

**A study of the Language used by the Kaffir Community of Sri Lanka
(Living in Puttalam and Trincomalee)**

Kulasekara N.K.¹ and Wijeratne W.M.²

*¹University of Colombo
nirosha2959@gmail.com

Abstract

Sri Lankan Kaffirs are a very small ethnic group in Sri Lanka who are descendants of African workers and soldiers brought to the island by Portuguese colonists in the 17th Century. The Kaffir community of Sri Lanka is merging with the Sri Lankan society and their African identity is not preserved in their culture or their language. Therefore, it is useful to research on the language used in this community and the research will focus on identifying the nature of this language variety. The research done on this community is mostly regarding their music and dance. The aim of this study therefore is to identify the language used by the Kaffir community and study it linguistically. Most researches focus on the Kaffir community living in Sirambi Adiya, Puttalam. The majority of the words are found in the songs of the Kaffir community in Puttalam. The community living in Trincomalee is not included in them. Therefore this research would contain data on the Kaffir community living in Trincomalee as well. The present research will include male and female participants who would volunteer from the Community. The research subjects will be selected from all Kaffir communities found in Sri Lanka. The research instruments used in this research would be speech recordings and interviews. The language data collected will be analysed based on a structural theoretical framework. The research finding will be documented and preserved for future research and references.

Key words : Kaffir community, African, identity, language, linguistics, speech recordings, interviews