Sri Lankan English Teachers’ Attitudes and Perceptions towards Sri Lankan English

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While Sri Lankan English has been established as a standard variety of English for many years, speakers of English who belong to various social groups in Sri Lanka have different perceptions about Sri Lankan English. Law, administration as well as education sectors of the country possess a great power in spreading and influencing the beliefs of Sri Lankan English speakers. As pioneers in widening the knowledge about Sri Lankan English among the next generations of Sri Lanka, it is necessary for English language teachers to have a positive outlook towards Sri Lankan English. This study aims to examine the attitudes and perceptions of Sri Lankan English language teachers towards Sri Lankan English. In addition, this study further identifies the manner in which teachers encourage learners to use Sri Lankan English, along with teachers’ recommendations to improve the awareness of Sri Lankan English among teachers and students. Questionnaires were distributed among fifty teachers of English from schools and tuition classes, and ten teachers were selected for interviews, to collect the required data. Analyzed data revealed that although Sri Lankan teachers of English acknowledge Sri Lankan English, they lack knowledge about Sri Lankan English; teachers had a confusion between Sri Lankan English and British English, and they showed a reluctance to accept that their spoken variety is Sri Lankan English.

Keywords: Sri Lankan English, Attitudes, Sri Lankan English Teachers