

**Sri Lankans' Views on English
in the Colonial and Post-Colonial Eras**

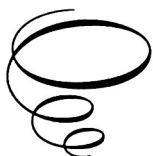
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By

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This book evaluates the views of different ethnic groups towards the English language in Sri Lanka for a period of almost two centuries. While a few studies have addressed the subject of English in Sri Lanka in a general way, there has been no research showing the specifics of English usage in the major ethnic communities of the country. This text considers notions and attitudes towards English that prevail in Sri Lanka today among writers, language planners, teachers and students, habitual speakers, and infrequent users, as well as elite and non-elite groups in the country. The book also examines colonial and postcolonial writings in three communities, namely the Sri Lankan diaspora and the Tamil and Sinhala communities.

Subathini Ramesh is Professor in Linguistics and former Head of the Department of Linguistics and English at the University of Jaffna, Sri Lanka. She received her PhD in Linguistics in 2000, and has published several journal articles in the fields of applied linguistics, syntax, translation studies, lexicography and stylistics. She is the editor of the *Journal of South Asian Studies*, and the author of two books, *A Contrastive Study of Nominalization in Tamil and Sinhala* (2000) and *The Thoughts of Tamil Linguistics* (1999). She is also the chief editor of *Studies in Sri Lankan Tamil Linguistics and Culture: Prof. S. Suseendrarajah's Commemoration Volume* (1999) and co-editor of *Current Trends in Tamilology: Prof. S. Rajaram's Commemoration Volume* (2002). She is also the author of *Peculiar Words in Ceylon Tamil* (2005) and *Grammatical Personalities in Sri Lanka 1* (2008).

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