

RARE

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



Nirosha K. Kulasekara

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Abstract

Sri Lankan Africans 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 Afro - Sri Lankan 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 was useful to research on the language used in this community and the research was focus on identifying the nature of this language variety. The research done on this community was mostly regarding their music and dance. The aim of this study therefore was to identify the language used by the Afro - Sri Lankan community and study it linguistically. Most researches focused on the Afro - Sri Lankan community living in Sirambi Adiya, Puttalem. The majority of the words were found in the songs of the Afro - Sri Lankan community in Puttalem. The community living in Trincomalee and Kalpity were not included in them. Therefore this research contain data on the Afro - Sri Lankan community living in Trincomalee and Kalpity as well. The present research included male and female participants who volunteered from the Community. The research subjects were selected from all Afro - Sri Lankan communities found in Sri Lanka. The research instruments used in this research were speech recordings and interviews. The language data collected was analyzed based on a structural theoretical framework. The research finding was documented and preserved for future research and references.

Keywords: Kaffir, Language, Culture, African - Sri Lankan, Linguistics