FEATURES OF CODE SWITCHING

among a sample of Tamil-English bilinguals in Sri Lanka

Degree of Master of Arts
Department of English
Faculty of Arts
University of Colombo

CR

Shivanthini Sivasuriya

15 May 1993

ABSTRACT

Sociolinguistic studies on bilingualism and code switching have been carried out in many parts of the world. However, in Sri Lanka, in-depth research in this area is minimal. The present study attempts to provide empirical support/backing to the general claims that code switching does exist and that it occurs regularly among bilingual speakers in Sri Lanka. The study restricts itself to certain aspects/features of code switching among a sample of Tamil-English bilinguals of this country. In addition to exploring the relevant sociolinguistic research and seeing how it conforms to the Sri Lankan situation the study attempts to contribute in however a small manner to such research in Sri Lanka. It is hoped that this research project will prove to be a starting point for further studies in related areas.