

USAGE OF ECO-CRITICISM: AS A VIEW OF NATURAL ENVIRONMENT PRESERVING

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ABSTRACT: The environment is sum of all surroundings, living organisms, including natural forces and other living beings. There is a deep relationship between beings' life and the environment. As a part of environment human must understand that relationship, but unfortunately the human beings do not care about this relationship and pollute the environment in several ways without any attention. In the process of environmental protection, literature also has an important role to play, because there is a strong relationship between environment and literature. Environment is one of main phenomenon in literature and many literary work have been compiled according to that theme both eastern and western literature. Apart from literature literary criticism too was affected by environment. As results of this eco-criticism, a new literary theory has arisen. This research mainly focus on how we can use eco-criticism to make an attitudinal change in human mind and how can they lead to preserve the natural environment in literary field. 3 novels namely *Aranakata pem bada* translated by *Chintha Lakshmi*, *Sansaranyaye Dadayakkaraya* of *Saimon Navagattegama* and *Diya holmana* of *Mahinda Kumara Dalupotha* were selected as primary sources and many secondary sources too used to the fulfillment of this research goals. Eco-criticism studies the relationship between literature and the physical environment. It takes an earth centered approach to literary studies. By practicing this theory throughout literary work people can understand easily how environment is important to existence of their lives. Although the Sinhala literature was built in an environmental background, it has not developed as an ecological literature. But nowadays, some books that can be categorized under the eco-literature such as, *Aranakata pem bad*, *Sansaranyaye Dadayakkaraya*, *Diya Holman* are arising. Examining these novels, some concepts related with eco-criticism have emphasized by the authors as follows:

- Representing environment as a non-anthropocentric phenomena
- Criticizing the environmental pollution
- Making environmental sensibility by producing ecological fact
- Emphasizing the ethics associated with environment

This means eco-criticism make an attitudinal changes in human mind with the intention of creating eco-minded human society.

Keywords: Environmentalist Literature, Eco-criticism, Aranakata Pem Bad, Sansaranyaye Dadayakkaraya, Diya Hol

ⁱDom Manuel the Fortunate, King of Portugal, 1495-1521, from *Leitura Nova* (I de Alemduro) in the Torre de Tombo. (The signature is that of the King' Rey') from A journal of the first Voyage of Vasco da Gama by kind permission of the Hakluyt Society, Ferguson D., 1907, *The Discovery of Ceylon by the Portuguese in 1506*, *Journal of Royal Asiatic Society (C. B)*, Vol. XIX, No. 59, p. 284.

ⁱⁱ The drawing is from Baldaeus in 1672. Silva De R.K, Beumer W.G.M, 1988, *Illustrations and views of Dutch Ceylon*, Serendip Publications, London, p. 16.

ⁱⁱⁱ The portrait is included in the introduction of Saparamadu S.D, D'Oyly J, 1975, (sec. edit.), *A sketch of the Constitution of the Kandyan Kingdom*, ed. L.J.B Turner, Published as the CHJ, Vol. 24, Dehiwala, Sri Lanka, Tisara Publishers, p. 10. A colour copy is displayed in the Museum of Kandy. He says that Sir John Douglas who visited Tanjor in 1871 by order of the Ceylon government, saw the life-size portrait in gilt frame of Sri Wikrama Rajasinha in Muttu Kanamma Devi's (3rd Queen of the king) whole house at Tanjor.