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LINGUISTIC PHILOSOPHY AS REFLECTED
IN
THE GĀTAPADAS AND THE SANNAS
OF
ANCIENT SRI LANKA

FROM THE BEGINNINGS^{UP} TO THE END OF THE THIRTEENTH CENTURY.

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A B S T R A C T

In this study an attempt is made to examine the linguistic philosophy as reflected in the gātapadas and sannas of ancient Sri Lanka from the beginnings to the end of the 13th century. Chapter One is devoted to a short survey of the linguistic history of India as an introduction. The sources are examined in the second chapter. Chapter three examines the etymologies in the relevant texts. The problems of description and explanation are discussed in chapters four and five respectively. Chapter six lays bare the attempt on the part of the ancient authors to divide various ideas into different categories. The concepts of synonyms and antonyms are treated in the chapters seven and eight respectively. In chapters nine and ten, the toponyms and anthroponyms are examined respectively. Chapter eleven is devoted to the similes and chapter twelve to the metaphors. The concept of 'proposition' is examined in chapter thirteen. The denotative and connotative meanings of words form the subject of discussion of the chapter fourteen. Chapter fifteen deals with the concepts of vocabulary and lexicography. Formation of Sinhala grammatical rules and explanations is examined in chapter sixteen while chapter seventeen is devoted to the study of several significant phrases and sentences. Some aspects of mass communication in ancient Sri Lanka are taken note of, in the chapter eighteen. Chapter nineteen deals with the philosophy of the Sinhala language. Chapter twenty, the conclusion, sums up the main results of the present study.