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Global English: A Study of Factors Affect for English Language Learning Motivation in Sri Lankan Undergraduates

K.S.N. Prasangani*

PhD Student, Center for Language Studies, Universiti Malaysia Sarawak, Kota Samarahan, Sarawak, 94300, Malaysia

Abstract

The current study aimed to examine the factors affecting for English language learning motivation of undergraduates by utilizing Dornyei's (2009) L2 Motivational Self System. The study was conducted among 361 Sri Lankan undergraduates by using an adapted motivation questionnaire. Pearson correlation analysis was run to examine the relationships between the variables of ideal L2 self, ought to L2 self, motivated self, mastery goals, performance goals and social goals. The results of the study indicated the close link between social requirements of learning English and learner English learning self-concept. Further study validated the L2 motivational self system in Sri Lanka.

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Keywords: Global english, motivation, L2 Motivational Self System, goals, Sri Lankan undergraduates

1. Introduction

English has been a predominant language in Sri Lanka from the colonial period. Competency of English was the key to enter civil service and go up the social ladder. Thus competency of English made the path to form a new English elite middle class and the traditional caste based society was changed in Sri Lanka. This new elite class enjoyed the all the political, educational and economic benefits of the country during the period. Although soon after the independence Sri Lankan patriots wanted to change the language policy of the country to benefit the majority of the country. Especially they wanted to change the British education system and provide equal opportunities to all. As a

* Corresponding author. Tel.: 0060 109634482.
E-mail address: nilushikap@yahoo.com