

An Analysis on “Use of the Substitute “One” in Written Sri Lankan English Syntax

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“Sri Lankan English” (SLE), which is currently in the “Differentiation” phase of the Dynamic Model of Post-Colonial Englishes, is striving to acquire linguistic independence from other varieties, by establishing an internal stability (Widyalkara, 2014). Though adequate studies have been done on SLE phonology and morphology, in order to acquire linguistic independence, proper studies should be done on SLE syntax, semantics and discourse.

Addressing the need for studies on SLE syntax, Herat (2006) has conducted a study on the “Use of substitute “one” as a feature in SLE spoken syntax. The present study focuses on the features of written SLE and as such the objective of the present study is to identify the patterns of the use of the substitute “One” and validate it as a feature of Written Sri Lankan English Syntax. The present study uses two corpora consisting of written Sri Lankan English texts as the two main research instruments. The first corpus (Corpus-A) used for the study is ICE-SL and the second corpus that is used for the study is a corpus (Corpus-B) that consists of 144 letters from the “letters to the editor” register that are taken from three local newspapers. Thus, the genre addressed in the research is “letters”.

Thereafter, in order to provide a comprehensive picture of the use of the substitute “One”, the data that was available in both corpora was analyzed using the electronic corpus analytical tool: “AntConc”, and the natural language processing tool: “Stanford CoreNLP”.

From the data analyses, it was evident that there were several instances in which the substitute “one” was used as an adjective as well as a demonstrative. Therefore, SLE writing too has the feature of the use of substitute “one” with regard to the genre of letters.

Keywords: corpus linguistics; Sri Lankan English; substitute “one”; written syntax.