

The OUSL Journal is a peer-reviewed journal, published biannually by The Open University of Sri Lanka (OUSL).

Peer Review Policy

All research articles in this journal have undergone peer review, based on initial editor screening and anonymized refereeing by at least two anonymous referees.

Permission

It is a condition of publication that manuscripts submitted to this journal should not have been published elsewhere. *By submitting a manuscript, the author agrees that the copyright for the article is transferred to the publishers, if and when the article is accepted for publication.* The copyright covers the exclusive right to publishing, reproductions, microforms or any other reproductions of similar nature and translations.

The views expressed by the authors are their own and do not necessarily reflect the policies of The Open University of Sri Lanka.

Editorial/Correspondence

All correspondence including manuscripts for submission should be addressed to:

Editor-in-Chief/OUSL Journal
The Open University of Sri Lanka
P.O. Box 21, Nawala, Nugegoda, Sri Lanka
Email: ouslj@ou.ac.lk

Subscription Rates

Local: Rs. 200.00; Foreign: US \$ 20.00 (Inclusive of postage)

Local cheque should be crossed and made payable to the "The Open University of Sri Lanka" and should be addressed to the Librarian/OUSL.

Copyright © 2017, The Open University of Sri Lanka
Printed at The Open University Press
ISSN 1880-3621

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted or disseminated, in any form, or by any means, electronic, electrostatic, magnetic tape, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise without prior written permission from the copyright holder.



The Open University of Sri
Lanka

OUSL Journal

Volume 12 No. 2
December, 2017

OUSL Journal

Volume 12, No. 2 – December, 2017



Published Biannually by The Open University of Sri Lanka (OUSL)

Editor in Chief

Shyama R. Weerakoon

Professor in Botany, Dept. of Botany,
Faculty of Natural Sciences, The Open University of Sri Lanka

Editorial Board

Harini Amarasuriya

Senior Lecturer in Social Studies, Department of Social Studies,
Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences,
The Open University of Sri Lanka

C. Shanthi De Silva

Senior Professor in Agricultural Engineering, Dept. of Agricultural
& Plantation Engineering, Faculty of Engineering Technology,
The Open University of Sri Lanka

Gaya R. Ranawaka

Professor in Zoology, Department of Zoology
Faculty of Natural Sciences, The Open University of Sri Lanka

Sithy S. Iqbal

Professor in Chemistry, Department of Chemistry,
Faculty of Natural Sciences, The Open University of Sri Lanka

P. C. Pakeer Jaufar

Professor in Secondary & Tertiary Education,
Department of Secondary & Tertiary Education,
Faculty of Education, The Open University of Sri Lanka

Sreemali Herath

Senior Lecturer, Post-Graduate Institute of English
The Open University of Sri Lanka

B. Gayathri Jayatilleke

Senior Lecturer in Educational Technology, Centre for
Educational Technology and Media, The Open University of Sri
Lanka

N. Karthikeyan

Senior Lecturer in Physics, Department of Physics
Faculty of Natural Sciences, The Open University of Sri Lanka

Wathmanel Seneviratne

Librarian, The Open University of Sri Lanka

OUSL Journal

Volume 12, No. 2 – December, 2017



Published Biannually by The Open University of Sri Lanka (OUSL)

Advisory Board:

Patricia B. Arinto

Professor and Dean, Faculty of Education,
University of the Philippines – Open University, Philippines

Chandra Gunawardena

Emeritus Professor in Education, The Open University of Sri
Lanka

Charlotte Nirmalani Gunawardena

Distinguished Professor of Distance Education and Instructional
Technology, University of New Mexico, USA

Janet Hemingway

Professor of Insect Molecular Biology,
Director/Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine, Liverpool, UK

Rasika Jayasekara

Senior Lecturer, School of Nursing and Midwifery,
University of South Australia, Adelaide, Australia

Nihal Kularatna

Associate Professor in Electronic Engineering, School of
Engineering, The University of Waikato, Hamilton, New Zealand

Sanjaya Mishra

Education Specialist - e-learning, Commonwealth of Learning,
British Columbia, Canada

K. Sarath D. Perera

Senior Professor in Chemistry, Faculty of Natural Sciences,
The Open University of Sri Lanka

Ryhana Raheem

Emeritus Professor in English, The Open University of Sri Lanka

Nishanta Rajakaruna

Associate Professor in Plant Biology, Biological Sciences
Department, California Polytechnic State University, USA

Language Editing:

Lal Medawattegedara
Nirmalie Kannangara

Technical Assistance:

Priyantha Nawarathne

Contents	Page
<i>'Folk Ideas' and 'Worldview' Inscribed in a Selection of Folktales Attributed to the Muslim Community of the East Coast of Sri Lanka</i>	5
Lal Medawattegedara*	
<i>Renovation of Research and Education in South Asian Countries by Means of ICT</i>	19
S. Ozawa¹, D. D. G. L. Dahanayaka^{2*}, N. Warnajith³ and S. B. Quarmal⁴	
<i>Women's Experiences on Menopause: A Phenomenological Study</i>	43
D. G. C. N. Samarasiri, I. T. Rajanayake, P. K. Wattegedara, R. D. Kodituwakku, A. S. P. L. Senadheera and B. S. S. De Silva*	
<i>Protection of Journalists in Armed Conflicts: An International Law Perspective</i>	63
R. M. T. S. K. Rathnayake *	
<i>Habitat Preference and Population Structure of Two # Data Deficient Seahorse (Syngnathidae) Species</i>	75
N. Perera^{1, 2*}, D. D. G. L. Dahanayaka³ and S. Udagedara¹	
<i>Does the SMS Language Have an Effect on Teenage Spelling? – A Study Conducted on a Selected Group of Students Studying in Colombo</i>	99
Mayanthi Kulatunga Jayakody*	

Editorial

This is the Volume 12, Number 02 of the OUSL Journal, the Journal of the Open University of Sri Lanka which is published biannually. The articles published in this Volume include research based on Folklore, Education, Health Sciences, Law, Zoology and Language.

Folktales are stories that grow out of the lives and imaginations of a specific speech community, or 'folks.' The paper titled '*Folk Ideas' and 'Worldview' Inscribed in a Selection of Folktales Attributed to the Muslim Community of the East Coast of Sri Lanka,*' is the preliminary version of a larger study intended to locate, identify and analyze the 'world' as conceived in the imaginations of a group of people living in a specific socio-economic space in Sri Lanka. This research engages the folktales created/narrated/heard by the males and females of this community in a close reading, motivated by the folkloric scholarly assumption that folklore is the 'autobiographical ethnography' of a group of people—or that folklore is people's own descriptions of themselves.

E-learning can be considered an efficient education system for knowledge sharing in developing countries. Ozawa *et al*, in their paper titled '*Renovation of Research and Education in South Asian Countries by Means of ICT*' discuss the present status of the higher education system in South Asia based on the results of KISSEL (Knowledge Integration Servers System for E-learning) project that has been carried out by the authors during the past ten years. Further, the paper reviews the state of application of the KISSEL and illustrates their relevance in renovation of research and education in South Asian Countries. It elaborates on how a scientific project, based on an ICT platform helped and could continue to help researchers to collaborate and share knowledge. The discussion makes clear some future problems that can be solved with the aid of E-learning and E-research techniques, especially the development of a new mobile application technique which would be important for solving various local and transnational problems in South Asian countries.

A phenomenological study based on female's experiences of menopause focuses on the physical, psychological and social effects of this condition. Menopause is the permanent termination of menstruation resulting in critical symptoms that could affect the quality of life of the victim. This study undertakes a close reading and interpretation of the 'experience' of females who have undergone menopause and attempts to understand both the physical and psychological 'realities' of the victims. The researchers also offer the possible means by which a female could manage this condition and they also contextualize menopause by drawing in the socio-economic factors that also shape the 'experience' of the victims.

The importance of journalists in a society, especially those who report armed conflicts cannot be underestimated. They play a vital role in 'witnessing' and 'representing' the conflict to the rest of the world. Inevitably, such journalists are drawn into the vicious cycle of violence and mayhem. Journalists are protected under International Humanitarian Law, primarily under the Geneva Conventions. However, Article 79 of the Additional Protocol I of the Geneva Conventions guarantees journalists the same protection available to civilians, if they resist from taking 'Direct Participation' in hostilities. The research paper titled '*Protection of Journalists in Armed Conflicts: An International Law Perspective*' explores the notion of providing 'special protection' to journalists who risk their lives for their profession in conflict zones of the world. The paper calls for adequate definitions for the terms 'journalist' and 'Direct Participation in hostilities' to facilitate the identification of the journalists who should be protected under the Humanitarian Law.

Ecological studies of seahorses in the Indian Ocean are limited. The vulnerability of seahorses to overfishing and increased anthropogenic impacts on coastal habitats necessitate better management of wild seahorse populations that in turn requires understanding their habitat preferences and population structure. The distribution patterns and population structure of two species of seahorse (*Hippocampus fuscus* and *Hippocampus spinosissimus*) were assessed in this study conducted in a tropical estuary in north-western Sri Lanka. Both species have not been studied in the wild previously and have not been known to occur in estuaries. The study by Perera *et al*, observed that *H. fuscus* was the most abundant and widely distributed species, and was

significantly larger than *H. spinosissimus*. Both species had significant differences in size between sexes. Seahorses occurred in low densities with patchy distribution, with abundance being higher in areas with the seagrass species *Enhalusacoroides* and *Cymodoceaserrulata* which appear to be the favored habitat of seahorses within the study area. The study suggests that basic life history parameters for the two species of seahorses could be more diverse than previously reported in the literature.

The ubiquitous mobile phone and the modalities of texting, known as the SMS language, come under scrutiny in the paper titled “Does the SMS Language Have an Effect on Teenage Spelling? – A Study Conducted on a Selected Group of Students Studying in Colombo.” As the title indicates, this study undertakes a close study of the SMS language and its possible effects on the English spellings of a selected group of students and teachers. Contrary to what most people believe, the study implies that SMS language and spelling errors are unrelated. It also suggests that children have the ability to adjust their writing styles in accordance with the context they are writing in. However, as the study was restricted to a small group belonging to a particular socio-economic stratum in Colombo, it could be considered as an opening for broader studies relevant to the subject.

Professor Shyama R. Weerakoon

Editor in Chief/OUSL Journal

Email: ouslj@ou.ac.lk

 <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-0975-2738>

