

## **Research on the Impact of Sri Lankan Language Policy on Its Ethnic Relations**

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Language issues are one of the important variables that trigger social conflicts. The improper handling of the selection and promotion of national and official languages in multi-ethnic countries can easily lead to inter-ethnic conflicts, which will adversely affect the construction of harmonious ethnic relations. Sri Lanka is a multi-ethnic, multi religious and multi lingual country deeply under the colonial rule of the West. After its independence, in the face of the establishment of the national language and the official language, there were frequent ethnic disputes, even bloody conflicts and wars between Sinhalese and Tamil due to their respective language status issues. By analyzing the impact of the implementation and promotion of Sri Lanka's multi-ethnic language policy after independence on Sri Lanka's ethnic relations, this paper reveals that it is understandable for an independent country to choose one or more local languages as its national language according to its national conditions, whether as its symbol or ethnic language; However, the choice of national language and official language should be fully combined with the reality of the national language situation. In the process of its implementation, it can neither be forced nor rushed. From the perspective of building harmonious ethnic relations, multi-ethnic countries should respect and safeguard the language rights of all ethnic groups and adhere to the multilingualism policy in the process of promoting the national language and official language.

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