criminal and civil investigations. Contemporary DNA typing and profiling methods are also used in Sri Lanka. Moreover, this department is not affected by any outside interferences and works independently. Further, public awareness of the benefits and the importance of DNA databases need to be built.

Keywords: *Crime, Victim, Prove, DNA, Biological Sample*

GENDERING ABUSE ON SOCIAL MEDIA; A STUDY OF CYBER VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN ON THE SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORM FACEBOOK

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In the contemporary society, Cyber Violence against Women and Girls (VAWG) has become a common phenomenon on social media. This can be particularly seen on Facebook which is at present the most widely used social media platform in Sri Lanka. The research problem of this study is based on an examination of the gendered nature of cyber violence on Facebook. It is based on the premise that the ways and means of abuse women are subjected to on Facebook are diverse and varied. Thus, the objective of this research is to scrutinize the socio-cultural assumptions and dominant ideological beliefs and values which lead to the construct and usage of injurious content and hate speech against Sri Lankan women on this online platform. It is based on the methodology of a qualitative content analysis to survey text and visual media which provoke harassment on Facebook. These are explored by scrutinizing the gendered visual representations of offensive and misogynistic content and verbal terminologies such as sexist hate speech against women. These explorations are based on an analysis of memes, comments, images and posts which are predominantly based on two incidents which occurred between the years 2014 to 2015. Based on this qualitative content analysis, this study concludes that the sexualisation and abuse women experience on Facebook depict how the body and sexuality of women are subject to discipline and control. This is realized by deconstructing the meanings and attributes of Sinhala injurious content which vilify and denigrate women by subjecting them to abuse, ridicule, and harassment.

Keywords: *Facebook, Cyber violence against women and girls (VAWG), Online abuse, Harassment, Dominant ideologies*

THE UNTOLD STORY OF PROSTITUTION IN BUDHWAR PETH PUNE, INDIA (RED LIGHT AREA)

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This study provides a glimpse into the daily life of women living in the brothels of Pune, India, highlighting the process of acculturation and habituation of females trafficked into sex work. Participants were 30 female sex trafficking survivors, rescued from red-light establishments, and recruited from a government shelter home selected using purposive sampling. Participants were asked about their personal histories, trafficking initiation, experiences upon entry into the trade, routine activities within the brothel, and those who looked after their daily lives. Participant narratives described the brothel as a complex business enterprise comprised of many players. Females were socialized into brothel culture through the use of special treatment and favouritism, followed by, if necessary, coercion and violence. The sex workers found ways to earn as much money as possible and to protect the little money they were able to save. Some females reported forming friendships with other sex workers in the brothels, while others reported a state of perpetual competition for the affections of madams and clients. A few participants reported developing love affairs with clients. This study provides a detailed narrative account of the experience of sex trafficked females, both the traumas and the ways in which they adapt to their new daily life. Emergent themes highlight the need to recognize the psychological complexities that result from working in a brothel, which point to the necessity of intricate and client-focused rehabilitation processes to assist females in readjusting to life outside of the brothel.

Keywords: *Human trafficking, Sex work, Violence, Brothels, India*

STUDY ON THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN SOCIAL MEDIA AND SOLO-TOURIST ARRIVAL IN SRI LANKA

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Social media is one of the most powerful elements of the tourist industry. Social media such as Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, and YouTube are effective web promotion tools. Travel bloggers and social media play a vital role in destination management. For solo travellers, Sri Lanka is an attractive destination. Solo tourists are responsible people for their tours. This study attempts to find out how the selected social media channels, Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube, affect destination performance through solo tourist arrivals, and which one is most significant in this regard. Research objectives include identifying the relationship between social media and solo tourist arrivals and identifying the most significant social media channel effects with solo tourist arrivals. The researcher conducted this research by using a quantitative method. 120 (40 from each city, Colombo, Ella, Galle) solo tourists were selected according to convenient sampling techniques as the sample for this study. One of the research objectives was to identify the relationship between social media and solo tourist arrivals. According to the survey data there is a strong relationship between Facebook and tourist arrivals. YouTube and Instagram have created weak positive relationships with tourist arrivals. The second objective of this study was to identify the most significant social media channel effects with solo tourist arrivals. Based on the results from the selected social media channels, Facebook is identified as the most significant with tourist arrivals. It is recommended by both public and private destination marketing organizations in Sri Lanka to improve social media promotion to attract solo travellers to the country. Also, it is essential to establish social media according to the proper legal framework.

Keywords: *Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, Solo-tourist*

POLARIZED ETHNIC RELATIONSHIPS LEADING TO A CIVIL WAR: A STUDY BASED ON RELATIONSHIPS AMONG MAIN ETHNIC GROUPS OF SRI LANKA IN THE POST-INDEPENDENCE ERA

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Sri Lanka is a country with great ethnic diversity. Sinhala, Muslim, and Tamil ethnic communities have been living harmoniously in Sri Lanka for a long period. This harmonious relationship among these communities were polarized during the colonial era of Sri Lanka. During the pre- and post-colonial era, the ethnic segregation and polarization has increased and worsened. This paper discusses the way in which polarized relationships of ethnic groups contributed to the beginning and escalation of the civil war in Sri Lanka. The main objective of the study was to find out how polarized ethnic relationships fuelled the civil war in Sri Lanka during the period from 1983-2009. The research problem of the study is 'how polarized ethnic relationship paved the way for the ethnic conflict in post-independence in Sri Lanka'. The study is based on available secondary data extracted mainly from written sources related to the ethnic relationship of main ethnic groups in Sri Lanka. Thematic analysis was used in analysing the collected secondary data. It explored the impact of polarized ethnic relationships among ethnic groups to fuel antagonism of their relationship. Sri Lankan ethnic relationships and ethnic consciousness have been antagonized, not because of colonialism but because of ethnicization of politics and politicization of ethnicity in the post-independent period of the country. Politically used ethnic relationships thus paved the way for civil war in Sri Lanka.

Keywords: *Antagonistic, Ethnicity, Ethnic consciousness, Polarization, War*

THREE-DIMENSIONAL PERSPECTIVE ON DIGITAL ANTHROPOLOGICAL IMPACT ANALYSIS: CASE STUDY OF COVID-19 PANDEMIC

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Anthropology has both a complex and comprehensive set of studies based on man and the field of anthropology; all aspects of humanity must be studied according to its holistic approach. The new turning point in the field of anthropology, that is digital anthropology can be viewed from a dualistic perspective, both personally and socially. Theoretical explanation of this study describes the commitment of digital anthropology to the concept called holism in anthropology. Through this composition, the crucial expansion of man's journey into the digital world was elucidated through the etic, emic approaches and the aspects of human experiences. It has been demonstrated through an observational look at the Sri Lankan social environment that has arisen through the Covid - 19 epidemic. The presence of the Corona virus has caused a change in the entire Sri Lankan lifestyle. It has had an impact on the overall personal behaviour. The new culture is unfamiliar and the way to behave is different than ever. This explores the ways in which the concept of the digital is positioned in people's behaviour and how it is committed to protecting the integrity of holism in anthropology. Mainly observation and theoretical reading were used to conduct this study. Various aspects of the study of human experience in anthropology can also be regarded as a holistic approach. Accordingly, in the face of many changes in the social mechanism, digitalization of the human experience has taken place. Social change is related to the experiences of human beings in the fields of education, health, politics, economy, and religions. Digitalization also has had an impact on each of these experiences and this whole commentary explores the broader contribution of digital anthropology to the holistic approach of anthropological studies.

Keywords: *Holistic approach, Digital, Covid 19, Sri Lanka, Culture*

A CASE REPORT: WHY DO NOT PEOPLE REPORT WITNESSING CRIMES TIMELY TO SAVE LIVES?

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The author has encountered many cases of victims assaulted by a third party that could have been saved with timely medical intervention if the bystanders had intervened. A young unmarried male had been accompanied by two of his friends in a motorcycle to his home where this young man was the rider. The two friends had departed and after reaching his home the victim had parked his bike. Suddenly two other friends who had preceded his garden assaulted him with a sharp weapon to his chest. After many instant blows they had run away leaving the victim in his garden with severe bleeding. For his own survival, the victim rushed into his nearby friend's house with immense bleeding injuries. The victim's mother had been inside the house, but unfortunately she hadn't heard anything. The victim had pleaded help from the house by calling his friend's name after reaching the front steps at the main door. But not a single person opened the door and he succumbed to death. A well-equipped government hospital was very close to this place and this house owner had owned a good quality van as well to transport the patient to the hospital within 5 minutes. A young life was lost because of the delay in treatment. Though this is only one example of such occurrences, similar occurrences are not rare in Sri Lanka. As Forensic Pathologists it is our duty to voice reveal such incidents and to have a discussions with criminologists and sociologists in order to find remedial actions. The published literature is not sufficient on the topic. With available resources, the following are the facts responsible: diffusion of responsibility towards others, pluralistic ignorance, personal experience and anecdotal evidence of crime, media misinformation, the criminal is a friend, retaliation, deserving of it, traumatization and fear of revenge from the offender, reluctance to involve in arduous legal process etc. Researching into the above fact in the Sri Lankan context under victimology is recommended as this fact is under discussed.

Keywords: *Crime reporting, Victimology, Witnessing of crimes*

SOCIOLOGICAL STUDY ON SRI LANKAN INFERTILE URBAN MEN AND WOMEN COPING WITH SOCIAL STIGMA

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For most people, having children is an essential part of their life, and society associates a great value with the notion of having children. However, globally, millions of couples are confronted with the problem of childlessness caused by infertility. The subject of infertility was considered in the social sciences as a taboo since it was perceived as a 'failure'. Having limited literature on infertility in Sri Lankan social aspect, the study was built on both primary and secondary data collected. Being a South Asian country, Sri Lankan social understanding of infertility has been construed as one's inability. Consequently, the social stigmatization of infertile victims is apparent. In this context, the main purpose of this paper is to explore the coping strategies adopted by infertile men and women to subsist the social stigma of childlessness in the Colombo Municipal Council division. Considering the social need of creating a social understanding of infertility, the study was conducted adopting in-depth interviews with the childless couples treated at Castle Street Women's (Teaching) Hospital, Colombo 8. Though many biological grounds cause infertility of men and women, it was found that the social discrimination of the victims of infertility is high with regard to women's infertility: it was evident that out of the couples interviewed, 68% of men are infertile while 87.5% of women are discriminated by their extended families. To overcome the social scar of infertility many intended to receive IVF treatment since child adoption makes the couples excommunicated in their communities. Accordingly, the paper introduces coping strategies in a flow diagram. Cannibalizing Social Stigma, stress and coping, and self-determination theories are used to address phenomenon.

Keywords: *Stigma, Coping strategies, Social discrimination, Taboo*

IMPACT OF AGE AND SOCIAL CLASS ON INDIVIDUAL MUSIC PREFERENCES IN SELECTED URBAN AND SUB-URBAN AREAS IN SRI LANKA

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Age and the social class have demonstrated to be the most influential factors for music preference. However, the association of socio-demographic factors on the Sri Lankan music preference has been least experimented. The aim of this study was to explore the patterns in music preference among different socio-demographic groups in selected urban and sub-urban areas in Sri Lanka. Seventy-five individuals representing different social classes namely, upper class, upper-middle class, middle class, working-class, and poor class and three different age groups; Gen-Y (age 39 or younger), Gen-X (age 40-55) and Baby boomers (age 56-74) were instructed to rate their preference towards ten different music tracks corresponding to ten music genres (new age, romantic instrumental, gypsy music, jazz, folk, nature music, Indian Classical, Western classical, rock and hip-hop) in a 9-point visual analogue hedonic scale. Results indicated that the influence of social classes for preferred music genre was significant (p <0.05). However, neither the age nor age/social class combination was significantly associated with music preference (p <0.05). Further, regardless of the age categories, a significant higher preference for Indian Classical music was observed in the upper-middle class compared to the working class (p <0.05). This study reveals the impact of the respective social classes towards the individual music preferences of the people in the selected urban and sub urban areas of Sri Lanka. Although the impact of age and age /social class combination towards the individual music preference were not significant, trends observed in this study warrant further similar studies with increased sample size and wider array of music which would elaborate the nature of music preference in the Sri Lankan community.

Keywords: *Social class, Age category, Music preference, Interaction, Mean scores*

SOCIO - CULTURAL PROBLEMS FACED BY AUTISTIC PATIENTS AND THEIR FAMILIES: AN ANTHROPOLOGICAL STUDY

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There are many confusions in the society in relation to the childhood disorder autism. Autism is a biological disorder concerning brain which impairs a person's communication and social skills. Most studies focus primarily on educating autistic children but not on the social attitudinal issues. Therefore, the main objective of this study was to determine the social attitudinal issues faced by the Autistic patients and their families from their close social groups. The descriptive cross-sectional study design was implemented to collect data using following tools; interviews, semi structured interviews and observation - participant as observer. Research was conducted in Western and North Western Provinces in Sri Lanka by using 36 participants as the sample. A questionnaire guideline was used to collect information from six doctors and four nurses. People have started to see autism in a different manner than before without their religious, cultural, ethical spectacles about this medical condition. There is a general lack of awareness in the Sri Lankan society regarding people with disabilities, especially those with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). There is deep-seated stigma associated with disability in this country. This stigma often makes people unwilling to even admit they have a family member with a disability. Children and adults with ASD may not be taken out in public for fear of embarrassment and shame from society. As one parent from a Sri Lankan study said about her son with autism, "Sometimes when children like this are taken to places it becomes an issue to other people. We face many situations like this as his appearance is like a normal child, but people realize from his behaviour that he is a child with special needs. That is a major issue for us as his facial features are normal." The issues being discussed in relation to educational supports and practices are not just specific to Sri Lankan parents: these are global issues that parents of children with disabilities address daily. It is imperative that educators take heed and listen to parents; they are key informants about their children's education. It is important to find out parents' views and concerns regarding current educational supports and practices to plan for future services to be more effective. In this study, for example, parents unanimously expressed a need for speech and language therapists to work in schools so their children with complex communication needs can receive appropriate communication services. It is encouraging to see the growth that has taken place in the field of special education in Sri Lanka. Services have expanded to both urban and rural schools. However, it is critical to step back and evaluate current services, and to consider the needs identified through this study to further improve special education services so many more children will continue to benefit from it.

Keywords: *Physical Anthropology, Mental disorders, Autism spectrum disorder, Cultural Anthropology, Culture, Society*

A CRIMINOLOGICAL ANALYSIS ON CRIME SCENE RELATED ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS IN THE WESTERN PROVINCE OF SRI LANKA

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As a subfield of Criminology, Environmental Criminology focuses on crime patterns within particular natural and built environments and analyses the impacts of these external variables on people's cognitive behaviour. The prime intention of Criminology is prevention and control of crime, and when this is related to the ecological point of view, the environment can be separated into two broad categories as crimes against environment and crime scene related environmental factors. Identifying crime scene related environmental factors can be separated into three broad categories as natural, built, and social. Built factors can be divided into two categories as architectural and landscape factors. One of the most important, yet underdeveloped and under-utilized forms of crime control and prevention approach is the management of the environment. Based on natural as well as built environmental factors, this research expects to identify not only the way cities, neighbourhoods, public buildings and private dwellings can contribute in controlling and preventing criminal incidents, but also, the natural environment. The research study utilized the purposive sampling method, as the intention of the study was to focus on targeted crime incidents. The objective of this research was to select a diverse range of reported crime cases within the Western Province of Sri Lanka throughout 18 months (2017-2019). The selected grave crimes for the study were murder, rape, child sexual abuse, grave assault, theft, burglary, and robbery and 115 crime scenes were observed. Focusing and identifying the related ecological factors related to the crimes was intention of this Criminological research study. Thus, the data revealed three types of environmental factors linked with the examined crime scenes namely, natural, built, as well as social. The built and social eco factors have been main criminogenic factors in urban and semi-urban spaces. In semi-urban settings natural eco-elements were crime causative. Each type of serious crime observed had dominant built and social eco factors, and it varied depending on the location of the crime and the routine activities of the offender and victimized parties. Measures in controlling and preventing crime can be achieved through the management of environmental elements upon further in-depth research.

Keywords: *Built environment, Crime control and prevention, Natural environment, Social environment*

Track 5: History, Culture and Heritage

THE VINTAGE DRAPING STYLES IN SRI LANKA: SPECIAL REFERENCE TO SARI DURING THE 20TH CENTURY

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Clothing could be classified into main two categories according to the assembly of the silhouette. One is customized or tailored and other is draped. The sari is one of the most ancient draping silhouettes in the South Asian region. It has cultural, heritage and historical value and it is one of the timeless fashions in Sri Lankan female wardrobe. In this research paper, the researcher analyses sari draping styles based on the context of fashion during the twentieth century Sri Lanka. This era was prominent because most social and cultural changes occurred during this period. The research problem is how a rectangular shape of cloth unintentionally draped over the body flatteringly make different silhouette styles. The inductive qualitative methodology is used to analyse the research facts.

Keywords: *Draping styles, Sari, Sri Lanka, Vintage, Fashion*
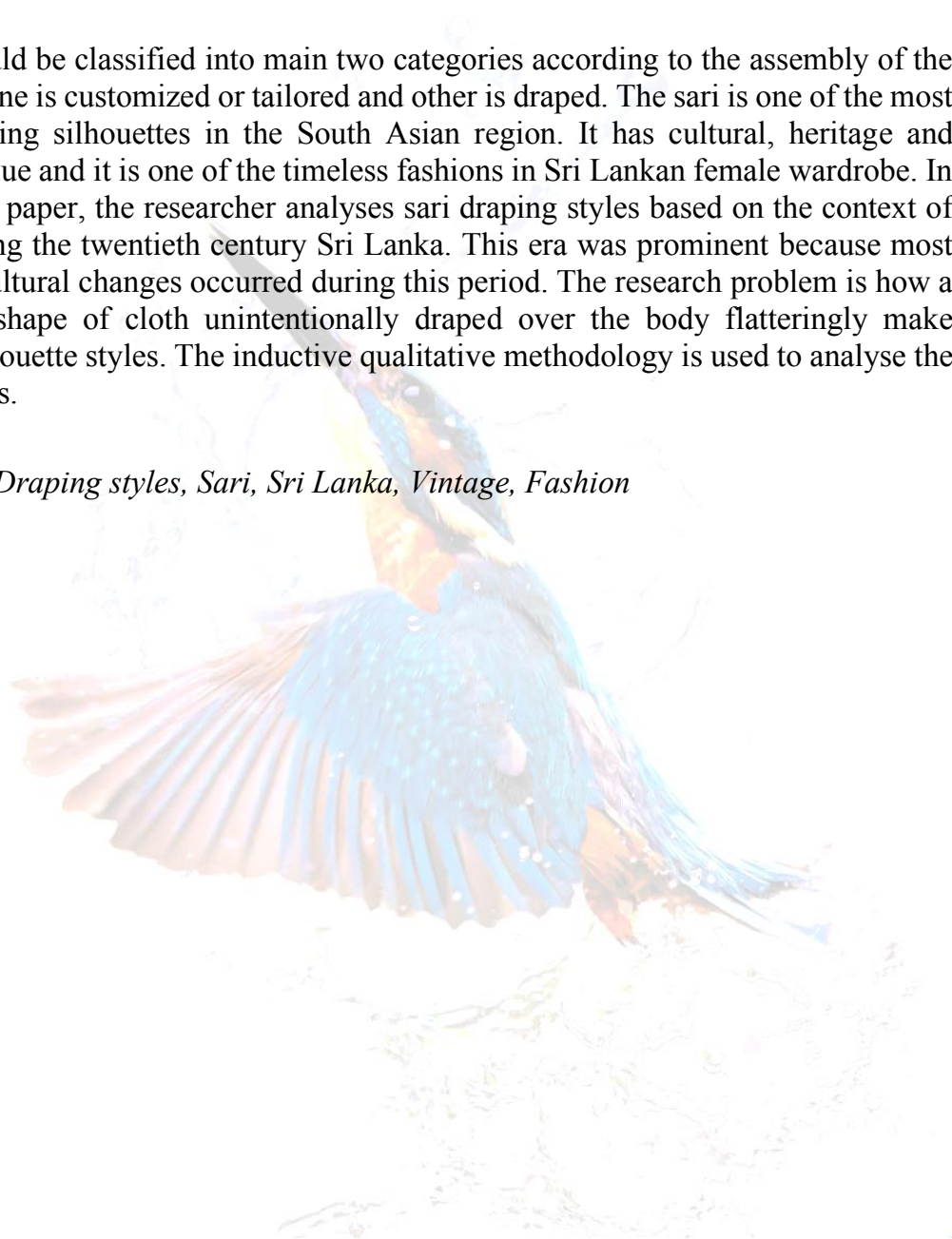
TARA IN THE SECRETUM: INEQUITY IN HOUSING THE STATUE OF TARA AT THE BRITISH MUSEUM

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The bronze statue of Tara (Circa.800 A.D.) founded near Trincomalee Sri Lanka, is currently housed in the British Museum, London. It is regarded as one of the world's most important artifacts of human history. Much obscured to the eye of the scholar enthusiastic in reporting the artistic value of this statue, stands a historical event highly related to the statue under discussion. This particular event marks the basis for this study of the statue of Tara. The British Museum under the wave of the heightened Victorian influence, created a separate room to house obscene artifacts in the name of the Secretum in 1865 through the Obscene Publication Act. As for the administration, these obscene artifacts were housed separately to protect the common population from the perils of erotica of ancient art history. Among these obscene artifacts which were hidden from the common eye was the statue of Tara. This paper examines how fair it to house the image of Tara which was: an image of religious iconography together with other artifacts which were considered to be obscene. This study is a critical analysis of the events that followed the housing of the statue of Tara at the Secretum of the British Museum. The study is done by associating primary and secondary literature related to the history of the British Museum, Museology, and Provenance of the Statue of Tara. The images provided at the British Museum website were used in identifying the religious denotations of the image of Tara. The contemporary museum guidebooks from 1800's were used together with some first-hand information from the curator Dr. David Gaimster in arriving at conclusions. It is generally believed that the objective of a museum should not be only to preserve the physical artifact but also to preserve its ideological and cultural background. Thus, the housing of the image of Tara at the Secretum is unfair in treating its ideology.

Keywords: *Statue of Tara, The Secretum, British museum, Religious iconography, Obscenity*

AN INTELLIGENT LAND SELECTION SYSTEM FOR RECOGNITION OF CULTURAL HERITAGE IN ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES: A CASE STUDY OF *MUHUDU MAHA VIHARAYA*- POTTUVIL, SRI LANKA

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The land selection methods which are cultural and environmentally appropriate are determined first and foremost by characteristics and location. Land selection in architectural construction domain is considered as an area in land use methods, which involves common sense knowledge of architects for cultural recognition. This is because land selection criteria are very personal and there is no theory behind how it should be done. Muhudu Maha Vihara is a Buddhist temple situated at Pottuvil in Ampara District. This temple, which is situated near a wide beach, has been built over 2000 years ago by King Kavan Tissa of Ruhuna. Some renovations are underway now and place will be popular among the devotees coming from the other parts of Sri Lanka. Unfortunately, there is no validated system to assess its land selection for cultural heritage. The aim of the research is to implement intelligent land selection system for recognition of cultural heritage in archaeological sites. The objectives should a) contribute to a better understanding of land classification in archaeological sites, and b) to provide guidance to describe parameters for significant evidence of cultural heritage in Muhudu Maha Viharaya. This paper presents a methodology to implement an intelligent land selection system in a sub field of architecture domain of land selection to come up with land classifications as physical, functional and social events. At the initial stage common sense knowledge in land selection is converted into a questionnaire. The questionnaire has been constructed with 31 questions. Principal component analysis has been used to remove independencies among the questions in the questionnaire. Fuzzy logic module has been used for land classification as physical, functional and social events. The system has been tested in 10 archaeological sites, of varying cognitive abilities and diagnoses of cultural heritage with interaction of architects. The principal component analyser detected 9 principal components in filtering process of survey results of 10 archaeological sites. The intelligent land selection system scored for Muhudu Maha Vihara in term of physical, functional and social as 16 %, 49 % and 35% respectively. This shows significant contribution of functional and social parameters for land selection. This enables holistic approach for land selection in archaeological sites.

Keywords: *Land selection, Cultural heritage, Intelligent land selection system, Fuzzy logic, Principal component analysis*

TECHNOLOGICAL BEHAVIOR OF THE LATE PLEISTOCENE HUMAN HABITATION AT RAJAGALA MAHA LENA ROCK SHELTER IN EASTERN PROVINCE IN SRI LANKA

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The period approximating 50 kya. relates to Mesolithic Age technological behaviours that are generally characterized by prepared Microlithic technology, an expanding range of Geometric tools, retouched tools, and the novel exploitation and sourcing of raw materials. Rajagala Archaeological site in Ampara Sri Lanka is famous for being a Buddhist temple complex from the 3rd century BCE. Preliminary investigations revealed that prehistoric human activity took place in the natural cave of the area before the third century BC. Accordingly, from 2016 to 2019, a selected cave called Maha Lena was excavated for further investigation. Stone tools found in Rajagala are part of the tradition of Microlithic tools used in the Mesolithic period. This tradition has been in use in Sri Lanka for approximately 50,000 years. However, the evidence from Rajagala is important because the information found in the Eastern Province is important to understand the country's prehistoric information. In addition to that, the knowledge and information about technology and mankind in the Eastern Province are scarce.

Keywords: *Rajagala, Mesolithic, Lithic, Technology, Prehistory.*

THE ADAPTIVE REUSE OF HISTORICAL BUILDINGS IN KANDY: CASE STUDY ON ADAPTIVE REUSE OF KANDY MAMPITIYA WALAWWA

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Cities and villages are commercialized over time and people have a tendency to demolish heritage buildings or use them for a different purposes. In the early days, there was no theoretical background to this reuse, but with the advancement of archaeology and architecture, reuse has become a subject. Accordingly, the architecture of the "Walawwa", which is a kind of a house that is connected higher caste and power in the Kandy district spread to the low country. Mampitiya Walawwa in Kandy town in the Kandy District is one of the eighteen Walawas belonging to the Kandyan elite. After the conquest of the Kandyan Kingdom by the British in 1815, the Walawwas' and some other buildings were repaired and re-used as British quarters. The Mampitiya Walawwa in King Street was also converted by the British to a party hall. After Sri Lanka gained independence from the British in 1948, the monument was converted into a hotel. Today this hotel is known as the "Royal Bar and Hotel". Accordingly, Walawwa is no longer used as a home but for a different purpose. This concept of "reuse" is being implemented, especially in European countries, and the main objective of the concept is to reduce the time, wealth, labor and environmental pollution that is required to build new buildings. When this adaptive reuse comes to Mampitiya Walawwa, is the modern use fit into this heritage building? Have the monument's heritage values been damaged by the changes or not is the research problem in this paper. The objective of this research is to investigate the challenges, pros and cons of adaptive reuse in the context of reused heritage building, Mampitiya Walawwa in Kandy and to inform researchers to minimize potential problems in adaptive reuse of historical buildings in future. In addition, it is possible to identify some traditions of Kandyan architecture that fade away with the demise of the building. And also, this building displays how European architecture influenced and blended with Kandyan architecture.

Keywords: *Adaptive reuse, Pilimathalawa, Walawwa , Conservation, Cultural Heritage*

A STUDY ON THE IMPACT OF CULTURE & HERITAGE ATTRIBUTES ON TOURIST SATISFACTION (WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO ANURADHAPURA)

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Culture and heritage of a country express the values of its historical importance. The value of cultural heritage of Sri Lanka can be converted to an economic value based on the tourism operations. The study is based on the Anuradhapura cultural heritage site. Also, this research study was conducted to clarify whether cultural and heritage attributes affect tourists' satisfaction. Study objectives are to identify the current level of tourist satisfaction regarding destination attributes in Anuradhapura and to find out the important attributes that can effectively attract local and foreign tourists to Anuradhapura cultural/heritage sites. Data was collected by using a five-point Likert scale questionnaire and the study sample was 200 tourists, who were selected by using a convenience sampling technique. The findings illustrated that there is a weak positive relationship between cultural heritage destination attributes and tourists' satisfaction.

Keywords: *Culture and heritage, Tourist satisfaction, Destination attributes*

AN ANTHROPOLOGICAL STUDY OF GAME DANAYA IN KELAWA VILLAGE

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Religion, worships and beliefs form a considerable part of the culture. Cultural anthropology studies the relationship between religion, worships and beliefs in human society. Religion consisting of worships and beliefs constitute an important social institution in anthropology. Regardless of the scientific advancements, beliefs in supernatural forces are still found in operation within the society. Close to the cascade system of Bellankadawala, Purana Wewa is a shrine built by the villagers using the items found in the forest where they worship the gods Katharagama and Kadawara annually by conducting an alms-giving ritual called Game Danaya to secure their lives and crops. The research studies the impact of this ritual, conducted with the initiative of the traditional leaders of the area on the rural life. The main objective was to investigate the cultural elements, specialties of this religious practice and their social impact. It aims to look at how the tank environment and agriculture is protected by this ritual. The research was conducted in the Gramaniladhari Division of 593 Kelawa of Palugaswewa Divisional Secretariat, Anuradhapura District. Out of the 404 families, 30 families were studied the day before the ritual is conducted, and 80 persons were selected using convenient sampling on the days the ritual is performed. Purposive sampling was used to select the key persons who perform the ritual; Muruthan Kapuwa, village heads and his three relatives, the chief exorcist, chief incumbent of the temple, a teacher and a head farmer. In addition to the participant observation method, in depth interviews were conducted with these key persons. Collected data was analysed by narrative analysis and it focused on using the stories and experiences shared by people to answer the research question. It was identified that the supernatural beliefs of the villagers remain intact even today, and the respect of the village leaders for the ritual ensures its continuity. The beliefs have made an enormous contribution to the preservation of the irrigation system as well as the agriculture-centred culture. It is conclusive that the cultural elements, even in the modern society, develop the collective consciousness of the society, which in return preserves the economic and environmental aspects and the rural life identical to the village.

Keywords: *Bellankadawala, Wewa, Culture, Game Danaya, Rituals*

RIGHT TO HEALTH IN HUMAN RIGHTS LAW AND RIGHT TO HEALTH IN ANCIENT SRI LANKA: AN OVERVIEW

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Right to health is a basic human right accepted by the international human rights instruments such as Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR). The right to health is considered as inseparable or indivisible right from other rights. The World Health organization (WHO) had set out basic standards on health and States had taken steps to safeguard the right to health of people of their countries by providing necessary health facilities. The present generation enjoys the right to health with well-organized health care system and Constitutions of some countries guarantee the right to health as a human right, though the Constitution of Sri Lanka has not explicitly included the said rights as a fundamental rights guaranteed under the Constitution. Hence, it is worthwhile to examine the ancient health system and medical facilities in Sri Lanka with regard to the right to health. Thus, this study seeks to overview the right to health in ancient Sri Lanka in historical perspective and right to health in present context considering contemporary human rights discourse. The position of right to health in present context under human rights law and the position of right to health in ancient Sri Lanka was the problem of this research. This research was done as a desk research based on secondary data. Study findings reveal in comparison to the present context, people in ancient Sri Lanka enjoyed the right to health and there was a well-developed and well-organized health care system and medical facilities in ancient Sri Lanka similar to the present health care system.

Keywords: *Human rights, Right to health, Constitution, Historical Perspective*

NUTRITIONAL CONSTITUENTS AND FOOD CULTURE OF EARLY HUMANS IN DRY ZONE: BASED ON FAUNAL REMAIN ANALYSIS OF RAJAGALA MAHALENA EXCAVATION SITE

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Zooarchaeological specimens are rich in both biological and cultural data and the study of faunal assemblages from archaeological sites provide important information about the socio-cultural lifestyle of early humans. However, the food and nutrition of early humans, their dietary patterns, the nutrients they received, and the sufficiency of nutrients were not much discussed in relation to faunal remain analyses. Therefore, this research attempted to find out the food consumption and its nutritional constituents of Homo sapiens sapiens that lived in dry zone areas through faunal remain analysis. The faunal remains excavated in 2018 and 2019 from Rajagala Mahalena excavation site, located in Ampara District in Sri Lanka were used for this study. The carefully washed, dried, sorted and labelled faunal specimens were used for the analysis. Remains from all contexts were collected from the excavation store and off-site methodology was used for the identification of remains by comparing the reference collection with excavated bone collection. Among the faunal assemblages collected, nearly 34 species belonged to six major taxonomic classes representing Mammalia, Reptilia, Aves, Pisces Gastropoda and Bivalvia. Large animals with more meat such as wild cats, leopards, buffaloes, deer, wild pigs etc. can be considered as the traditional sources of Proteins. Reptile species such as land monitors, hard-shelled and soft-shelled tortoises are also rich in proteins and fat which give more strength to human body, in addition to fish, birds were also included in the diet. The results show that hunting-gathering subsistence pattern and the environment they occupied were challenging and required lot of energy to maintain their lives. It is evident that proteins and fats provided higher calories and contain minerals and vitamins which are essential for brain development, to build tissues, bones and better functioning of skeletal joints. The quantitative analysis of the remains has given information on animal food preference of early humans and the role of animals in food and foraging economics of early human population.

Keywords: *Zooarchaeology, Food preference, Foraging economics, Hunter-gatherers, Animal bones*

A STUDY OF MEDIEVAL POPULATION IN SRI LANKA WITH REFERENCE TO LITERARY SOURCES

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Much research has been done on the medieval history of Sri Lanka, but not much attention has been paid to comparison of distribution and statistics of contemporary population to the medieval period. Some research is available on Polonnaruwa and the Dambadeniya periods separately at different intervals. These studies were limited to a single epoch and do not provide information on the population of the entire medieval period. Thus, research on the demographic details of Sri Lanka during the medieval period is scarce. Reliable statistics on the population of Sri Lanka date back to around 1871, the period of the British rule. Therefore, it is difficult to comment on the population of Sri Lanka during the historical periods, such as Anuradhapura, Polonnaruwa, Rajarata, and particularly when the southwestern kingdoms were active from the 13th century to the modern period and the Kandyan period. However, the periodical sources of literary sources such as Poojavaliya, Nikaya Sangrahaya, Rajavaliya, and Dambadeni Asna written in connection with the reign of Parakramabahu the Great in Polonnaruwa (c. 1153-1186) and the reign of Parakramabahu II in Dambadeniya (c. 1236-1270 CE) report some information regarding the population of the country at the same time. The current study intends to explore the number of people lived in the country during the medieval period based on the information given in the literary sources. This research is being done with the objective of researching whether it is possible to accept those quantities as true and this is a comparative study. This research employs a qualitative data analysis. The findings are based on a comparative analysis of contemporary literary sources written during the research period, comparing the current population figures with those in the literature. The historical literary sources of the Poojavaliya, Nikaya Sangraya and Rajavaliya describe how King Parakramabahu mobilized his forces to lead the South Indian invasion. Also, the literary source, Dambadeniya Asna discusses about the villages that were involved in the Dalada Pooja during the reign of King Parakramabahu II. An exploration of these sources reveal that Sri Lankan population was larger than the current population between the 12th and 14th centuries. However, the comparison of population now (i.e. current censes reports) and then (i.e. medieval period) has limitations. One such limitation is the reliability of the information. That is, one has to be careful in reaching conclusions as the information related to the medieval period is limited and the sources are often written for other purposes as well. Therefore, more exploratory type of field research- excavations are needed is this area to support the findings in this study and to draw definite conclusions regarding the population in the medieval Sri Lanka.

Keywords: *Medieval period, Sri Lanka, Literary sources, Polonnaruwa, Dambadeniya*

Track 6: Technology, Innovation and Education

RECOGNIZING RED FLAGS OF ACCOUNTING NUMBER ANXIETY: A PSYCHOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVE OF ACCOUNTING LEARNERS

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The psychological reasoning has been neglected in many learning theories that have been primarily developed to address the learning incapacities. Consequently, in the field of numerical studies, number anxiety as an element of psychological reasoning may exercise substantial negative effect on students learning process but it is yet to be integrated into learning theories. Hence, to fill the gap the study has focused on the red flags of the number anxiety and its effect on students' accounting learning process. To cater to this purpose the study has advocated qualitative-phenomenological approach for which 20 tertiary level students studying accounting in management stream in Uva Wellassa University were interviewed to determine their perceptions and understandings on accounting anxiety. Accordingly, the study has classified the number anxiety academic symptoms as psychological and behavioural. The findings proved that the majority of participants (80%) have experienced physical symptoms ranging from increased heartbeat to diarrhoea. Further, the study has identified behavioural symptoms such as; inferiority, paranoia, passive behaviour, a feeling of permanency, lack of confidence, reliance, quandary, and deceitful. Notably, a significant number of students showed lack of confidence (75%) and a high reliance on others (100%). Finally, the study recommends using corporative teaching-learning strategies that articulate preparation, practice, intervention and cultural artefacts. Thus, the study contributes to the academic field by explaining psychological symptoms of accounting number anxiety and foregrounding more rigorous strategies to reduce number anxiety.

Keywords: *Accounting number anxiety, Physical symptoms, Behavioural symptoms*

DEVELOPING A PROFILE TO IMPROVE COMPETITIVENESS IN DEBATING OF UNDERGRADUATES WITH MATHEMATICAL LOGIC

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Competing lies in the heart of every debate and it can be considered useful for the undergraduates of the degree programme in specialization of Human Resource Management. In recent years one trend has been to argue that it is necessary to intervene 'strategically' in such debating competitions. Educators seeking to develop thinking skills would likely consider their efforts largely successful if students became proficient in advancing, critiquing, and defending claims in reasoned discussions with peers. The proof of a good debate lies in the skills of the debaters to convey their message to present their arguments convincingly and to rebuild the arguments of their opponents in a logical and persuasive way. Oral mathematical communication can be used as a tool to communicate effectively in such debating process. Our work is to motivate the management undergraduate students by providing strategies for debating competitions with the connection of mathematical logic reasoning concepts. The research was a qualitative study. Participants were selected from final year students of BBM Honours in Human Resource Management pundergraduate programme at Vavuniya Campus who are involved in debate competitions. Data was collected through in-depth interviews. The transcribed data was translated into mathematical language based on the theoretical framework of oral mathematical communication. Finally, the study developed an algorithm for the demonstration of debate competition by mathematical logic reasoning.

Keywords: *Argument, Debate, Mathematical logic, Oral mathematical communication, Debating strategies*

KNOWLEDGE SYNTHESIS AMONG PHYSICAL EDUCATION STUDENTS

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Knowledge sharing is recognized as an important competence that sports students need to develop. The learning environment should motivate knowledge exchange and critical thinking among sports students. Therefore, this study developed and evaluated a knowledge synthesis framework for improving university students' creativity based on a blended knowledge-management (KM) model that integrates six core processes of KM: knowledge sharing, knowledge acquisition, knowledge creation, knowledge storage and knowledge application. The physical education students who represent a particular university for national level games in Sri Lanka have been selected for this study. The case study was conducted using participants of the inter university games 2019. Data were inductively and deductively analysed, resulting in the development of a knowledge synthesis model for the undergraduate students. A total of 159 participants from one university were used for this study. Mixed research method was used to generalize the findings with other physical education students. This research illustrated that KM principles to be placed on a continuum from explicit to tacit (with experience) so that competitive advantage of tacit and experience knowledge can make team members transfer knowledge with each other. Findings of this study emphasized that while knowledge synthesis should be considered important, cross functional team learning and culture, attitudes and behaviours of the sportsmen, and rewards systems were inadequate to address an effective management of knowledge among these students. We believe the results can support other physical education students to improve sharing of knowledge and learning practices.

Keywords: *Knowledge sharing, Knowledge transfer, Knowledge synthesis*

EFFECTS OF INNOVATION AND PERCEIVED EASE OF USE ON ADOPTION OF ONLINE LEARNING

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Adoption of Online Learning (AOOL) is a contemporary phenomenon. The present study analyses the relationship of innovation (INNO) and Perceived Ease of Use (PEOU) variables on AOOL in the context of Sri Lankan international schools whilst identifying the effects of different subject categories and moderation effect of student's grade/age towards AOOL. Correlation, ANOVA, hierarchical regression, Hayes's process tools were used for data analysis. Empirical evidence supported the positive relationship of INNO and PEOU variables towards AOOL by correlation analysis and hierarchical regression analysis. Presence of differences in AOOL between the students engaged in aesthetic subjects and science subject categories were also supported by contrast test of ANOVA while the Hayes's process for moderation analysis has suggested that the relationship between INNO and AOOL is being moderated by student's age. Owing to time constraints, research is limited only to a quantitative, cross sectional study. Originality is the identification of INNO constructs in the present context and extending technology acceptance model (TAM) along with additional variables in explaining AOOL given the rapid changes taking place in online education field. Suggestions are postulated for future research.

Keywords: *Education, Innovation, Online learning, Perceived ease of use, Sri Lanka*

USING THE OPEN GROUP ARCHITECTURE FRAMEWORK (TOGAF) FOR QUALITY ASSURANCE IN HIGHER EDUCATION TEACHING AND LEARNING

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Quality assurance in higher education institutes mainly focus on standardizing the higher education while improving the relevance of degree programs. Nevertheless, current quality assurance mechanisms, particularly in developing countries, heavily rely on a document based manual review process. Given the drawbacks associated with such a processes the necessity of a technology-based solutions is being recognized. Even though information system applications are widely used nowadays by the universities to increase the efficiency, quality improvement aspects have not been given due focus. Existing higher education quality assurance frameworks have highly considered the teaching and learning as a key area to be assured the quality. This study demonstrates how the Open Group Architecture Framework (TOGAF) based business architecture can be used to analyse and improve the existing teaching and learning process in higher education as an integral part of quality assurance.

Keywords: *Quality assurance, Higher education, Business architecture, TOGAF*

A STUDY ON NEEDS FOR IMPROVING AUTHENTIC ASSESSMENT COMPETENCIES OF PRE-SERVICE TEACHER TRAINEES IN A NATIONAL UNIVERSITY IN SRI LANKA

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The assessment methods have a significant impact on students' approaches to learning. Bachelor of Education (B.Ed.) is a pre-service teacher education program conducted in Universities and institutions of Higher Education. Trainees after completing the theoretical course work which includes a course unit on Educational Measurement and Assessment, embark on a supervised teaching practicum in schools where they attempt to apply the theoretical knowledge into hands-on practice. They are expected to reflect on their practices during teaching practice. This paper presents the B.Ed. teacher trainees' reflective perceptions on learning assessment practices adopted during teaching practicum and an analysis of needs for improving Authentic Assessment (AA) competencies. The study adopted a quantitative dominant mixed method based on one B.Ed. program with a longstanding implementation. Data were collected through questionnaires and interviews of 80 pre-service teacher trainees (PSTTs) of Sinhala (50), Tamil (15) and English (15) study streams. Findings revealed that PSTTs designed assessment tasks based on learning outcomes as it is the most important element as they had learned during the program. 45% of responses revealed that they planned assessments considering subject objectives rather than learning outcomes. PSTTs perceived that the individual written assessments are high in trustworthiness and high importance as they would help to familiarize students to face national examinations. Trustworthiness on group assessments, individual and group performance assessments were low implying the need to change the concept of assessment deeply rooted in them. 77.5% expected to gain more knowledge on 'Five-Dimensional Framework for AA'. Although conventional assessments are widely practiced, the PSTTs aspired to adopt new trends of assessment. 83.75% felt they needed more practical experiences of ICT based AA. No significant differences were found across three study streams according to chi-square test. The findings suggest that a reorientation of the implementation of the B.Ed. module is needed to unlearn the deeply rooted misconception that 'assessment' is equivalent to national examinations. The major changes to be considered are to incorporate theory and practice on AA techniques and ICT integrated assessment.

Keywords: *Assessment competencies, Authentic assessment, Pre-service teachers, Bachelor of Education*

PUBLIC PERCEPTIONS OF THE PUBLIC SERVICE- FINDINGS FROM THE CEYLINCO GENERAL INSURANCE LIMITED

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In the context of rapid globalization and the rebalancing of the world economy towards developing countries, world recognizes that relationship of public sector and private sector is essential to ensure the continuing ability of businesses to compete in the international marketplace. Private sector companies are potentially the main beneficiaries when the public sector provides productive services; equally, they can be seriously held back from innovating themselves and from being profitable when public services do not deliver. The main objective of this study is to identify the private Sector Employees' (PSE) Perception towards Public service in Sri Lanka. This study was carried out selecting a random sample of one hundred and fifty PSE representing Ceylinco Insurance Pvt Ltd. Data were gathered based on interviewed questionnaire method. Descriptive analysis, Multivariate analysis and Factor analysis were used. A specific composite index construction methodology-based weights on multiple corresponding analysis was applied to measure the level of people's Idea about Public Sector (IPS), Effectiveness and Efficiency of Public Sector (EEPS), Knowledge about Public Sector (KPS). Results indicated that 52% use government services because they do not have any other option. 83% believe outdated rules and regulations are barriers to government organizations while 76% believe low IT penetration and 68% inefficiency employees. The workers who previously worked in government sector have better perception towards the public sector more than those who did not. Data were analysed using quantitative methods. All indices EEPS, KPS and IPS of the PSE were negatively skewed respectively with median values of 78.63, 68.32 and 67.79. Factor analysis was performed with 14 statements related to perception towards the public sector. The Cronbach alpha was 0.8631 and significant supported the use of factor analysis in order to extract independent variables associated with perception towards the public sector. The degree of common variance among the fourteen variables is "mediocre" which reflects if a factor analysis is conducted, the factors extracted will account for the fair amount of variance but not a substantial amount. Factors which decide the perception towards the public sector are efficiency and effectiveness problems, technological barriers, absence of user friendliness, personal attitudes and time consumption. Finally, strengthening the customer relationship, improving effectiveness and efficiency, removing technological barriers, creating user friendly environment, changing the personal attitudes of public servants can be given as recommendations.

Keywords: *Private sector, Public sector, Perception, Effectiveness, Attitudes*

INFORMATION COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY (ICT) SKILLS OF IN-SERVICE TEACHER TRAINEES: WHERE ARE WE IN THE PROCESS OF DEVELOPING ICT COMPETENCE FROM THE PEDAGOGICAL DIMENSION?

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'ICT competence for all' is a mission of the system of education in Sri Lanka. The need to design ICT- enabled education settings for meaningful learning is becoming a priority. To enable the teacher trainees to design and implement teaching and learning processes, certain digital skills are necessary to be developed. In this context the pioneering teacher education program established by the Faculty of Education implement an ICT module in all its undergraduate and postgraduate professional education programs. In order to identify the necessary developments to the module framework it was necessary to identify the perceived competencies of teacher trainees who followed the module. The study used a quantitative dominant mixed method to identify the perceived ICT skills of a sample of in-service teacher trainees enrolled from all parts of Sri Lanka in the Postgraduate Diploma in Education program. Trainees responded on their use of ICT and internet to an online questionnaire. Analysis revealed that 50% of in-service teacher trainees used computer and internet at home and cyber cafes and used multimedia projectors for ICT lesson delivery in schools. It was found that 55% of teacher trainees were able to use search engines, create an email account on their own, make simple power point presentations, use MS-Excel, MS-Word and MS-Access for lesson development with guidance. When reviewing the trainee responses on ICT adoption against the framework on perspectives of the levels of ICT integration from pedagogical dimension by UNESCO standards (2016) it can be inferred that the module implemented has accomplished the Competencies 1 and 2, which are referred with action verbs 'Design' and 'Implements' respectively in the ICT integration. However, in the ladder of competencies there are further aspects of developments to take into consideration. With the current trend in introducing blended learning to teacher education, this module can be improved to reach highest levels of ICT adoption from a pedagogical dimension.

Keywords: *ICT competence in the Pedagogical dimension, Teacher trainees, ICT Adoption*

PERCEPTIONS OF PARTICIPANTS ON ONLINE LEARNING IN THE OUTBREAK OF COVID-19

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Corona pandemic wreaked havoc across the world perilously hitting the education system. The comparative case study with tertiary students in Sri Lanka and New Zealand to compare their perceptions on online learning during the outbreak of the COVID-19. Tertiary institutes closed their doors shifting students and staff to move to on-line process without prior notice or training. In-depth interviews were conducted, and thematic analysis were done using N vivo software. However, it was revealed that 87% Sri Lankan students struggled in new learning space while it is 34% in New Zealand; this gap is seen across social norms and cultural values. It was revealed that in both countries, students faced cyber security issues and bullying and gender discrimination issues. It was also revealed that both the countries have similar issues in online learning and teaching such as lack of reliable internet access and technology. Therefore, it is recommended that the teachers should be more competent since the learners are digital natives while teachers are digital immigrants.

Keywords: *Online learning, Perceptions, Technology*

MATHEMATICS TEACHERS' BELIEFS OF LOW ACHIEVEMENT AMONG STUDENTS AT THE JUNIOR SECONDARY LEVEL OF EDUCATION IN SRI LANKA AND THEIR IMPLICATIONS FOR SCHOOL BASED TEACHER DEVELOPMENT (SBTD)

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The purpose of this paper is to understand the teachers' beliefs of students' low achievement in mathematics at the junior secondary level of education and their suggested strategies for improvement of student achievements. A qualitative approach was used to investigate three research questions: (a) what are the beliefs of teachers towards students' low achievement in mathematics? (b) What strategies do they implement or suggest for improving achievements? (c) What are the implications of their beliefs for policy, practice, and research? Structured interviews were used to collect data from fifty mathematics teachers selected from a multi staged sample of fifty schools in the Central Province of Sri Lanka. Three main themes of teachers' beliefs about students' low achievement emerged in the analysis of data. First, students' factors affecting mathematics achievements, mainly focused on students' interests, attitudes and motivations, prior knowledge, language ability and cognitive skills such as memory, attention, logical thinking and reasoning. Second, factors pertaining to students' home environment, which included parent's education level, their attitudes towards education and level of intelligence. Third, factors related to school, which included the lack of human and physical resources, teacher's workload, and the support of the principal. Most of the teacher's belief include their current and suggested strategies included providing more physical resources such as math laboratories, more space and technology in the classroom, providing adequate time and opportunities to interact with other mathematics teachers, opportunities to share in-service training experiences, increasing frequency of testing, providing practice tests, conducting extra classes and the use of new teaching methods. Thus, the teachers' beliefs of students' low achievement appear to be mostly focused on aspects that can be addressed at the school levels through classroom-based action research and SBTD.

Keywords: *Teachers' beliefs, Mathematics achievement, Action research, SBTD*

DEVELOPING SERVICE PROCESS REPOSITORIES FOR HEALTHCARE KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT

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Business processes manifest the business knowledge and related logics. As it becomes more common for organizations to describe their operations in terms of business processes, it is necessary to establish a Business Process Repository (BPR) to manage thousands of process models while providing capabilities for effective sharing of valuable business knowledge. Knowledge Management (KM) is the process through which organizations generate value from their intellectual and knowledge-based assets. Although, KM practices have been adopted in many businesses, the healthcare industry has been slow to adopt such principles and concepts. Healthcare is experiencing an exponential growth in the scientific understanding of diseases, treatments, and care pathways. Unfortunately, healthcare enterprises are 'knowledge poor' because the healthcare data is rarely transformed into a high-quality patient care. Considering, all these factors, it is not consequently surprising that KM practices need attention from the healthcare industry.

Keywords: *Knowledge management, Business process repositories, Health care*

EMPLOYABILITY SURVEY OF ARTS GRADUATES WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO A STATE UNIVERSITY IN COLOMBO

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Employability is about getting and maintaining a satiating job with the assistance of education and experience. The aim of this research is to explore the status of graduate employability, its accomplishments, strengths, challenges and issues. The study was conducted at the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, in a state University in Sri Lanka during 2017- 2019. All the students who have completed the requirements of the degree and were eligible for the general convocation for the years 2017, 2018 and 2019 were selected for the survey. Both Bachelors and Honours degree holders were included in the sample. Interviewee administered questionnaire was used to obtain data. 522 students out of 808 in 2016, 788 out of 838 in 2018 and 768 out of 871 in 2019 have responded respectively in each year. Number of male students were less compared to the females in each batch. Number of employed graduates after the first six months of graduation was recorded as 20.9% in 2017, 12.2% in 2018 and 17.5% in 2019. The employment rates of the Honours degree programme was 36.5% in 2017, 12% in 2018 and 16.8% in 2019 respectively and recorded 32.4% in 2017, 11.7% in 2018 and 17.7% in 2019 respectively for bachelor's degree program. In contrast the employability of ICT graduates in 2017 is 100% and 44.40% in 2018 and 54.55% in 2019, respectively. English Language graduates too show a satisfactory employability status indicating an average of 70% of employability each year. According to the data the rate of employment depends on the fields of specialization. The subject fields that have more technical advancements and applied components have a better opportunity in the job market. Number of graduates registering for postgraduate degrees after finishing their first degree has decreased. A majority of the graduates work on temporary or on contract basis (52% in 2017, 43% in 2018 and 59% in 2019 respectively). Of the students who have graduated in 2019, 18 students were able to continue their internship even after the completion of the degree. A majority of the graduates work on temporary or contract basis (52% in 2017, 43% in 2018 and 59% in 2019 after the 6 months of graduation). It can be concluded that an average of six months is not sufficient for an Arts graduate to find proper employment. Proper instruction on career guidance and improving the quality of the internship program are needed. Providing more opportunities will enhance the skills that are expected from the Arts graduates by the industry.

Keywords: *Study disciplines, Employability, Arts graduates, Education, Sri Lanka*

Symposium on Language Teaching and Learning

WHICH IS THE MOST EFFECTIVE TECHNIQUE FOR INDUCING LEARNERS' ATTENTION TO WRITTEN CORRECTIVE FEEDBACK (WCF): REVISION OR DISCUSSION? APPROMIMATE REPLICATION OF EKANAYAKA AND ELLIS (2020)

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The present study replicated Ekanayaka and Ellis (2020) which adopted two ways of inducing attention to Written Corrective Feedback (WCF) – asking learners to revise their texts following feedback individually and asking them to review the corrections in peer discussion. The current study examined the effects of direct semi-focused WCF on 91 first year undergraduates learning English at a University in Sri Lanka over a 4-week period. The study was quasi-experimental involving two experimental groups: (1) the first group received WCF with an opportunity to revise their writing following WCF; (2) the second group received WCF with an opportunity to discuss the errors in pairs. There was also a control group that completed the writing tasks without receiving WCF or opportunity to revise/review. All three groups completed three problem solution writing tasks, one each week. Data were analyzed using obligatory occasion analysis (Ellis and Barkhuizen, 2005). The results confirm largely Ekanayaka and Ellis's (2020) results. Both the experimental groups gained in accuracy in new writing tasks more than the control group. However, the requirement of revision following WCF proved to be more effective than peer discussion. Students also perceived being asked to revise their writing individually as more helpful than discussing corrections in pairs.

Keywords: *Written corrective feedback, Revising, Peer-discussion, New writing, Grammatical accuracy*

DEVELOPING EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS THROUGH PEER-ASSESSMENT

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Assessment is traditionally used to help teachers and other stakeholders gather data regarding student achievement, measure performance and ability. Consequently, the potential of assessment to enhance learning and develop other skills is often ignored. However, learner-centred alternative assessment methods which are more integrated into teaching and learning have drawn much attention in the recent past due to various benefits they offer. Among the alternative assessment methods, peer-assessment has become popular in higher education at present. Peer-assessment not only creates a learner-centred assessment method but also helps students develop a number of skills including employability skills. The development of employability skills has become an increasingly important topic in higher education today. Although peer-assessment is believed to enhance various skills, conventional paper-based assessment remains the norm of most of the educational programmes including university level English as a Second Language (ESL) courses in Sri Lanka. Therefore, the present study sets out to explore the potential of per-assessment to develop students' employability skills drawing a sample of 91 students and six teachers from a university in Sri Lanka. Learners' and teachers' perception about the potential of peer-assessment to enhance employability skills is examined using a closed-ended questionnaire, open-ended questionnaire, focus group discussions, one-to-one interviews, and written reflections. Participants of the present study generally held positive perceptions about peer-assessment and believed that peer-assessment helped them enhance various employability skills including teaching skills, independent evaluative skills, professional collaboration and teamwork, communication skills, negotiation skills and listening skills. Therefore, despite the small sample size, this paper finds peer-assessment an appropriate viable form of alternative assessment method and recommends teachers, educators and material writers in higher education institutes to consider using learner centred peer-assessment in their courses in order to enhance the employability skills of the students.

Keywords: *Peer-assessment, Alternative assessment, Employability skills, ESL*

INVESTIGATING UNDERSTANDING OF ACADEMIC LITERACY IN ENGLISH MEDIUM DEGREE PROGRAMMES AMONG STAKEHOLDERS IN SRI LANKAN HIGHER EDUCATION

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With the proliferation of English Medium Degree Programmes (EMDPs) around the world, there is an increasing need to provide academic and linguistic support for undergraduates whose first language is not English who are enrolled in these programmes. While providing this support has been traditionally considered the responsibility of the language lecturer, there is increasing awareness of two emerging factors: (a) the generic English as a Second Language (ESL), English for Academic Purposes (EAP) English for Specific Purposes (ESP) courses conducted by English language lecturers are inadequate to support students as they make the transition to English Medium Instruction (EMI) and (b) language and content lecturers need to work closely in order to develop curricula, lesson material and assessments that enable students to perform optimally in their EMDPs. This paper introduces the concept of academic literacy to Sri Lankan Higher Education (SLHE) and emphasizes the need for the development of the academic literacy of the undergraduates of Sri Lankan universities. Despite mainstreaming academic literacy being the optimum approach in the EMI context, executing it in Sri Lanka is challenging. The researchers view the acquisition of academic literacy as an additive process where it is the logical next step after the acquisition of ESL and EAP/ESP. This study collects data by (a) interviewing lecturers and undergraduates and (b) analysing official documentation of nine faculties of three state universities. Data analysis has been done through Qualitative Content Analysis (QCA). Findings of this study indicate that there are several challenges to developing undergraduates' academic literacy in SLHE.

Keywords: *Academic literacy, English medium degree Programmes, Sri Lankan higher education*

A TESTING AND EVALUATION-BASED APPROACH TO SECOND LANGUAGE (ENGLISH) WRITING: AN INTERVENTION STUDY

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The aim of this intervention study was to determine if a testing and evaluation-based approach is influential in developing English as a Second Language (ESL) adult learners' writing skills. The participants (experimental and control group) of this study consisted of 80 learners (both males and females). The subjects (N=40) in control group were instructed on writing by using traditional method whereas the subjects (N=40) in experimental group were instructed on writing by using a testing and evaluation-based approach as the treatment. Data were collected through writing tests which maintained reliability, validity, and practicality. The answer scripts (pre-tests & post-tests) were evaluated by two assessors in order to maintain the consistency of marking (interrater reliability). The results obtained from the pre-tests demonstrated that the two groups were homogeneous, and their writing was poor. However, the results obtained from the post-tests administration showed improvement in English writing skills of the learners of experimental group in comparison with the learners of control group. Findings also indicated that there is statistically significant increase in the learners' writing skills as a result of testing and evaluation-based approach. Therefore, it is concluded that using a testing and evaluation-based teaching/learning approach in developing L2 writing skills is an effective instructional technique and a useful instrument.

Keywords: *L2 language, Writing skills, Testing, Evaluation, Approach*

TEACHER EMPOWERMENT IN SECOND LANGUAGE EDUCATION IN SRI LANKA

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As it was revealed in a preliminary survey, teacher empowerment programmes conducted in the Sri Lankan context focus more on content instruction and classroom pedagogy relating to general education. Empowerment programmes specifically designed to address crucial aspects of Teaching English as a second language are minimal. One of the objectives of this survey is to study crucial second language teacher needs to be addressed in teacher empowerment programmes. Another objective is to identify a benchmark for context sensitive teaching English as a second language teacher empowerment programmes and then to identify a framework for a quality teacher empowerment programme. A purposive sample of 100 teachers representing rural, semi urban and urban schools were selected for the study. An available sample of 10 in Service Advisors was also interviewed to collect data for the study. The study was a qualitative research where questionnaires, semi structured interviews and classroom observations were the data gathering instruments. Data analysis revealed that the teacher empowerment programmes conducted were not based on the finding of the need analysis of the teachers of English. Problems that the teachers truly and practically face in teaching English as a second language are not taken as the base line in organizing teacher empowerment programmes. Consequently, the teacher teaches the average learner applying general approaches and methodologies without adapting them to the context. Second Language teachers have not been fully empowered to accommodate pupils with low cognitive levels and common psychosocial abnormalities. No mechanism was found to address disadvantaged learners in the learning teaching process. Strategies to accommodate teacher feedback in decision making too are minimal. It is necessary to redefine teacher empowerment programmes and role of stake holders on Teaching English as a second language in the Sri Lankan context.

Keywords: *Teacher empowerment, Disadvantaged pupils, Autonomy*

SPEAKING ANXIETY IN THE SECOND LANGUAGE CLASSROOM: LEARNERS' PERSPECTIVE

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Speaking plays a vital role in the second language classroom as the ability to communicate one's own ideas is an essential factor determining language proficiency. However, learners' anxiety in speaking is a frequent challenge encountered by the language teacher which negatively affects the teaching-learning process. In this light, the present study attempts to investigate the factors affecting second language speaking anxiety in the perspective of learners. The sample was a group of 60 mixed-ability undergraduate students belonging to three different disciplines at a state university. They learn English language as a compulsory subject during the first two years of their study and their curriculum covers essential speaking activities required for day-to-day conversation and for academic purposes. The learners were administered a semi-structured questionnaire in order to identify their perspective on speaking anxiety in the language classroom along with the factors that cause and reduce their anxiety. The findings revealed that while the students agree that oral activities in the language classroom are beneficial, their reluctance to communicate stems from inadequate vocabulary, fear of making mistakes and testing. These concerns can be addressed by engaging the learners in adequate activities prior to testing, providing ample language input for each task and by helping them to correct their own mistakes.

Keywords: *Second language, Speaking anxiety, Language proficiency*

EXPLOITATION OF COMMUNICATIVE LANGUAGE TEACHING TO MITIGATE LEARNER ANXIETY IN SPEAKING ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE

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Second language learning has become a traumatic experience for many learners, mainly because of speaking. This nervousness or anxiety seems to be triggered when the students are asked to speak in the second language in the class. Through the preliminary investigations done, it was noticed that, in the context of Faculty of Science, University of Ruhuna, there are a surprising number of students who insist that they are anxious language learners. The students do not show any enthusiasm in speaking the target language for any active practical purposes. Therefore, this research aims at investigating how the communicative approach of language teaching can be exploited to treat second language speaking anxiety. To accomplish the objectives of this study, a total of 60 students from the Faculty of Science were selected. Questionnaires, semi-structured interviews, direct observations, pre-tests, and post-tests were utilized as the primary sources of data collection. Secondary data were gathered from books, internet sources and related journal articles. The research findings denoted that the anxiety in speaking English could be treated efficaciously through less anxiety provoking communicative mechanisms such as group work, role plays, simulations, brainstorming sessions, and games. That is, incorporating the communicative approach of language teaching in a strategic and prioritized way could succeed in tackling the speaking anxiety and in making learning collaborative and interactive.

Keywords: *Communicative approach, English as a Second Language (ESL), Language teaching, Learner anxiety, Speaking anxiety*

SECOND LANGUAGE ANXIETY AMONG UNDERGRADUATE LEARNERS OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE IN SRI LANKA: A GENDER BASED STUDY

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Second language anxiety is a common phenomenon among English language learners of different native languages. Beliefs regarding English language and learning English as a second language have been a major cause of anxiety for many language learners. The goal of the study is to identify whether the gender of the learners has an impact on their anxiety levels when learning English as a second language. The secondary objective of this study is to investigate the causes of anxiety among the learners. To inspect learners' beliefs in language cause second language anxiety, Beliefs about Language Learning Inventory (BALLI), introduced by Horwitz in 1983, was distributed among fifty female and fifty male first year undergraduates of the University of Kelaniya. Twenty participants from each gender group were randomly selected for unstructured interviews, to gather further information regarding their English language learning experience. The findings of the study have been analysed through a mixed approach which consisted of both qualitative and quantitative data analysis methods. The analysed data revealed that the anxiety levels of female undergraduate learners and the male undergraduates have no substantial difference; however, it was also disclosed that female learners were more enthusiastic in learning English as a second language when compared to the male learners. The study reveals that the learners from both gender groups possess a significant level of anxiety due to the requirements of the job market and as most of the courses in Sri Lankan universities are carried out in English.

Keywords: *English as a Second language, Second language anxiety, Beliefs, Gender*

ASSESSMENT OF PUBLIC SPEAKING ANXIETY (PSA) AMONG SRI LANKAN LAW UNDERGRADUATES

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Public Speaking Anxiety (PSA) is stated as the fear of giving a speech in public with the expectation of being negatively evaluated by others, which is a common issue that many law undergraduates struggle with. Eliminating the apprehension of public speaking is vital for law undergraduates since it might threaten the students' confidence in their future as attorneys and other legal professionals. This descriptive cross-sectional study was aimed at assessing the PSA among all(n=140) second-year Law undergraduates who followed compulsory Public Speaking Module in Kotelawala Defence University (KDU), Sri-Lanka. A self-administered questionnaire consisted of an assessment of socio-demographic data followed by the Personal Report of Public Speaking Anxiety (PRPSA) by McCroskey was used for data collection after obtaining the informed consent from the participants. The questionnaire was pre-tested with a pilot study among ten third-year law undergraduates before administration. Data was analysed using SPSS 23.0, including the descriptive statistics followed by independent sample t-test, Turkey Post hoc test on a one-way ANOVA. The response rate of the participants was 78.57%, and the majority of them were females (59.1 %: n=65). All the participants had a 'low' level of PSA, and the mean score was 40.35($\pm$19.09). The majority (90.9%: n=100) of the participants had previous experience of presenting in front of an audience, and 60%(n=66) have involved in extra-curricular activities related to public speaking such as Toastmasters (30%: n=330), debating (28.2%: n=31) and Model United Nations (MUN) (1.8%: n=02). However, most of the participants (75.5%: n=83) had not followed any courses related to public speaking. The mean of the PRPSA score was significantly different between the students who had participated in extra-curricular activities related to public speaking and the ones who had not (P=0.030). Further, there was no significant mean difference in PRPSA score between the two genders(P=0.058). Tukey post hoc test on a one-way ANOVA revealed that the students who had participated in debating had a significant mean difference in PRPSA score with the students who had taken part in Toastmaster (P=0.000) and with those who had not participated in any activities related to public speaking (P=0.000). Previous exposure to extra-curricular activities related to public speaking and having a compulsory course module on public speaking are key elements in reducing the PSA among the law undergraduates. It would lead to the transformation of self-confidence and ultimately, a positive change in their professionalism and personality.

Keywords: *Public speaking anxiety, Law undergraduates, Communication skills, University education*

ENHANCING THE ENGLISH ORAL COMPETENCE OF UNDERGRADUATES: A STUDY CONDUCTED FOCUSING THE FIRST-YEAR STUDENTS AT BUDDHIST AND PALI UNIVERSITY OF SRI LANKA

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The study explored the methods to enhance the English oral competence of undergraduates of local state universities. The research was focused on the first-year undergraduates of Buddhist and Pali University of Sri Lanka, in which the vast majority is the Buddhist reverends from Sri Lanka and several other Asian countries. The study carried out an analysis of the English oral competency of the focus group, personal interviews, and questionnaires distributed among the students and the lecturers. Social prejudices and religious restrictions being among the many barriers that abstain novice monks from being encouraged to learn English with enthusiasm, which lead them to fossilize interlanguage errors, it was discovered that diverse methods must be employed in teaching English to the focus group. By confirming that the extremely insufficient exposure to the target language affects the second language learners' production of English, the study engaged in a pedagogical expedition in bringing forward the effective methodology in enhancing the English oral competence of local state university undergraduates by giving special focus to the first-year students at the Buddhist and Pali University of Sri Lanka.

Keywords: *ESL, Buddhist reverends, Oral competence, Teaching methodology and material, Pedagogy*

AN EXPLORATORY STUDY ON THE ROLE PLAYED BY 'CULTURE' IN ITALIAN EFL CLASSROOMS

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Teaching a language is antithetical to teaching any other subject. There are several phenomena integrated with language teaching, and culture is one of them. Language is what essentially transmits culture from era to era; similarly, the importance of culture in language education is undeniable. The idea of being competent in a language does not only mean being linguistically competent it also includes other competencies. All language teachers, material developers, and learners are required to be aware of the idea of culture integration in language education. This research explored the role played by 'culture' in Italian EFL (English as a Foreign Language) classrooms. This study was conducted in Tovini-Kolbe School, Italy, which embodies four primary level and three secondary level classes. The challenge faced by the students with English language comprehensibility, and their struggle to display output as a result was the problem identified in this context. Correspondingly, this research attempts to question 'what is the impact of culture' on the pedagogical context of practice, language teaching. In addressing this question, ideologies developed by two scholars were reflected. They are: Krasner's ideology of the integration of background cultural knowledge to achieve all foreign language skills; and Larsen-Freeman's ideology of the integration of native languages for the development of a second language. The focus group was exposed to culture amalgamated lessons according to a weekly schedule. The lessons were thematically classified. The four-week study period covered all four skills: listening, reading, speaking, and writing; and each skill catered the same set of themes. Thus, the students were given the opportunity to make comparisons and contrasts between the target language culture and their native culture. It was evident that the sequential focus on the development of the four skills eased the students' comprehensibility of the English language to some extent, reduced the students' anxiety, and improved their enthusiasm to learn English. Hence, in order to teach a foreign language successfully, accurately, and effectively, the inclusion of the notion of 'culture' in it is mandatory. Culture integration is a key phenomenon to ease the comprehensibility of the language. All EFL practitioners should acquire the strategies of integrating culture with language.

Keywords: *Culture integration, English as a foreign language, Italian classrooms, Classroom observation, Language comprehensibility*

VIDEOS VERSUS PRINT MATERIALS IN INCIDENTAL VOCABULARY ACQUISITION: AN IMPACT STUDY

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Vocabulary constitutes an integral part of second language ability. As a result of the advances achieved in mass media and communication technology, second language learners of today English have access to thousands of videos representing thousands of interactive situations that they could have experienced while absorbing the kernel language with incidental vocabulary. While there are print materials turned out in terms of print materials, using videos to teach incidental vocabulary raises numerous technical, managerial as well as administrative issues in most educational settings in Sri Lanka, dominated by an unfortunate element of parochialism. Therefore, this study is aimed at experimenting with videos and print materials with two parallel fifty-member groups in a reputed private university in Sri Lanka, during a series of lessons focused on incidental vocabulary acquisition. The results of the immediate tests and post-tests of the video-based and reading-based groups were subjected to independent sample t-tests in order to measure the retention of vocabulary by the two respective groups. The data analysis did not demonstrate a statistically significant difference between the two groups at the immediate test with 0.37 as the $P(T<=t)$ two-tail value. However, there was a statistically significant vocabulary gain in the video group over the reading group at the post-test with the $P(T<=t)$ two-tail value at 0.04. Thus, it was concluded that, while both the video and reading methods supported vocabulary acquisition, the video input contributed to a greater as well as statistically significant long-term vocabulary retention over the reading input mode.

Keywords: *Incidental vocabulary acquisition, Video input, Reading input, ESL*

ABSTRACTS: POSTER PRESENTATIONS

THE INFLUENCE OF SOCIAL MEDIA VIOLENCE ON SOCIETY (A STUDY OF EASTER SUNDAY BOMB ATTACK IN SRI LANKA)

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Ethnic conflict is Sri Lanka's major catastrophe, with a history of three decades of a brutal war. In a chaotic society, with such hidden racism, social media plays a significant role in bringing out the various extremist ideas in society. This research focuses on the Easter Sunday bomb attack in Sri Lanka, which has heightened post-war ethnic tension and how influential hate speech, misinformation, and racist comments, uploaded to social media by Sinhala, Muslim and Catholic ethnic minorities could impact society. It also attempts to ascertain how the anti-religious posts, photos, statements and other content on social media after Easter Sunday attack, and how posting, sharing, liking and sadistic commenting has affected the people's aggressive behaviours and other terrible activities. The study also focuses on social media violence provoked by racism, sadism, barbarism in the society, to find out how social media hate speech influenced to create anti-Muslim broad public opinion. This research employs both qualitative and quantitative methods of data analysis. Data gathering and analysis was carried out predominantly on 10 Facebook pages, 20 shared anti-religious hate contents on WhatsApp messages and groups. Using random sampling methods data was also gathered from 100 subjects through a questionnaire. SPSS was also used to analyse data. When like-minded people get organized as an organized group, the general opinion shifts toward an extreme version of their common beliefs. Their sadistic and misleading ideas have grown word by word because of the ability of fast feedback on social media. It damaged the healing process of the country, national security, and public safety physically also through manifesting psychic-extreme misconceptions and dysfunctional behaviour. This research revealed that how does social media-based violence like misinformation, hate speech provoke violent actions and how they create a deadly rioting atmosphere. Overwhelmingly the collected data proved that posting, sharing, liking irrelevant racist abusive anti-cultural and anti-religious content and links promote hatred among racial groups in society. Participants of the questionnaire also stated that they tend to marginalize and isolate Muslim persons from the society, not to provoke ethnic tension, but they were misled by social media misinformation. They also stated that contents misguided them to think that "all Muslims are cultivating terrorism". The propaganda on social media suggests that Muslims are trying to change the demography within different parts of Sri Lanka and try to neutralize the domination of majority Sinhalese as well as increase the influence of Muslims. From the content analysis the study found that words such as *Hambaya*, *Marakkalaya*, and *Musalmanuwa* which are derogatory words for Muslims are used frequently in both the posts and the comments. There are also other deeply offensive expressions and content in these posts.

Keywords: *Media, Social Media, Violence, Society, Influence*

SONGS AS LISTENING MATERIALS TO ACHIEVE GRAMMATICAL COMPETENCE IN GRADE ELEVEN LEARNERS OF ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE

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While listening is one of the four main skills that the learners are expected to master in the English as a Second Language (ESL) classroom, songs packed with communicative strategies of linguistic, cultural, and social significance, are identified as effective listening materials for developing their competence. Against this background, the present study worked on an experiment with a group of songs used as listening materials for teaching a selection of grammatical elements connected with affixation. The results of the study were compared with that gained from using the official textbook to teach the same grammatical elements. The twenty Grade 11 students who took part in the experiment functioned as two ten-member groups: 1) experimental group working with songs; and 2) control group working with the official textbook. A comparison of the results from the two groups suggested that the learners who were taught using songs proved to have scored better in the post-test while the learners who were taught using the textbooks scored comparatively low. Therefore, it is evident that songs prove to be a more effective method of teaching grammar to ESL learners through the medium of listening comprehension than textbook presentations that always focus on reading comprehension.

Keywords: *Songs, Grammatical competence, Listening skill, ESL learners*

THE IMPACT OF COOPERATIVE LEARNING ON ESL LEARNERS' CRITICAL THINKING ABILITY

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In this globalized era, the need for information is on the rise as well as the information availability and accessibility has become more effortless. Education has switched its attention from instructing students how to process information along with the ways to think critically about the information they get. Educational experts consider critical thinking as one of the crucial cognitive abilities and that it has direct relationship with language teaching and learning. The field of English Language Teaching (ELT) has incorporated critical thinking as a major factor to gratify the innovations in education. In this way, the present study aims at investigating the repercussions of cooperative learning on ESL learners' critical thinking ability. The sample consisted of 30 students selected from the Faculty of Business Studies, in a regional University in Sri Lanka through an educator-made proficiency test and were randomly grouped as two groups of experimental and control. They were given 10 session treatments 2 sessions per week, where cooperative learning was administered for the experimental group and the control group was taught with no reference to these skills. In order to assess the effect of critical thinking on their writing, three sets of instruments including a critical thinking questionnaire, a reading task and an argumentative/descriptive writing as post-test and pre-test were administered. An independent sample t-test was run to compare the mean scores of both sets to inspect the effect of achievement level of the participants on the post-test of critical thinking. The data which has been analysed using a mixed method, indicates that the experimental group showed significant impact on critical thinking skills when compared to the control group, significantly, the experimental group outperformed the control group. The research suggests a more practical way of learning - cooperative learning, to be considered in English Language Teaching. This method should be considered while designing the curriculum and course-books.

Keywords: *Critical thinking, Proficiency test, Argumentative writing, Cooperative learning, ESL Learners*

PROMOTING CULTURAL HERITAGE THROUGH SPORTS EVENTS

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A specially designed space where sporting events are held can be recognized as a sports facility. The sports facilities available in Sri Lanka for cricket are higher in number. It is appropriate to have a higher number of facilities for cricket as it is the most successful sport in Sri Lanka and has earned fame internationally to Sri Lanka. The intention of the study was to identify gaps between sport facilities in Sri Lanka and Australia in terms of promotion of cultural heritage through sports events with special preference to Cricket Stadiums. The study synthesizes the ways and means in which they can be used to enhance the cultural heritage by Sri Lankan authorities to local and foreign spectators during sports events. A qualitative research approach was adopted for the research. Data were generated primarily through interviews and observations, analyzed using photo-elicitation technique. The scope of the study was the Optus Stadium, Perth, Western Australia and R. Premadasa Cricket Stadium, Colombo, Sri Lanka. Data was gathered from seven (07) interviews and the interviewees were managerial stakeholders of the selected facilities. Findings documented from the two sites were significant. It revealed that the R. Premadasa Cricket Stadium had not given any consideration on promoting the Sri Lankan cultural heritage. On the other hand, the Optus Stadium had incorporated its native culture to its facility design making it a global attraction promoting sports as well as the Australian cultural heritage. Based on the findings, the conclusion of the study was that there is a visible gap between the Optus Stadium, Western Australia and R. Premadasa Cricket Stadium, Sri Lanka in terms of cultural heritage promotion.

Keywords: *Optus Stadium, R. Premadasa Cricket Stadium, Photo Elicitation, Culture, Facility Design*

FOSTERING LEARNING OUTCOMES VIA SUPER SHORT-TERM STUDY ABROAD PROGRAMMES: FOCUSING ON UNIVERSITY STUDENTS' EXCHANGE WITH OVERSEAS PEERS

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This study focuses on collaborative project-based learning with overseas peers among university students. The primary research question was to find out the significant learning outcomes students gain through academic and non-academic exchange with overseas peers, especially in a selected super short-term study abroad program. Survey participants were university students who took part in a collaborative program conducted between the Ritsumeikan University (RU), Japan, and the University of Sri Jayewardenepura (USJ), Sri Lanka. A post-program questionnaire was administered to gather qualitative data. Students' answers demonstrate that interactive learning had benefited them to foster learning outcomes from two aspects. First, academic attainments involved skills and knowledge mainly in conducting fieldwork, using ICT tools, and presenting using the English language. Second, non-academic involvement showed that students gained knowledge in intercultural communication and socio-cultural aspects through collaborative work. In conclusion, the present study states that the implementation of co-operative learning between local and international institutions can foster the exchange of academic knowledge and social interaction that benefits students to widen academic skills and explore diverse cultural aspects.

Keywords: *Study Abroad Programmes, Overseas peers, Cooperative learning*

EFFECTS OF EIGHT WEEKS DROP SHOT TRAINING PROGRAMME IN BADMINTON AMONG UNIVERSITY STAFF BADMINTON PLAYERS

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The purpose of the study was to determine the effects of Eight Weeks Drop Shot Training Programme in Badminton among University staff badminton players. To achieve this purpose of the study twelve (12) male staff badminton players in a regional University in Sri Lanka (SUSL) were randomly selected as subjects. Researcher selected eight players (08) as a treatment group and four players (04) as a control group, who work at various faculties and offices in the university. The age of the subjects ranged from 30 to 50 years. The treatment group subjects performed selected training programme in the evening time one and half hours per day for two (02) days per week over the period of eight (8) weeks which was given by the researcher. The research was consisted with several training such as technique training, specific drill training and speed training. These techniques increased the performance of selected sample. A Pre-test before starting training programme and did Post-test after training programme were conducted for both treatment and control groups. Then training schedule was implemented and was measured at post-test. The collected data were statistically treated by using Paired "T" test, 0.05 significance level was fixed to test the significance. The results show that there was a significant difference between pre-test and post-test. The calculated P-value was 0.009. Therefore, there was sufficient evidence to accept the alternative hypothesis; that training programme develops the Badminton Drop Shot Performance of the selected sample and rejected null hypothesis.

Keywords: *Badminton, Drop Shot, Players*

DIVERSITY OF FISH SPECIES IN NEGOMBO LAGOON

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High anthropogenic pressures exerted from the surrounding environments have marked a severe damage on the lagoon ecosystems and Negombo lagoon in Sri Lanka is one such area. Fish species in the lagoon are threatened with increasing anthropogenic activities at present. Therefore, this study was carried out to assess the fish species and their spatial distribution in the Negombo lagoon. Total of 23 samples covering 11 natural habitats, 8 artificial habitats and 4 semi-natural habitats were selected for the study representing the habitat heterogeneity. Primary data was collected through field survey and observations were done by using a cast net with mesh size of 1.25 inches. Observations were carried out in three consecutive times in each sample. Margalef richness index and Shannon-Weiner diversity index were calculated to assess richness and diversity of fish species. Excel and Arc GIS 10.1 software were interactively used in data analysis. According to the results, total of 20 fish species which belong to 7 orders, 18 families and 19 genera were identified. The Highest fish concentration was identified in Eastern and Northwestern coast of the lagoon. The species diversity was high in Northern and Northwestern shore of the lagoon. Fish abundance was high in some sections of the Eastern coast of the lagoon. Number five sample of right bank (Sewage line sample R5) shows the highest spatial distribution according to richness and abundance. Fourth (Brush pile sample L4) and fifth (Mangrove sample L5) samples show the highest spatial distribution according to the fish richness and diversity. In conclusion, this unique lagoon environment is a tropical biodiversity hotspot which needs to be protected for the wellbeing of future generation.

Keywords: *Species, Diversity, Richness, Distribution*

GENERATING IDEAS IN THE ESL WRITING CLASSROOM THROUGH COLLABORATIVE LEARNING- TERTIARY LEVEL

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In ESL (English as a Second Language) classrooms, teaching writing skill has become a challenge. This is caused when the students feel that they lack ideas, or their ideas are not worthy. Thus, the ESL practitioners need to take necessary steps to eradicate the problems of the students regarding writing skill. Therefore, this study aims at exploring the effectiveness of collaborative activities in expanding students' ideas as they learn from their experiences and knowledge of their fellow learners. The samples for this study were chosen from the ESL second year students from the Faculty of Science, in a University in Sri Lanka. The data were collected through conducting a pre-test and post-test. The students were divided into two groups as control group and experimental group. SPSS statistical package and paired-sample T-test were used for data analysis. The duration of this study was three months. The experimental group was taught the pre-writing techniques of brainstorming, clustering, and free writing through collaborative learning in order to help them to develop their ability to think and generate ideas. After the treatment period, a post-test was given to both groups to check the significant differences. Finally, in the post-test, the experimental group outperformed the control group. The findings denote that the collaborative prewriting activities expand students' ideas as they learn from the experiences and knowledge shared by the group members. It helps them to increase retention and self- esteem. Moreover, the study reveals that the collaborative learning helps the learners to activate needed vocabulary to write on a topic. The findings also show that learning writing in L2 requires proper guidance, instruction to organize ideas, facts, and expression as well as grammatical, idiomatic and orthographic accuracy. Therefore, the pre-writing techniques of brainstorming, making notes, writing a draft, discussion and interaction in group, editing, re-writing the edited draft and proof reading play a significant role on the improvement of the experimental group. It was also evident that both teacher student interaction and interaction among the students are very important to have a successful ESL writing classroom. Furthermore, the results have some implications for language teachers and curriculum designers.

Keywords: *Writing Skill, Collaborative learning, ESL learners, Generating ideas, Interaction*

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