

Abstract

The main focus of the present research was to study the weaknesses of grade 6 students in writing Sinhala Language. The main objective of the research was to identify the weaknesses of grade 6 students in their writing of Sinhala Language. Further, it was expected to review the reasons leading to such weaknesses and suggest procedures to overcome the weaknesses. To achieve these aims, the researcher had used the survey research design. The researcher selected the student sample from 5 schools in the Pasgoda Education Division in Deniyaya Zone and selected 50 students who obtained less than 70 marks in the grade 5 scholarship examination in 2013 and 10 teachers who were teaching Sinhala subject to grade 6 students.

The researcher used a diagnostic test and the focus group discussions to collect data from the student sample and administered a questionnaire to the teachers. The researcher used two methods to analyze data. One was descriptive statistics such as percentages, mean, standard deviation and standard error. As qualitative method content analysis was used.

From this study, the researcher was able to make six conclusions. The first conclusion was that the performance in writing Sinhala showed vast differences. Apart from the direct impact of students related factors, the influences of the teachers and the family background of the students were affecting to their weaknesses in writing. As well as the researcher revealed that the role of teachers was more important to increase the ability of writing and the enthusiasm and commitment of students were more essential to minimize the weaknesses of the students. At the same time the researcher elicited many differences of the writing skills of students at school level. The researcher proposed suggestions in relation to the five aspects namely teachers, students, parents, schools and others. At the end of the research, the researcher was able to develop guidelines for teachers to reduce the weaknesses in writing skills of Sinhala in grade 6 students.