This is unfortunately true of our country, where we speak an outdated model of English. This is an assertion of a national and cultural identity that is now accepted by the educated speakers of English. Both these words are therefore in the Standard British English lexicon.

Sri Lankan English has now gained legitimacy, and is considered a fully-fledged variety with its own phonology, vocabulary and syntax, in terms of range from the formal to the informal.

Teaching and learning Sri Lankan English
Most Sri Lankan English learners learn English from teachers speaking Sri Lankan English, although a few learn it at home from their parents, who, once again, speak SLE. So, whether we like it or not, it is Sri Lankan English, not Standard British English that we have been teaching in the classroom. However, recent studies have shown that students are very receptive to the idea that we speak Sri Lankan English. These studies have also shown that teachers in particular actually know very little about the features of Standard British English.

We have to admit the impossibility and the absurdity of trying to impose on ourselves an outdated and alien accent. It is a model that is also unknown, and therefore unteachable. In a context of learning where the majority of the people in the country depend on the classroom to learn the language. At present, rules of Standard Sri Lankan English have been codified in academic texts, and steps are underway to describe and publicise the rules of standard Sri Lankan English. This is a metalinguistic act of asserting the right of Sri Lankan English to be the language of Sri Lanka. This will naturally pro-

Myths about Sri Lankan English
Sri Lankan English is considered "broken English" or "substandard English" by some uninformed people. However, experts have pointed out that it is the correct "incorrect" usages, and formal and informal usages.

The attitude towards errors will also have to be more tolerant in the speech class. Errors in the language class tend to be seen negatively, and students are even ridiculed for making mistakes in class. However, making mistakes is part of the process of learning to speak.

Students, both adults and children, will make many errors as they speak. Their errors will not be corrected in a way that does not have a negative effect on their fluency or on their confidence.

More importantly, the election accent is a limited purpose and function in Sri Lanka. Those who learn it do not do it to speak intelligently in the language in any way, it is a purely social function.

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