

AN ANALYTICAL STUDY ON THE TACTICS IMITATED BY THE DUTCH IN DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH THE KANDYAN COURT: METHOD OF CORRESPONDENCE

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The kingdom of Kandy maintained diplomatic relations with three European nations. Among them, Holland, which has been more successful in diplomatic affairs than any other Europeans, has strategically exchanged letters with Kandy and compensated great results. The distance between the states, the expenditure of unlimited wealth, and the risk of life can be termed as obstacles to communication for the state rulers this time in conducting diplomatic relations. Therefore, correspondence is used to forward the message of the concerned ruler to the recipient without undergoing any editing. Accordingly, it is important to recognize the utility of correspondence as a diplomatic method between different languages and cultures. This study has been conducted through the historical research method by referring sources, for the purposes of interpreting what diplomacy is, identifying the tactics used by the Dutch in correspondence, and identifying the results that arose from following those tactics. Diplomacy is the art and process of dealing between nations. In correspondence, the Dutch used “brief” and the royal court “Kaidapana” to refer to letters. The strategy used by the Dutch for these letters is to address the contemporary ruler in an appreciative manner. Accordingly, the Dutch used praise like “invincible emperor of supreme power, as the clear-shining Sun lifts the dark Clouds and the mist of the Earth” to address the king. Through those strategic methods, Dutch obtained successful results, such as obtaining permission to peel Cinnamon and transporting Elephants through the highlands. From these examples it appears that praising the ruler had to be done reluctantly by locals as well as foreigners. But it seems that the Dutch realized that it was more effective to be at peace with the Kandyan king to achieve their goals and strategically played a subservient role to the king. As they reported to their government, that role has been played only for their own benefit.

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