Chapter III

Methodology adopted for the Study
METHODOLOGY ADOPTED FOR THE STUDY

Methodology means a set of practices, procedures and rules used by those who work in a discipline. In a nutshell, it is a set of working methods. It refers to the procedure in which data is systematically collected from a population through some form of direct solicitation such as face to face interview, questionnaire or schedule. The survey is extensive and cross-sectional dealing with a relatively large number of cases of a particular time and yielding statistics that are abstracted from particular cases. It is the method of investigation which attempts to describe and interpret what exists at present in the form of conditions, practices processes, trends, effects, attitudes, and beliefs.

The main purpose of this study is to find the real status of English language teaching in the government aided management schools of the coastal villages of Kanyakumari district. The researcher has gathered information about the status of English language teaching in the government aided management schools of the coastal villages of Kanyakumari district by means of questionnaires from the English teachers, heads of the institutions, and the students. The researcher has
also interviewed the English teachers in person and has observed the real nature of English language teaching in the government aided management schools of the coastal villages of Kanyakumari district.

The area of the research comprises of the villages that are in the coastal line of Kanyakumari district. The coastal line of Kanyakumari District consists of forty eight villages extending from Arokiapuram in the East to Neerody in the West. There are nearly three to four lakhs people living in these villages. Most of the people in these villages are fishermen. They do fishing using catamarans or mechanized boats. Some people earn much money by fishing but most of them are still in poor conditions. Most of the fishermen in these villages are uneducated people and to earn their daily bread they go to the sea for fishing. The people in these coastal villages send their children to the Tamil medium schools in these villages, except a few rich people who send their children to the English medium schools. Among the fisher folk, those who are aware of the importance and need of English language in the present world scenario have sent their children to the English medium schools. Due to this, English medium schools have come up like mushrooms in and out of these villages. In the English medium schools, all the lessons are taught only in English. But in the Tamil medium schools, lessons are taught in Tamil language.
Most of the students studying in the government aided management schools of the coastal villages of Kanyakumari district are first generation learners. Students, especially boys, when they feel a little difficulty in learning, at times discontinue their studies and go to the sea to earn their livelihood. The poor economic conditions of the family also lead them to discontinue their studies. The lack of awareness of the importance of education and the attraction over earning money at a very early age lead them to discontinue their studies. The study focuses on the status of English language teaching in the government aided management schools of these coastal villages.

The samples for the study are the teachers who teach English in the schools of the coastal villages. The teachers of English in the government aided management schools of the coastal villages, heads of these schools and selected students are used as samples for gathering information to study the status or level of English language teaching in the government aided management schools of the coastal villages of Kanyakumari district. All the teachers of English and the heads of the institutions who are taken as samples, work in these coastal schools of Kanyakumari district and the students taken as samples study in these schools.
The tools used for the study are questionnaires and personal interviews with the teachers of English, heads of the institutions, and the students of the coastal villages of Kanyakumari district. Three types of questionnaires are prepared by the researcher and administered. The questionnaire for the teachers of English (Appendix I) consists of thirty questions, the questionnaire for the headmaster / headmistresses (Appendix II) consists of twenty one questions, and the questionnaire for the students (Appendix III) consists of eight questions. The first part of the questionnaire, for the teachers and the heads of the institutions, has questions regarding their personal details. Some questions are optional and some questions are descriptive. Descriptive type of questions are included in the questionnaire to find out if the teachers are able to use correct English in writing. The data is analysed through frequencies and percentage responses.