

An Investigative Study on the Communicative Aspects of *Oppari* Singing Used Among Sri Lankan Tamils

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Oppari singing can be identified as a form of singing used by the Tamil people at funerals. Not only the Hindu people who migrated from South India to Sri Lankan estates but also the Tamil people of Jaffna sing this *Oppari* at their funerals. In these funeral ceremonies, it is special that only the women sing this song, standing next to the dead body. *Oppari* singing is defined as a rhythmic lamentation. That is, singing the merits of the deceased person and forming a rhythmic chant. Does *Oppari* singing in use among Sri Lankan estate Tamils contain social communication features? This research was conducted on the basis of the problem and collected data on the assumption that the social communication features of *Oppari* singing used among plantation Tamil people are included. This included the communicative aspect of *Oppari* singing, the peculiarities of *Oppari* singing, the current use of *Oppari* singing, etc. Qualitative data collection methods and discussion analysis were used as research methods for data collection. The primary source of data was collected through field study and interviews with people in Haputale and Poondaluoya, while the secondary source of data was collected through books, newspapers and documents. The analysis of this data shows that the Sri Lankan estate Tamil people give an understanding about the dead person to the people participating in the funeral by singing *Oppari*, and that *Oppari* song represents itself as a symbol and communicates and interprets the person, and this *Oppari* song which performed for the dead body, not to express the grief over the loss of the deceased person but to remember what the deceased person did while he was alive. It was also revealed that this *Oppari* singing is a special kind of funeral singing that is only limited to the Tamil people and unique to them.

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