

Ponnampalam
Ragupathy

EEZHAM TAMIL AND SINHALA PLACE NAMES
Etymology Environment Economy Settlement Society Culture

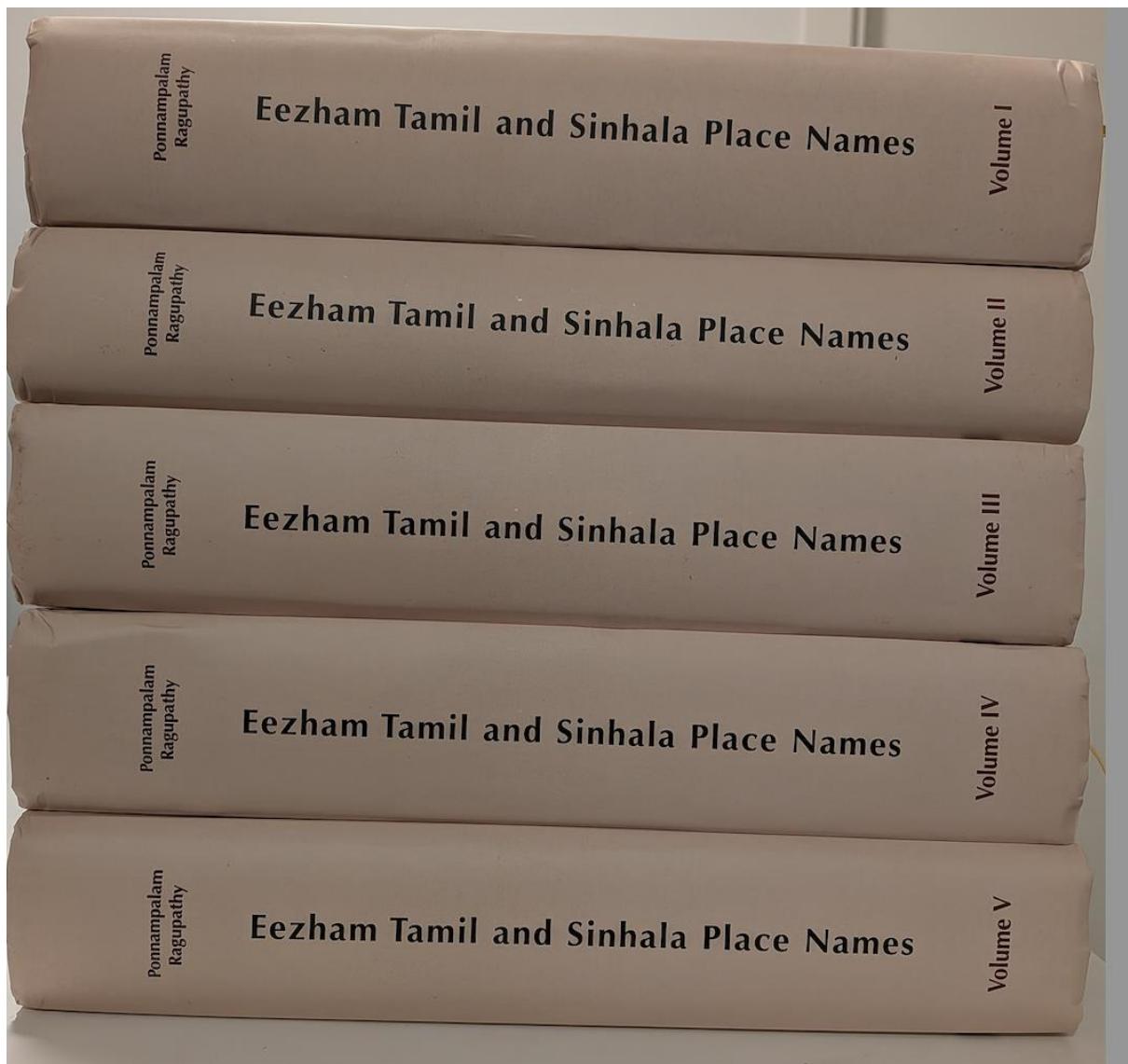
Eezham Tamil and Sinhala Place Names



Volume I

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Guide to the use of this book

1. Search the Index to find the placename that is sought and the column numbers where it is discussed.
2. Check all the columns marked for the placename to find full discussion on its meaning and etymology. If the placename is one of the title names this could be found straightaway in one column. If it comes only as a Related Placename, relevant facts from the noted columns need to be pieced together.
3. To get the meaning and etymology of a particular toponymic term, search the term in Tables I and II that list Primary and Secondary Terms. The tables would give brief information and show the serial number of the main column in which the term is discussed in detail, either under section 5 or under Related Placenames of that column.
4. Identical placenames come as one entry, under which their different locations are given separated by semicolons. To find placenames comparable in components (i.e., prefixes, suffixes or other terms), get the column number of that component or term from the tables (mainly Table I and II) and see the Related Placenames listed under that tag in that column. Besides, the Index also would help to find placenames comparable especially in prefixes.
5. For a subject-wise study of toponyms and toponymic terms see Tables III to XXV.
6. Any placename that doesn't figure in this book could be comprehended fully or partially if there are matching components.
7. A few toponyms or toponymic terms, which elude convincing meaning are left without any explanation.

Introduction

Structure, Sources, Methods, Presentation, Interpretation and Limitations

General Description

01. 15,000 Toponyms

This work is an attempt towards a comprehensive study of the toponyms of the entire island of Lañkā/ Ilañkai. More than 15,000 Eezham Tamil and Sinhala place names have been taken up for this study. All of them are alphabetically listed in the Index, with reference to the columns where they come in.

02. 500 Columns of 2000 Title Toponyms

The 15,000 place names are discussed under 500 columns that have serial numbers from C001 to C500. Around 2000 place names out of the 15,000 have been selected to come as Title Toponyms in the columns. The remaining ones are listed as Related Place Names in the relevant columns.

03. Suffixes as the Main Criterion for the Selection of Title Toponyms

Suffixes are predominantly the primary toponymic terms. Some suffixes come in hundreds of place names. Note the examples, Goña (C160) and Gala (C046). Hence, selection of Title Toponyms is largely based on suffixes and their usage variations (see Kātu in C149). It is hoped that by explaining the suffixes, all the place names having those terms as components could at least be partly understood.

04. Prefixes and Other Factors

Prefixes are also sometimes considered as the basis for selecting the Title Toponyms, because of their popularity or