

The Linguistic Study of the Current Context of *Vedda* Language with Special Reference to *Dambana*, Sri Lanka

R.A.D. P. Weerasekara^{1*}

The intent of this research is to examine the current context of *Vedda* Language from the linguistic point of view, based on their overall socio-cultural background. The most popularly accepted theory on *Vedda* Language is a regional dialect of the Sinhala Language or a Creole and that there is no distinct *Vedda* Language. Due to inadequate data of the original *Vedda* Language, it is difficult to identify the proper linguistic situation of the early stage of *Vedda* Language. The Linguistic analysis of *Vedda* language proves the Language Contact Phenomenon play a major role from their history at present. The findings of the research show the present day *Vedda* has borrowed not only lexical stocks but also sounds, grammar, and meaning from dominant languages, significantly from the Colloquial Sinhalese. These linguistic results of language contact induce it has become an Extreme Language Mixture and the current situation of *Vedda* Language is severely endangered. Through the empirical findings of this research is clearly evident that the language of the *Vedda* is fast disappearing due to long time cultural and linguistic assimilation. This research is based on Qualitative Empirical Research Methodology, and the Participant Observation Method based on Case Study has been used for data elicitation.

Keywords: Vedda language, colloquial sinhalese, linguistics assimilation, language contact phenomenon, extreme language mixture

¹Department of Languages, Faculty of Social Sciences and Languages, Sabaragamuwa University, Sri Lanka. priyajnu_sri@yahoo.com