**Our Research**

Do you want to use Sinhala language voice assistance application like Siri? Do you think it’s good to have Sinhala automated question and answering system? Do you need a summary after a meeting held in Sinhala? With the implementation of Sinhala Unicode, the platform for this has been set But, In order to make all these fantastic things, we need to do a lot of preliminary works related to Sinhala language processing such as Dialogue Act Recognition, POS tagging and translation. Among these DA recognition holds an important place. So, the main objective of our research is to make use of the already existing research for Dialog Act Recognition for English and explore how it can be used in the context of Sinhala.

**What is Dialogue Act?**

A Dialogue Act represents the meaning of an utterance at the level of illocutionary force. It means recognizing an utterance or a sentence as a specific DA type such as statements, requests, questions, apologies and thanking. These acts are for expressing a certain attitude, For example, a statement expresses a belief, a request expresses a desire, and an apology expresses regret.

Ex:

ඇයට කෑම පිසින්න පුලුවන්ද - question

ඇයට කෑම පිසින්න පුලුවන් - statement

**Methodology**

Since there is no conversational corpus exists, a corpus was created from Sinhala subtitles for English movies. A set of dialog acts was identified based on the commonly used Dialog acts for English. Similarly, feature selection was started with the common features used for English, and later on the study Sinhala-specific features were identified to improve the classification accuracy. Using the best performing feature set we have performed an evaluation for effectiveness of classification process. We also experimented with multiple classifiers to select the best performing classifier for Sinhala language.

