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THE VERB IN EARLY SINHALESE
(from the 3c. B.C. - the 10c. A.D.)

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ABSTRACT:

The subject of this thesis is the study of the Sinhalese verb system in the 10th century A.D. and its development from earliest times.

Chapter I is a general introduction to the language and the sources. There are two sources available for the historical linguistic study of this period, the inscriptions and the literary texts. Their content and value as sources for a linguistic study are examined in this chapter.

Chapter 2 deals with two characteristics of the modern Sinhalese verb system, diglossia in the morphology of the verb and the three stem forms of the verb which are traditionally regarded as active, causative and passive.

Chapter 3 investigates the Sinhalese verb system in the 10th century, on the basis of two literary texts belonging to that time, the *Dhampiya: Atuva: Gætapadaya* and the *Siya Bas Lakara*. Grammatical categories are established on formal-functional grounds and the morphological categories which represent them are then examined.

Chapter 4 is devoted to a study of the history of each morphological category examined in the previous chapter. The study is based on the forms attested in the inscriptions from the 3rd century B.C. to the 10th century A.D.

Chapter 5 examines the general development of the verb system. Verbal categories such as tense, mood and voice in the system are compared with those of the Old and Middle Indic systems and conclusions are established on the basis of the substance of the preceding chapters. Particular attention is drawn to two aspects of the development, the passive to active reanalysis of the past tense and the development of the tripartite division of the verb stem, active, passive and causative.

2.1. Diglossia in the Morphology of the Verb

2.2. The Three Stems of the Verb