

SSH/OP/10

The Impact of Thematic Diversity in Sinhala Fiction on the Growth of the Sinhala Novel

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Background: Novel and theme depend on each other. Until now, researchers have studied the growth of novel creations, paying attention to their chronology. Studying of diversity of Sinhala novels and their contribution to the growth of the novel is covering a research gap in Sinhala literature.

Objective: This study proposes to investigate the impact of thematic diversity in Sinhala fiction on the development of the Sinhala novel and its structure. This research aims to find the connections between thematic influences and the structure of the Sinhala novels.

Methods: The research problem of this study is the influence of the thematic diversity of fictions by Piyadasa Sirisena and W. A. Silva on the growth of the Sinhala novel as a narrative form. This study adopts a desk research approach to achieve this aim, drawing on secondary data from a review of literature and primary data from *Jayathissa and Roslin*, as well as *Dingri Menika* by Piyadasa Sirisena and *Siriyalatha*, *Sunethra*, and *Radala Piliuwa* by W.A. Silva. The sample was selected from first novels of different themes, and the data was analysed by the theory of structuralism.

Results: According to the findings, these two authors have paid attention to various subjects. Novels by Sirisena mainly focus on fields such as Sinhala nationality, Buddhism, and traditional culture. Silva highlighted entertainment and historical themes. Therefore, it was improved in terms of language and literary features of the novels. Both authors used —love— as a common technique for different purposes. Piyadasa Sirisena was able to bring popularity to the Sinhala novel and eliminate negative ideas through his narratives, which mainly focused on themes such as marriage, kinship, and economy. W.A. Silva was able to make fiction a popular literary form, and through it, the language of narrative became smoother, providing the opportunity to experiment with various styles and conventions.

Conclusion: Both Silva and Sirisena contributed to broadening the subject scope of the novel. The study revealed that Sirisena and Silva created the basic impact of thematic diversity in Sinhala fiction.

Keywords: fiction, language terms, structure, thematic diversity