



LEXICAL DIFFERENCES BETWEEN SRILANKAN TAMIL AND MUSLIM DIALECTS

K.Rajaratnam, V.A.Weerawardhana

Department of Linguistics, University of Kelaniya, Kelaniya

sangeetham_00@yahoo.com

This study is conducted to identify the lexical difference between Srilankan Tamil dialect and Muslim Tamil dialect. Tamil language which is spoken by Tamils and Muslims vary a considerable extent. Therefore speakers of Tamil on both sides experience difficulty in understanding each other's speech easily. It could be identified several phonological morphological and syntactic differences in both these dialects. To collect data for this study; both deductive and inductive methods will be used.

However this study explores only on lexical differences specially on noun and verb classes. This lexical differences occur specially from the point of their socio cultural significance. Differences in occupational process, food habits, style of dressing, religious rituals etc; have influenced for exclusive words for both dialects.

Tamil speaking muslims use a large number of words from Arabic language. Moreover kinship terms from both these dialects are quite different .

For instance,

Father -Appa (Tamils) , Vaappa (Muslims)

Elder brother – Anna (Tamils) , Naana (Muslims)

A number of lexical items shared by both these dialects vary in their contextual use.

Gravy - Kulambu(Tamils) , Aanam (Muslims)

Beautiful – Vadivu(Tamils) , Pasunthu (Muslims)

This comparative study hopes to offer new insights into both these communities which could lead to communicate with ease and comfort; moreover this research will be useful to the Sinhala native speakers who learn Tamil as a second language; to understand the respective language without any confusion.

Keywords: *Lexical differences, Dialectal variations, Socio cultural significances*