

A FUNCTIONAL AND CATEGORICAL ANALYSIS OF PARTICLES IN SPOKEN SINHALA: INSIGHTS INTO GRAMMATICAL AND DISCOURSE FUNCTIONS

Kapugollawe Anandakiththi¹

Abstract

This research offers a detailed functional and categorical analysis of particles in spoken Sinhala, emphasising their essential role in the language's syntax and semantics. Sinhala particles are non-inflecting elements that attach to nominal or verbal constituents, serving various communicative functions. Through authentic spoken data, the study identifies eight distinct categories of particles: case, predicative, highlighting, conjunctive, discourse, interrogative, quotative, and negative particles. The analysis demonstrates how these particles contribute significantly to the clarity, coherence, and expressiveness of spoken Sinhala. Despite their small size and lack of inflexion, particles play a crucial role in organising discourse, marking pragmatic nuances, and shaping meaning. This study fills a gap in Sinhala linguistics by providing comprehensive examples and categorisation based on real language use. The findings have important implications for linguistic theory, language teaching, and the development of natural language processing tools for Sinhala. Future research is recommended to explore particle usage across dialects, social contexts, and historical development.

Keywords: Functional and Categorical Analysis, Particles, Spoken Sinhala, Syntax and Semantics, Non-Inflecting Elements

¹ Department of Linguistics, University of Kelaniya, Sri Lanka.

Email: kirthio@kln.ac.lk



<https://orcid.org/0009-0001-0810-9751>



[The Journal of Desk Research Review and Analysis](#), © 2025 by [The Library, University of Kelaniya, Sri Lanka](#), is licensed under [CC BY-SA 4.0](#)

Received date: 29.05.2025

Accepted date: 01.10.2025

Print Publishing Date: 31.10.2025

Web Publishing Date: 31.10.2025

Introduction

The study of particles in Sinhala, a language spoken by approximately 16 million people primarily in Sri Lanka, offers a fascinating glimpse into the intricate mechanics of natural language. Sinhala, belonging to the Indo-Aryan branch of the Indo-European language family, exhibits unique linguistic features that set it apart from other Indo-Aryan languages. The role of particles in Sinhala is particularly notable, as these elements, though non-inflecting, are pivotal in the syntactic and semantic construction of sentences.

Previous linguistic studies have explored various aspects of Sinhala, including its phonetics, morphology, syntax, and semantics. Notable works have addressed the structural elements of Sinhala, but comprehensive studies focusing specifically on particles have been relatively scarce. Existing research indicates that Sinhala particles serve multiple roles, from marking grammatical relations to adding nuanced meanings in discourse. However, these studies often categorise particles broadly, without delving deeply into their specific functions and interactions. Sinhala's linguistic diversity is marked by its ability to integrate particles seamlessly into everyday communication, showcasing a rich tapestry of syntactic and semantic relations.

This study is situated within a broader linguistic context encompassing syntax, semantics, and typology. While foundational texts such as Gair and Paolillo (1997) and Chandralal (2010) provide valuable overviews of Sinhala grammar, they do not extensively focus on the role of particles. Scholars such as Gair (1983) and Paolillo (1992) have acknowledged the syntactic and emphatic functions of Sinhala particles, but these analyses often remain general and lack in-depth functional categorisation. Comparative studies of particles in languages such as Japanese (Kuno, 1973; Noda, 2002) and Chinese (Li & Thompson, 1981) illustrate the importance of a nuanced, detailed approach in understanding the multifunctional nature of these linguistic elements.

Functional analyses of particles often emphasise their impact on sentence structure, discourse meaning, and pragmatic interpretation. For instance, particles like "də" (interrogative) and "lu" (quotative) in Sinhala reflect speaker attitude and contribute to conversational dynamics, but their roles within Sinhala syntax and discourse require further investigation. Typological insights from Croft (2003) and Haspelmath (2007) reinforce the idea that understanding particles contributes significantly to the broader understanding of linguistic diversity and language structure.

The current study aims to address this gap by providing a detailed functional and categorical analysis of Sinhala particles. The primary research question guiding this investigation is: *How do the various categories of particles in spoken Sinhala function and contribute to the syntactic and semantic structure of the language?* To answer this, the study pursues several key objectives:

1. **Categorisation of Particles:** To categorise Sinhala particles into distinct groups: Case Particles, Predicative Particles, Highlighting Particles, Conjunctive Particles, Discourse Particles, Interrogative Particles, Quotative Particles, and Negative Particles.
2. **Functional Analysis:** To analyse the specific functions of each category in spoken Sinhala, particularly in connecting nominal constituents and verbal forms.
3. **Usage and Examples:** To provide detailed examples illustrating how these particles contribute to sentence structure and meaning.
4. **Contribution to Linguistic Theory:** To offer insights into Sinhala's grammatical architecture, contributing to the broader field of linguistic theory and typological studies.

5. **Practical Implications:** To explore how understanding Sinhala particles can inform language learning, teaching, and translation practices.

This comprehensive approach aims to deepen the understanding of Sinhala grammar and enrich linguistic theory through a focused examination of particle use. Ultimately, the study of Sinhala particles is not only crucial for understanding the specific mechanics of this language but also for illuminating the intricate ways in which natural languages organise meaning and structure, thereby enhancing our appreciation of human linguistic capability.

Methodology

Research Strategies

This study employed qualitative, descriptive, and analytical research strategies to investigate the functional and categorical roles of particles in spoken Sinhala. The research design focused on capturing naturally occurring language data and analysing it within linguistic frameworks. A multi-method approach was used, incorporating both primary and secondary sources of data to ensure a comprehensive understanding of particle usage. The study also included comparative elements, drawing on findings from existing literature and corpora to enrich the analysis.

Sample and Sampling Techniques

The sample for this study consisted of spoken Sinhala data collected through purposeful sampling from a variety of natural communicative contexts. The aim was to capture authentic language use that reflects real-life particle application. The sampling included:

1. **Natural Conversations:** Audio recordings of informal and formal spoken Sinhala from social settings, workplaces, and media broadcasts.
2. **Semi-Structured Interviews:** Conducted with native Sinhala speakers to gather insights into their intuitive understanding of particle use and their perceptions of context-dependent meanings.
3. **Participant Observation:** The researcher observed and documented natural interactions among Sinhala speakers in different social and communicative settings.

In all cases, participants were native Sinhala speakers selected to represent a range of dialectal and situational variation, providing a rich source of linguistic data.

Analytical Techniques and Tools

A combination of manual and corpus-based linguistic analysis techniques was employed in this study. The following steps were taken:

1. **Transcription:** All audio and interview recordings were transcribed verbatim. Both standard Sinhala orthography and phonetic transcriptions (where necessary) were used to capture subtle variations in pronunciation that could affect particle usage.
2. **Categorisation of Particles:** Particles were classified into eight functional groups: Case Particles, Predicative Particles, Highlighting Particles, Conjunctive Particles, Discourse Particles, Interrogative Particles, Quotative Particles, Negative Particles

Classification criteria included syntactic positioning, grammatical function, contextual usage, and discourse relevance.

3. **Functional Analysis:** Each particle category was analysed in terms of:
 - Syntactic role (e.g., case marking, conjunction)
 - Semantic contribution (e.g., emphasis, negation)

Pragmatic function (e.g., discourse management, speaker attitude)

Natural examples were drawn from transcriptions and the Sinhala National Corpus, and each example was analysed to demonstrate the particles' usage in context.

4. Tools: For secondary data analysis, existing linguistic literature and the Sinhala National Corpus were used to support pattern recognition and provide frequency-based insights into particle usage.

Ethical Considerations

All participants were fully informed of the purpose and procedures of the study prior to data collection. Informed consent was obtained before any recording or interviewing took place. The confidentiality and anonymity of participants were maintained throughout the research process.

Discussion

The particles do not inflect in Sinhala. Typically, they are attached to the nominal constituents, and sometimes they appear with preceding verbal forms. There are several particles in Sinhala. They are as follows.

1. Case Particles
2. Predicative Particles
3. Highlighting Particles
4. Conjunctive Particles
5. Discourse Particles
6. Interrogative Particles
7. Quotative Particles
8. Negative Particles

Case Particles

The case particles are used to define the relationship between nominal constituents and predicates. The case particles in Sinhala are as follows.

<i>atin</i>	“by”	(genitive)
<i>lawa</i>	“by”	(causative)
<i>ekkə</i>	“with”	
<i>iⁿdan</i>	“from”	
<i>ate:</i>	“at” or “through”	(possessive)

Each case particle is given an example below.

atin “by”

laməya atin wi:duwə biⁿd-una
child-def cas-part glass-def break -pst
“The child broke the glass.”

lawa “by”

mamə gunapala lawa gas kəppuwa
I Gunapala cas-part tree-pl cut-caus-pst
“I got Gunapala to cut the trees”

ekkə “with”

mamə amma ekkə gedarə a:-wa
I mother-def cas-part home-def come-pst
“I came home with the mother”

iʰdan “from”

eya pustəka:le iʰdan lipiyə liyə-nəwa
he library-loc cas-part article-def write-prs
“He/she writes the article in the library”

ate “through”

puta ate e: pot ewa-nnə
son cas-part that book-pl send-imp
“Send those books through the son”

Predicative Particles

The predicative particles are mainly used after noun phrases, indicating their relationship to a predicator.

The predicative particles are as follows.

<i>gænə</i>	“about”
<i>wa:ge</i>	“like”
<i>waɖa:</i>	“more”
<i>pa:sa</i>	“every” (temporal)
<i>ga:ne</i>	“every” (spatial)
<i>tisse</i>	“throughout”

Each predicative particle is given an example below.

gænə “about”

e: mahattəya gænə kawurut dan-nəwa
that gentleman pred-part everybody know-prs
“Everybody knows about that gentleman”

wa:ge “like”

me wa:ge nayakəyo hari aduyi
this pred-part leader-pl very few
“The leaders like those are very few”
(Lit. These kind of leaders are very few)

waɖa: “more”

e: potətə waɖa me: potə hoʰdəyi
that book-dat pred-part this book good
“This book is better than that (book)”

pa:sa “every” (temporal)

awurudd-ak pa:sa me: utsəwe kərə-nəwa
year-indf pred-part this festival do-prs
“This festival is conducted every year”

ga:ne “every” (spatial)

eya dawəs-ak ga:ne salli ekətukəla
 he/she day-indf pred-part money-def-pl collect-pst
 “He/she collected money every day”

tisse “throughout”

ba:s satiy-ak tisse ka:r eka həd-uwa
 mechanic-def week-indf pred-part car-def-obj repair-pst
 “The mechanic repaired the car throughout a week”

Highlighting Particles

The highlighting particles come after a noun or a verb, and they are as follows.

tamayi “indeed”
mayi “verily or indeed”
mə “emphatically”

Each highlighting particle is given an example.

tamayi “indeed”

mamə kata kərənne sinhala tamayi
 I speak do-verbal-adj-prs Sinhala h-part
 “It is indeed Sinhala that I speak”

mayi “verily or indeed”

laməya wədə kərə-nəwa mayi
 child-def work do-prs h-part
 “The child is indeed working”

mə “emphatically”

iskole-mə innə
 school-loc-h-part stay-imp
 “Stay in the school itself”

Conjunctive Particles

The conjunctive particles are used to join two noun phrases or clauses. The conjunctive particles in Sinhala are as follows.

hari “or”
naŋ “if”
həŋiye “as”
kaŋ “till”
turu “till”
ta:k “so far as”
hinda “because”
koŋə “when”
gamaŋ “while”

Each conjunctive particle is given an example.

hari “or”

oya hari malli hari dorə arinnə
you or-conj-part brother conj-part door-def open-imp
“Either you or brother open the door”

naŋ “if”

me sini ho^odə naŋ kilo ekak dennə
this sugar good conj-part kilo one-indf give-imp
“If this sugar is good, give me one kilo”

hætiye “as”

næŋumə iwəraunə hætiye gedərə ennə
dance-def finish-vadj-pst conj-part home come-imp
“As soon as the dance has finished, come home”

kaŋ/turu “till”, *ta:k* “so far as”

mamə enə kaŋ/turu/ta:k ohe gedərə innə
I come-vadj-prs conj-part you home-gen stay-imp
“Until I come, you stay home”

nisa/hinda “because”

awwə sərə nisa/hinda api citterəpatiyak balannə yamu
sunshine strong conj-part we movie-indf see-inf go-hot
“Since the sunshine is so hot, let’s go see a movie”

koṭə “when”/*gamaŋ* “while”

mamə kaḍe-ṭə yanə koṭə/gamaŋ yaluw-ek balannə giya
I shop-dat go-vadj-prs conj-part friend-indf see-inf go-pst
“While going to the shop, I went to see a friend”

Discourse Particles

The discourse particles indicate a discourse relationship. They mostly appear at the beginning of a sentence and connect the utterance with something that has been said or has happened previously. The following are the discourse particles in Sinhala.

<i>itin/ŋ</i>	“then/so”
<i>a:yet</i>	“again”
<i>ærat</i>	“besides”
<i>ehenəŋ</i>	“if so or then”
<i>e:t</i>	“but”
<i>namut</i>	“but”
<i>hæbæy</i>	“but” (emphatically)

Below, each conjunctive particle is given in an example.

itin/ŋ “then/so”
itin/ŋ kohoməwat ennə bæri-də?

disco-part anyhow come-inf can't-q
 “So, can't you come anyhow?”

a:ye(t) “again”

oya a:ye(t) mehe ennə epa
 you disco-part here come-inf don't
 “You don't come here again”

æra(t) “besides”

oya-tə si:ni æra(t) wenə monəwa-də o:næ?
 you-dat sugar disco-part else what-q want
 “What else do you want besides sugar?”

ehenəŋ “if so or then”

ehenəŋ malliwə ewannə puluwan-də?
 disco-part younger brother-def send-inf can-q
 “Then, can you send the younger brother?”

e:t/namut/hæbæy “but”

me baɖu parənay e:t/namut/hæbæy hari ganən
 these good-pl old disco-part very expensive
 “These goods are old but (they are) very expensive”

Interrogative Particles

The interrogative particle *-də* is added to the end of a sentence or phrase to form questions.

Eg. *oya kanəwa də?* “Do you eat?”
e:kə ho"də də? “Is it good?”

Quotative Particles

bawə or *wagə* are the quotative particles in Sinhala. They are added to the end of the verbal clause to make an indirect statement. Another quotative particle, *kiyəla*, is used at the end of the quotation part in reporting direct speech. The other *-lu* “so they say” is added to the end of an utterance to indicate that the expressed information is hearsay.

Examples are given below for every quotative particle.

bawə/wagə Quotative Particles

mamə ehe giye næti bawə/wagə tatta dan-nəwa
 I there go-vadj-pst not quo-part father-def know-prs
 “Father knows that I didn't go there”

kiyəla Quotative Particles

adə agmætītuma illa:suna kiyəla prakasə una
 today, prime-minister-def resign-pst quo-part manifest become-pst
 “It was announced today that the prime-minister resigned”

-lu “so they say”

puta kaḍe-tə giya-lu
son-def shop-dat go-pst-quo-part
‘‘It seems/(they say) that the son went to the shop’’

Negative Particles

The negative particles *næ* ‘‘no/not or do not’’ and *epa* ‘‘don’t’’ are added to the end of a verb phrase or are used independently. This particle indicates rejection or prohibition.

(1) *ya-nnə epa*
go-inf do-not
‘‘Don’t go’’

(2) *de-nne næ*
give-emp no
‘‘Don’t/not give’’

Results

The research on the functional and categorical analysis of particles in spoken Sinhala has yielded several significant findings:

Sinhala particles exhibit a wide range of functionalities, encompassing case marking, predicate modification, highlighting, conjunction, discourse connection, interrogation, quotation, and negation. Each type of particle plays a specific role in sentence construction, contributing to the overall syntactic and semantic coherence of spoken Sinhala.

The case particles such as *atin*, *lawā*, *ekkə*, *iⁿdan* and *ate* are crucial for indicating relationships between nominal constituents and predicates. These particles do not inflect, maintaining a consistent form regardless of their syntactic environment.

The predicative particles like *gænə*, *wā:ge*, *wāḍa:*, *pā:sa*, *gā:ne* and *tisse* modify noun phrases to indicate relationships such as topic, comparison, frequency, and duration. Their usage is essential for expressing nuanced meanings and temporal or spatial relations in sentences.

The highlighting particles, including *tamayi*, *mayi* and *mə*, emphasise elements within sentences, enhancing the focus and intensity of statements. They are integral to adding emphasis and clarity, especially in spoken discourse, where emphasis can alter meaning significantly.

The conjunctive particles such as *hari*, *naṇ*, *hæṭṭiye*, *kaṇ*, *turu*, *ta:k*, *hinda*, *koṭə* and *gamaṇ* facilitate the connection of clauses and phrases, indicating logical and temporal relationships. Their presence is vital for constructing complex sentences and expressing conditionality, temporality, and causality.

The discourse particles like *itin/ṇ*, *a: yet*, *ærat*, *ehenāṇ*, *e:t*, *namut* and *hæbæy* are used to link utterances within a discourse, reflecting connections to previous statements or events. They help maintain coherence and continuity in conversations, guiding the listener through the speaker's train of thought.

The interrogative particle *-də* transforms statements into questions, a crucial function in spoken interaction for seeking information, confirmation, or clarification. Its consistent usage across different contexts highlights its importance in everyday communication.

The quotative particles *bawə*, *wagə*, *kiyāla*, and *-lu* are employed in report speech, indicate hearsay, and convey indirect statements. These particles enhance the richness of storytelling and reporting in Sinhala, allowing speakers to convey various levels of directness and reliability.

The negative particles *næ* and *epa* are used to express negation and prohibition, fundamental functions in any language. Their usage in verb phrases and independent forms underscores their versatility and importance in constructing negative statements.

Conclusion and Recommendations

This study has provided an in-depth functional and categorical analysis of particles in spoken Sinhala, shedding light on their critical role in the language's syntactic and semantic structure. Sinhala particles, despite their non-inflecting nature, demonstrate remarkable versatility and significance in constructing meaning across various communicative contexts.

The categorisation of particles into eight functional groups, Case marking, Predicative, Highlighting, Conjunctive, Discourse, Interrogative, Quotative, and Negative, reveals a complex yet systematic use of these elements in spoken discourse. Each category contributes uniquely to the coherence, clarity, and richness of Sinhala speech. From defining grammatical roles and linking clauses to emphasising elements and indicating speaker attitudes, Sinhala particles operate as essential tools for both structural and pragmatic communication.

By examining natural speech data and authentic usage, this research has filled an important gap in Sinhala linguistics, highlighting how these seemingly minor elements play a significant role in shaping meaning and maintaining discourse flow. Ultimately, the study affirms that Sinhala particles are not only vital linguistic units but also windows into the cognitive and communicative strategies of their speakers.

Based on the findings of this research, the following recommendations are proposed for future study and practical application:

1. **Extended Corpus-Based Analysis:** Future research should expand the analysis of Sinhala particles using larger and more diverse corpora, including regional dialects and sociolects, to observe variation in usage.
2. **Comparative Studies:** A comparative analysis of Sinhala particles with those of other Indo-Aryan or Dravidian languages may provide deeper insights into areal features and historical developments.
3. **Sociolinguistic Investigations:** Research into how factors such as age, gender, education level, and social setting influence particle usage could enrich our understanding of language variation and identity.
4. **Pedagogical Applications:** Findings from this study can be integrated into Sinhala language teaching curricula to improve learners' understanding of sentence structure and discourse strategies.
5. **Natural Language Processing (NLP):** Linguistic data on particles can support the development of Sinhala NLP tools, such as parsers and speech recognition systems, by improving the handling of functional elements in spoken data.
6. **Diachronic Study:** Investigating the historical evolution of particles in Sinhala through older texts and inscriptions may uncover patterns of grammaticalization and semantic shift over time.

Acknowledgement

I extend my heartfelt gratitude to Associate Professor Suniti Karunatilake (Department of Geology and Geophysics) and Professor Maheshi Dasanayake (Department of Biological Sciences), Louisiana State University, USA, for their unwavering encouragement and academic support. Their guidance has been instrumental in the successful completion of this research. I am also deeply thankful to Ms. Amaya Nanayakkara of the Department of Linguistics, University of Kelaniya, for her constructive feedback and invaluable assistance throughout this study.

References

- Abhayasinghe, A. A. (1973). *A morphological study of Sinhalese* (PhD dissertation). University of York.
- Abhayasinghe, A. A. (1990). *Syntax of a simple sentence in Sinhala*. Author Publication.
- Abhayasinghe, A. A. (1992). *Syntax of a complex sentence in Sinhala*. Author Publication.
- Aijmer, K. (2002). *English discourse particles: Evidence from a corpus*. John Benjamins Publishing Company.
- Biber, D., Connor, U., & Upton, T. A. (2007). *Discourse on the move: Using corpus analysis to describe discourse structure*. John Benjamins Publishing Company.
- Bickford, J. A. (1998). *Morphology and syntax: Tools for analyzing the world's languages*. Summer Institute of Linguistics.
- Blake, B. J. (2001). *Case*. Cambridge University Press.
- Bloomfield, L. (1935). *Language*. Allen and Unwin.
- Chandralal, D. (2010). *Sinhala*. John Benjamins Publishing Company.
- Chomsky, N. (1957). *Syntactic structures*. Mouton.
- Chomsky, N. (1981). *Lectures on government and binding*. Foris.
- Comrie, B. (1989). *Language universals and linguistic typology*. University of Chicago Press.
- Creswell, J. W. (2014). *Research design: Qualitative, quantitative, and mixed methods approaches* (4th ed.). Sage Publications.
- Croft, W. (2003). *Typology and universals* (2nd ed.). Cambridge University Press.
- De Silva, M. W. (1960). Verbal categories in spoken Sinhalese. *University of Ceylon Review*, 18(1), 96–112.
- De Silva, M. W. S. (1979). *Sinhalese phonology: A descriptive analysis*. Routledge.
- Dixon, R. M. W. (1994). *Ergativity*. Cambridge University Press.
- Fairbanks, G. W., Gair, J. W., & De Silva, M. W. S. (1968). *Colloquial Sinhalese (Sinhala): Books 1 and 2*. Cornell University South Asia Program.
- Fischer, K. (Ed.). (2006). *Approaches to discourse particles*. Elsevier.
- Gair, J. W. (1967). Colloquial Sinhala inflectional categories and parts of speech. *Indian Linguistics*, 27, 31–45.
- Gair, J. W. (1970). *Colloquial Sinhalese clause structure*. Mouton.
- Gair, J. W. (1983). Nonconfigurationality, movement and Sinhala focus. In B. C. Lust (Ed.), *Studies in South Asian linguistics: Sinhala and other South Asian languages* (pp. 50–64). Oxford University Press.
- Gair, J. W. (1998). *Studies in South Asian linguistics: Sinhala and other South Asian languages*. Oxford University Press.
- Gair, J. W., Karunatilake, W. S., & Paolillo, J. C. (1987). *Reading in colloquial Sinhala*. Cornell University South Asia Program.
- Gair, J. W., & Paolillo, J. C. (1997). *Sinhala* (Languages of the World/Materials 34). Lincom Europa.
- Gunasekar, M. A. (1891). *A comprehensive grammar of the Sinhalese language*. Government Press.
- Haspelmath, M., Dryer, M. S., Gil, D., & Comrie, B. (Eds.). (2007). *The world atlas of language structures online*. Oxford University Press.
- Hopper, P. J., & Traugott, E. C. (2003). *Grammaticalization* (2nd ed.). Cambridge University Press.
- Karunatilake, W. S. (2003). *Sinhala bhashāwe vyākaraṇaya*. M. D. Gunasena.
- Karunatilake, W. S. (1992). *An introduction to spoken Sinhala*. M. D. Gunasena.
- Kuno, S. (1973). *The structure of the Japanese language*. MIT Press.

- Li, C. N., & Thompson, S. A. (1981). *Mandarin Chinese: A functional reference grammar*. University of California Press.
- Miles, M. B., Huberman, A. M., & Saldaña, J. (2014). *Qualitative data analysis: A methods sourcebook* (3rd ed.). Sage Publications.
- Noda, H. (2002). *Japanese particles: A comprehensive guide*. Kodansha International.
- Onodera, N. (2007). *Japanese discourse markers*. John Benjamins Publishing Company.
- Paolillo, J. C. (1991). Sinhala diglossia and the theory of government and binding. *Southwest Journal of Linguistics*, 10(1), 41–59.
- Paolillo, J. C. (1992). *Functional syntax and universal grammar*. Cambridge University Press.
- Paolillo, J. C. (1997). Sinhala diglossic variation: Continuous or discrete? *Language in Society*, 26(2), 269–296.
- Payne, T. E. (1997). *Describing morphosyntax: A guide for field linguists*. Cambridge University Press.
- Radford, A. (1981). *Transformational syntax: A student's guide to Chomsky's extended standard theory*. Cambridge University Press.
- Schiffrin, D. (1987). *Discourse markers*. Cambridge University Press.
- Schourup, L. (1999). Discourse markers. *Lingua*, 107(3), 227–265.
- Tannen, D. (1989). *Talking voices: Repetition, dialogue, and imagery in conversational discourse*. Cambridge University Press.
- Weerakoon, H. (1988). *Nominalization in Sinhala* (PhD dissertation). University of Kelaniya.