The Story of Standardisation

Ranjan Abayasekara in Colombo Telegraph: Taken together they [the Preface the main book and Appendices] make up a document which presents how the policy & practice of Standardisation adversely affected Tamil students unfairly leading rapidly to their alienation. Protest marches followed soon after, eventually leading to calls for a separate state, and great tragedy lay in wait for the community. As we know, greater tragedy for the whole country was to follow, due to a separatist war that lasted about 30 years, and the entire nation paid a heavy price.

Heritage Histories

Ground views: As Dr. Hoole shows in this book, ‘heritage histories’ galore in Jaffna society. They are ‘historical’ narratives about individuals or institutions invented to glorify the biographies as well as legacies of such individuals and institutions. Dr. Hoole’s extensive documentation of several Jaffna heritage histories shows that they constitute a specific genre of history writing.

They have spawned a mode of writing that of course have a kernel of historical facts, but around the facts are exaggerations, falsehoods and unsubstantiated claims meant to establish glory, authenticity and fame. Few such invented heritage histories that are documented and commented on in this book suggest that it is a widespread and popular practice among a range of identity communities associated with caste, religion, religious sect, school and so on in contemporary Jaffna society.

Dr. Valentine Daniel of Columbia: Once I opened it, I couldn’t turn it off. So I read it in one sitting on the screen. A coup de grace and no mixed words, I must say.

Dr. Bryan Pfaffenberger of Virginia: Like Valentine, I couldn’t put it down

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