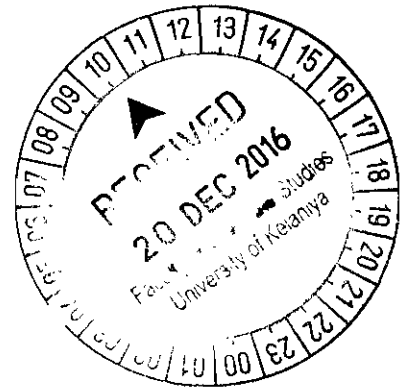


RARE

DISSERTATION



**Portrayal of Jaffna Tamil Culture in
Sri Lankan Tamil Writing in English from
Jaffna during the Postcolonial Era**

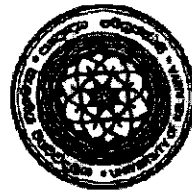
Submitted By

Sivagowri Sivagurunathan

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**A Thesis Submitted to the Faculty of Graduate Studies,
University of Kelaniya, Sri Lanka in fulfilment of the requirements
for the degree of Master of Philosophy in English**



July 2015

Abstract

Creative writing in English by the South Asian writers has been the subject of discussion not as the English literature but as the literature in English due to the indigenous flavour of those writings.

The contribution of Tamils from Jaffna to the canon of Sri Lankan literature in English is explored in this thesis as the writing of Jaffna Tamils and their cultural identity have rarely been the subject of a study. This thesis by selecting the writing in English by Jaffna Tamils like Alagu Subramaniam, Pon.Kulendran, A. Santhan, Sivanandini Duraiswamy, T. Arasanayagam and Prof.Suriyakumaran, depicts the socio cultural milieu of Jaffna which is one of the native places of the Tamil ethnic community.

Focusing on the ways in which the Tamil identity and culture have influenced both the production and critical reception of the selected writing from Jaffna, this thesis offers a critical analysis of the way the Jaffna Tamil community's culture represented in the selected writing of Jaffna Tamil writers. Although Tamil women have coped with roles foisted upon them by postcolonial realities, these women still are the reservoirs and transmitters of cultural knowledge in their communities. They also contribute to their families' and communities' wellbeing, and in some cases their power is respected. Nativization of English strategies draws a variety of cultural elements and they provide cultural roots to the texts by recapturing socio cultural and religious values. The writers use the language by incorporating indigenous language forms into English to define their socio political and linguistic identity.

From the analysis of the writing of Jaffna Tamils during the postcolonial era in socio-cultural and political stand point it is clear that the writers have inscribed the antiquity of the Tamil identity through various practice of Jaffnese and their sense of Tamil identity which prevailed over a long time contributed to the rise of feeling of Tamil Nationalism which further records the agonies, aspirations, pathos, anxieties and disillusion of a community.

Key words: Jaffnese, Jaffna Tamil English, palmyra, Jaffna bull, postcolonial