

AN INVESTIGATIVE STUDY OF THE HISTORICAL INFORMATION REVEALED IN THE PRE - BRAHMI INSCRIPTIONS FOUND IN THE RAJAGALA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE OF AMPARA DISTRICT, SRI LANKA

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Archaeological sources play an important role in the study of Sri Lankan historical context. Accordingly, in the investigative study of the facts mentioned in the archaeological sources, a lot of information related to a broad contextual history is revealed and the Rajagala forest located in the village of 'Rajagalathenna' in the Ampara district of the Eastern Province has been identified. The main problem of this research study was to identify the historical background revealed by the Pre-Brahmi inscriptions found at the Rajagala archaeological site. Also, identifying the Rajagala archaeological field, identifying the pre-Brahmi inscriptions found in the archaeological field, and studying the Sri Lankan historical background revealed through those inscription sources can be stated as the primary objectives of this research. The research method used in this research study was the qualitative research method. Accordingly, data was collected under the participatory observation method using the field study method. Also, while conducting this research, secondary literature sources were also studied. In analyzing the data related to the research, an automated analysis method was used. Accordingly, through the classification of the sources of inscriptions found in the Rajagala archaeological field, inscriptions referring to the religious history of this country can be identified. Accordingly, the cave ashrams granted to the monks by the princes are also mentioned. Also, the caves donated by 'Parumuka', 'Gamika' to the monks, the caves donated to the monks by ordinary people, the names of various people, positions, names of caves, caves etc. are many sources of inscriptions. Thus, it seems that a lot of historical information about this country is revealed through these inscription sources. An inscription confirming the visit of Mihindu Maharajah to Lakdiwa, which is considered an important milestone in Sri Lankan Buddhist history, has also been found. Moreover, the facts that confirm the accuracy of the facts found in the literary sources about the 'Mahindagamana' can be identified with this Rajagala Pre-Brahmi script. Among the personal names included in the Rajagala pre-Brahmi inscriptions, the personal names 'Devanapiya, Gamini, Lajjitissa, Abhaya Tissa, Buddhadatta, Tissagutta, Nandika' and the titles 'Raja, Maharaja, Gamika, Upasika' have been identified. Also, many cave names and rock names are recognized. Thus, as a whole, through this research study, the information mentioned in the Prag Brahmi inscriptions found in the Rajagala archaeological field is confirmed by literary sources, which confirms the accuracy of the information and it can be concluded that there is a lot of information. It is revealed that it can be identified in the historical context of this country.

Keywords: Archaeological sources, Cave names, Inscriptions, Mahindagamana, Pre-Brahmi, Rajagala

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