

## **The Use of Sri Lankan English in Selected Short Stories by Ashok Ferry**

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### **Abstract**

Sri Lankan English is a variety of English that has been studied from various perspectives. However, while the phonological, morphological and syntactic features of Sri Lankan English have been studied by various scholars, a paucity of research that examines the use of Sri Lankan English in literary texts can be depicted. Particularly, it seems that the limited number of studies that draw from literary texts does not include research focusing on short stories by Ashok Ferry, a Sri Lankan anglophone writer. In this context, this research examined selected short stories by Ferry in relation to Sri Lankan English. Thus, the objectives of this research were to identify morphological and syntactic features of Sri Lankan English depicted in the selected short stories and to analyze the use of Sri Lankan English by Ferry against the backdrop of postcolonial writers and their use of English. 12 short stories by Ferry were used as primary data. A content analysis was conducted to identify morphological and syntactic features used by Ferry. His use of Sri Lankan English was then analyzed in relation to postcolonial writing and the English language. The morphological features of Sri Lankan English identified include borrowing, compounding, initialisms, abbreviations, semantic change, affixation, reduplication and the use of expressions. Syntactical features identified include the use of contractions, use of tags, topicalization, use of gendered syntax, use of direct translations, use of borrowings, ellipsis, and the use of phrasal verbs. Considering Ferry's use of Sri Lankan English as a postcolonial writer, it can be seen that he deviates from Standard British English. Doing so, he establishes and/or validates Sri Lankan English, further using it as a means of writing back to the center.

**Keywords:** Sri Lankan English; Ashok Ferry; Morphology; Syntax; Postcolonial writing

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