

The Use of Sinhala Terms to Depict Sri Lankan Culture in Sri Lankan English Novels.

(A Study Based on the Novels *Paduma Meets the Sunbird* Written by Nihal De Silva and *Reef* Written by Romesh Gunasekera)

I. Harshini Ihalagama, University of Kelaniya
harshiniihalagama@gmail.com

Introduction

The culture of a country can be recognized as the main factor which highlights the identity of a country and its people. As mentioned in a research conducted by Yildirim, “culture is a complex and interrelated pattern of human behaviour including all the thoughts, communication strategies and systems, languages, beliefs, values, customs, rituals, manners of interacting and roles, relationships and expected behaviors of a racial, ethnic, religious or social groups” (Yildirim, 2012). Literature is a medium which is used mostly to transmit the culture of a particular country or a community to other countries and communities. In fact, “there is a strong relationship between culture and language, and they cannot be considered as separate entities” (Yildirim, 2012).

Sri Lankan English literature, particularly Sri Lankan English novels play a major role in this context. Over time, Sri Lankan literature subjected to significant changes and the results of those changes can be considered as remarkable landmarks of its history. Due to sociocultural changes and other factors such as colonization, attitudes of the society, influence of other languages and cultures and priorities of the current society and people, a considerable number of changes took place pertaining to the themes, techniques, language and the style of the literary creations of Sri Lankan literature. These changes can be identified vividly in Sri Lankan novels. As Tasneem Perry declares,

“Writers of Modern Sri Lankan literature in English, especially in the period immediately leading up to and following independence from British

colonialism on the 4th of February 1948, generally came from the privileged classes and were influenced heavily by the colonial writing tradition” (Perry, 2012).

Although English language was a dominant feature in almost all the fields during the colonial as well as the postcolonial era, due to the social and political changes that took place, most of post-colonial writers were motivated to use Sinhala language or employ the elements of Sri Lankan culture in their English novels. Consequently, the latter became a widespread technique among the contemporary Sri Lankan English writers of that time. According to Neshantha Harishchandra,

“The attempt at establishing a form of English with a Sri Lankan identity goes as far back as 1896. However, it was as late as the early part of this century that the topic became a general subject of interest, with the media and the public being drawn into the debate” (Harischandra,2014).

The novelists employed their writing style and different techniques specific to themselves and, particularly, the language used can be recognized as an important feature that was used to highlight the Sri Lankan culture in those novels. In fact, the terminology or the words used played a significant role in this context.

Most of the authors of Sri Lankan English Literature use different techniques in order to highlight the elements related to Sri Lankan culture. Nihal de Silva and Romesh Gunasekera can be recognized as two Sri Lankan writers who have attempted to give much attention on emphasizing the Sri Lankanness in their novels. According to the newspaper article written by Sachithra Mahendra, “the likes of Tissa Abesekara, Lal Madawattegedara and late Nihal de Silva come under the first category; Sri Lankans born and bred locally, they love using Sri Lankan idioms more than other categories” (Mahendra, 2008). Moreover, as stated in the research conducted by M. M. Jayawardana, “Gunasekera’s writing is heavily influenced by the Sri Lankan culture, the Sinhala language and Buddhism, the dominant language and the religion of the island nation.” Hence, it is clear that de Silva and Gunasekera are famous for their uniqueness with regard to the use of Sri Lankan cultural elements in their novels.

Paduma Meets the Sunbird (2006) written by Nihal de Silva and *Reef* (1994) written by Romesh Gunasekara are significant Sri Lankan English novels rich in terminology related to Sri Lankan culture. This research study based on the novel *Paduma Meets the Sunbird* and *Reef* mainly focuses on the use of Sinhala terms that emphasize Sri Lankan culture.

Therefore, the concentration of this research study is on the use of Sinhala terms to depict Sri Lankan culture that are identifiable in Sri Lankan English novels.

Research Problem

Identification of the purpose of using different Sinhala terms in the two novels is ~~profoundly~~ important. Thus, this research will provide the answer to the problems: what kinds of Sinhala terms are used and how are they used to depict Sri Lankan culture in Sri Lankan English novels.

Aim and Objectives of the Research

The aim of this research is to identify different means utilized with regard to the usage of Sinhala terms to depict Sri Lankan culture in Sri Lankan English novels. Moreover, in relation to the aim of the research study two objectives are identified. They are;

- i. To identify different word categories used in the novels.
- ii. To examine different features used by the authors with regard to the terminology utilized to emphasise the Sri Lankan culture.

Significance

This research identifies different means utilized by the authors in the depiction of cultural aspects of Sri Lankan society. The techniques identified in this research will be useful for other authors to understand the importance of the use of Sinhala terms when writing novels in other languages. These kind of techniques can be used to stress the Sri Lankan culture. Further, use of Sinhala terms which can be identified as a feature of Sri Lankan English, can be incorporated when compiling school text

books and other texts written in English targeting the general public or the Sinhala speaking majority to make the writing more familiar to them. Moreover, this study will be helpful for other researchers who wish to conduct studies in the same field.

Limitations

As this research is based on two novels namely, *Paduma Meets the Sunbird* and *Reef*, other novels of the authors and terminology related to Sri Lankan culture included in those novels will not be considered. Moreover, among the techniques used only the terminology of the novel will be considered but not the other figures of speech. Therefore, this research is limited to the terminology used in the novels *Paduma Meets the Sunbird* and *Reef*.

Methodology

Research Approach

This research study is qualitative as well as quantitative in nature where the terminology used in the two selected novels is the main focus of the research. In the final phase of the data analysis, a quantitative analysis has been conducted in order to determine the usage of word categories in the two novels and the overall usage of the word categories of both the novels. Moreover, the research approach implemented has been that of interpretivism. As Willis (2007) defines “interpretivism is an approach which is implemented by the researcher in order to synthesize facts which are derived mainly from secondary sources, and which are qualitative in nature”. Since this study aims to explore the use of Sinhala terms to depict Sri Lankan culture in the novels *Paduma Meets the Sunbird* and *Reef*, it is difficult to measure the data that are used in the research study. Therefore, a qualitative method is used as the approach of this research study.

Research Design

As this research aims to find the use of Sinhala terms used in Sri Lankan English novels, a case study design is utilized. The data collection is done by analysing the two novels considered in this research study. Further, the primary data collected will be analyzed in order to find the special features these terms possess with regard to the depiction of Sri Lankan culture.

In this research, text analysis method is employed. The terms related to culture included in the novels *Paduma Meets the Sunbird* and *Reef* are studied by considering the context in which they are used. Further, the collected data is analyzed and interpreted based on the the importance and significance they hold with regard to the culture.

Data Collection

The data for the research is collected from the two novels selected; *Paduma Meets the Sunbird* and *Reef*. Firstly, the Sinhala terms used are identified by reading the two novels. Next, those identified terms are collected manually and listed separately.

Procedure of Data Analysis

Initially the Sinhala terms used in these two novels are identified under four categories designed based on the “Five Domains for the Classification of Culture Related Terms” introduced by Peter Newmark (1988). The following diagram shows the three cultural aspects considered.

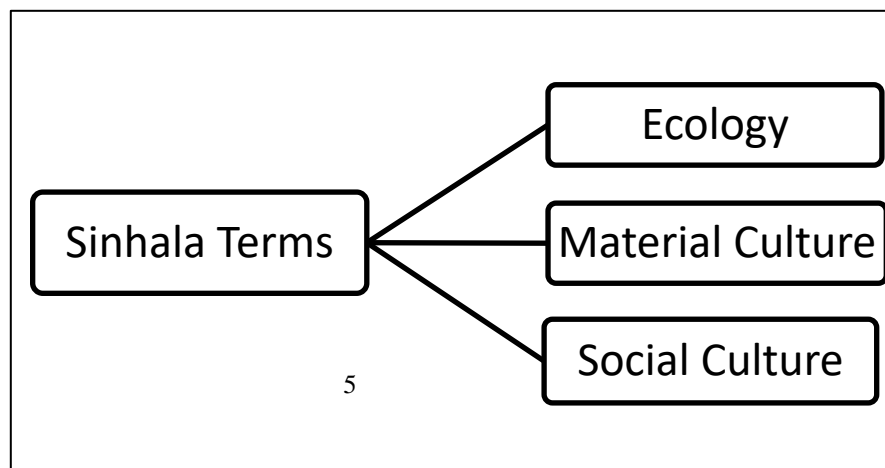


Figure 1: Cultural Aspects

Then the identified Sinhala terms are further categorized under five main categories considering the word groups into which they belong.

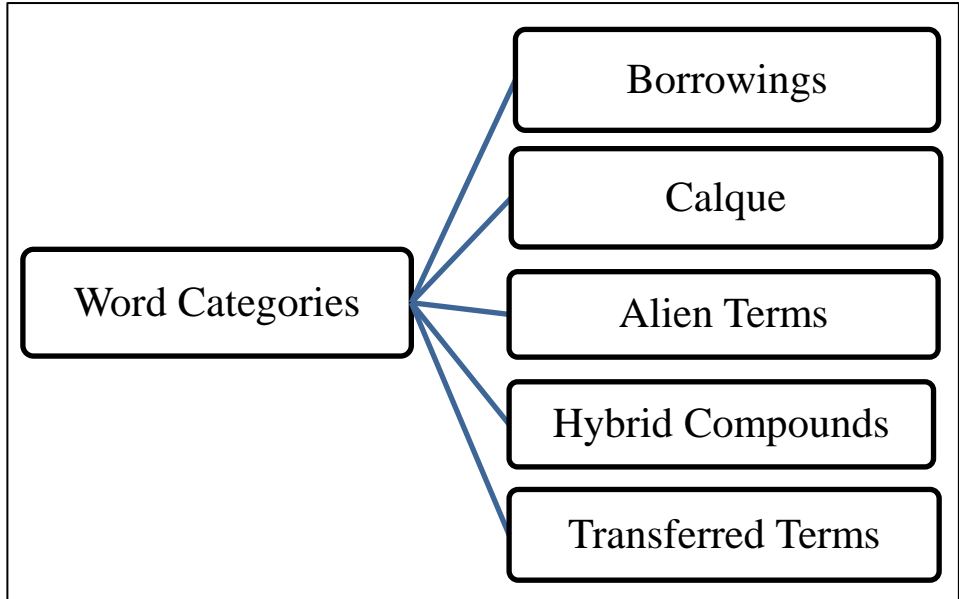


Figure 2: Different Word Categories

After that, more terms are identified and categorized based on the techniques employed by the authors with regard to the techniques used when depicting Sri Lankan culture. The terms are analyzed as follows.

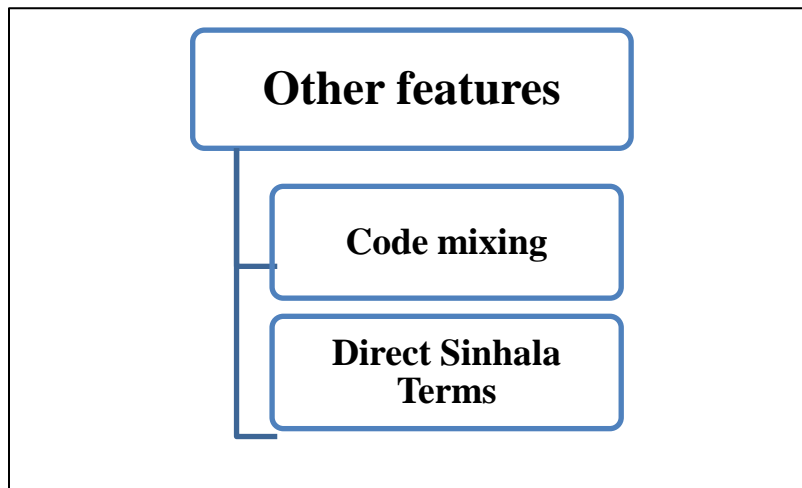


Figure 3: Other features with Regard to the Techniques Used

Finally, a quantitative analysis is conducted to ~~separately~~ find out the usage of word categories in the two novels and the overall usage of the word categories in the novels.

The categorized data are interpreted utilizing different theories constructed by different scholars emphasizing their importance with regard to Sri Lankan culture.

Results

As mentioned above the Sinhala terms in the two novels considered are categorized under five word categories considering different aspects of culture. The two novels considered in this research have two different milieus. *Paduma Meets the Sunbird* is set in a rural village in Sri Lanka and the story of the novel *Reef* revolves around the upper middle class and city life of Sri Lankans. Therefore, the terms that signify different levels of Sri Lankan society and different aspects of its culture can be identified through these novels.

Ecology

The following table presents different word categories identified under ‘ecology’. This group presents the names of animals, plants, mountains/ lakes and places that have a direct or indirect connection with a particular culture.

Table 1 Word Categories in ‘Ecology’

| Borrowings | Calques | Alien words | Transferred terms | Hybrid compounds |
|--|---|---|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Pethiya – Para malu – Thora malu – Mora – Batagoya | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Wild pig – Chicken shed Green coconut | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Mynah bird – Copra pit | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Seethagangula – Habaran – Yakkala – Gampah – Beligala | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Paradise of yakkhas Kassippu tavern |

| | | | | |
|---|--|--|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Isso - Thilapiya - Salaleena - Koha - Isso, isso - Thora malu - Para malu - Ku-nis-so-o - Kumbuk tree - Del tree - Mara tree - <i>Rathmal</i> - Nika - Bukenda - Diya para - Nelum - Jambu tree - Kottan tree - Kithul seeds - Samanala Kanda - Muhuda - Sri pada - Pettah - Kade - Up country Slave Island | | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Colomb - Matara - Dehiwala bridge - Alawwa - Anuradhapura - Negombo - Bambalapitiya - Galle - Wilgama - Maskeliya - Rathnapura - Yatiyanthota - Kegalle - Kurunegala - Rathnapura - Dambulla - Silavathurai - Kahagaspola - Ambalangoda - Polonnaruw Hikkaduwa | |
|---|--|--|---|--|

According to this table, different word categories such as borrowings, calques, hybrid compounds, transferred terms and alien words can be identified. The majority of the words are borrowings and only a few calques and two alien term have been recognized.

Material Culture

This can be considered as the broadest category of culture related terms. The words that represent food, clothes, transport, housing and goods that belong to Sri Lankan culture are included in this category. The table below shows the word categories identified under the aspect ‘material culture’.

Table 2: Word Categories in the Category ‘Material Culture’

| Calque | Borrowings | Alien words | Hybrid compounds | Transferred terms |
|----------------------|------------------|-------------|-------------------|--------------------------|
| – Milkrice | – Sambol | – Beedi | – Del chips | – Habarana |
| – Bombay onions | – Del | – Tea | – Prawn vadai | - |
| – coconut cake | – Themparadu | – Pappadam | – Chilli sambol | Colombo bus |
| – Estate tractor | – Pol-kiri badum | – Sarong | – Steamed pittu | – Wilgama Primary School |
| – Banana-leaf parcel | – Katta sambol | – Sari | – Hamuduruva robe | – JOSAP STORES |
| | – Cadju | – Almirah | – Leather sereppu | |
| | – Jamanaran | | – Takarang tank | |
| | – Kavum | | – Mahogany table | |
| | – Seeni-sambol | | | |
| | – Sarong | | | |
| | – Sereppu | | | |
| | – Sari | | | |
| | – Makara thorana | | | |
| | – Dagaba | | | |
| | – Rupees | | | |
| | – Ilapatha | | | |
| | – Vesak kudu | | | |

According to the above table ~~the~~ most of the words categorized ~~such~~ as calques, borrowings, alien words and hybrid compounds belong to the category of food. Majority of the terms are borrowings and only a few alien terms can be identified.

Social Culture

Culture related terms that are used to refer to different social activities are considered as cultural words of social culture. For instance, work, occupations, people, leisure time activities, names and coined names come under this category. All these categories can be considered as important aspects of a culture. The following table presents the Sinhala terms identified under ‘Social Culture’.

Table 3: Word Categories in the Category ‘Social Culture’

| Borrowings | Calque | Hybrid compounds | Alien terms | Transferred terms | |
|---------------|----------------|------------------|-------------|-------------------|----------|
| - OIC | - Bun eating | - Private | - Carolis | - Paduma | - Siri |
| - Veda | race | guru | - Josap | - Rupa | - Ari |
| - Baas-unnaha | - Lime and | - Gonbas | - Uleris | - Premini | - Dasun |
| - Chandiyas | spoon race | minister | - Lanny | - Sarojini | - Priya |
| - Kolla | - Sack race | - Bathala | - Sediris | - Wije | - appu |
| - Gurus | - Three | poker | - Cooray | - Sunil | - Seela |
| - Poson | - Light reader | - City | - Paris | - Mahinda | - Soma |
| perahera | - stick dances | mahathaya | - Asilin | - Nilanka | pala |
| - Vesak | - temple | - Young | - Sonny | - Podihamy | - Kara |
| - Boo tree | tusker | mahathaya | - Rubin | - Somay | - Sediri |
| - Yakkhas | - blessing box | - Smart kola | - Martin | - Prema | s |
| - Karunavai | - Birth chart | - Nona lady | - Misilin | - Kumari | - Meni |
| - Badu | - young | - bali ash | - Aranolis | - Sita | ka |
| - Parangiya | coconut | - Missy nona | - Alice | - Kanthi | - Ranja |
| - Poddak | leaves | - Parangiya | - Wilson | - Gemunu | n |
| - thel | | cannonballs | - Themis | - Prabath | - Band |
| | | - Kali sword. | | - Sriya | arana |

| | | | | | |
|--------------|--|--|------------|------------|----------|
| dhala..... | | | - Salgado | - Sugi | yake |
| - Kapok pod | | | - Joseph | - Varuni | - Liyan |
| - sadhu' | | | - Pando | - Pincha | age |
| - gurunnanse | | | - dias | - Karuna | - Wijet |
| - chandiya | | | - Triton | Sirinoris | hunga |
| - Kali | | | - Kushi | - Suda | - Nili |
| | | | - Bala | - Ranbanda | - Moha |
| | | | - Robert | - Piyadasa | n |
| | | | - Mahendr | - Gamini | - Wickr |
| | | | an | - Pali | amasi |
| | | | - Balasing | - Chaminda | nghe |
| | | | ham | - Yala | - Tissa |
| | | | - Nirvana | | - Sujie |
| | | | - Mantra | | - Susil |
| | | | - Betel | | - Guna |
| | | | leaves | | warda |
| | | | - Swamini | | na |
| | | | | | - Palith |
| | | | | | a |
| | | | | | - Aluth |
| | | | | | goda |
| | | | | | - Ahim |
| | | | | | saka |
| | | | | | - Angul |
| | | | | | imala |
| | | | | | story |
| | | | | | - Ravi |

According to the data provided, many activities done by Sri Lankans in their day-to-day lives and for recreation extracted from the novels are presented. Moreover, different people or the characters in the novels that have a close connection to the culture of Sri Lanka can be identified. Almost all the names and coined names are

commonly used names and have a Sri Lankan background. Further, names used in the two novels show certain differences too.

Direct Sinhala Terms

In both the novels use of direct Sinhala terms can be identified as a special feature used by the authors. In different instances, without using the existing English words, the respective Sinhala terms have been used. The following table presents the direct Sinhala terms identified from the two novels considered.

Table 4: Direct Sinhala Terms

| Ecology | Material Culture | Social Culture |
|----------------|------------------|----------------------|
| – Salaleena | – Cadju | – Veda |
| – Isso | – Veniwel | – Chandiyas |
| – Koha | – Sereppu | – Baas-unnaha |
| – Mora | | – Kolla |
| – Batagoya | | – Sopi akka |
| – Kumbuk tree | | – Mahi bada Bothalay |
| – Mara tree | | – Patholay |
| – Del tree | | – Kora Somay |
| – Nelum | | – Bannis |
| – Kithul seeds | | – Holmang Martine |
| – Kottan tree | | – Kolla |
| – Jambu tree | | – Lucy amma |
| – Nika | | – nona |
| – Muhuda | | – mahathaya |
| – Samanala | | – Bathala |
| – Kanda | | |
| – Sri pada | | |
| – Kade | | |

When analyzing the above word lists it is identified that the authors use Sinhala terms for existing English terms. Most of the terms appear under the two cultural aspects of ecology and social culture.

Usage of Word Categories in the Novels

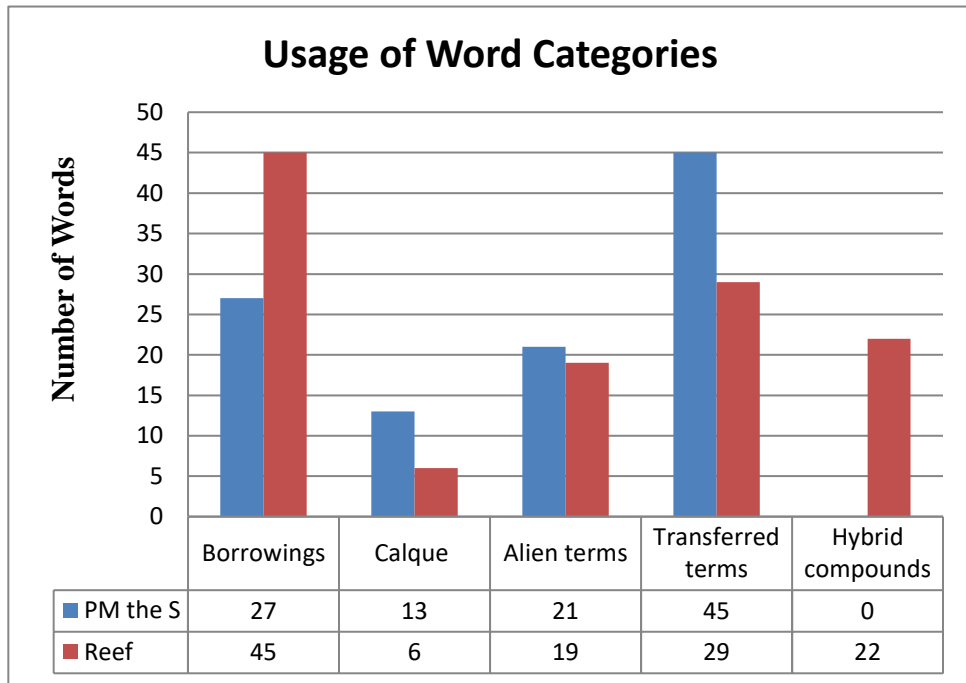


Figure 4: Usages of Word Categories in the two Novels

The graph above illustrates the number of words that belong to different word categories used in the two novels. Accordingly, 45 transferred terms have been used in the novel *Paduma Meets the Sunbird* and that is the word category with the highest number of terms. In contrast, ‘borrowings’ is the most frequently used word category in the novel *Reef*. Further, no hybrid terms are used in the novel *Paduma Meets the Sunbird*, whereas 22 hybrid terms are used in the novel *Reef*. Moreover, 21 and 19 alien terms can be identified in the novels *Paduma Meets the Sunbird* and *Reef* respectively.

Usage of Word Categories

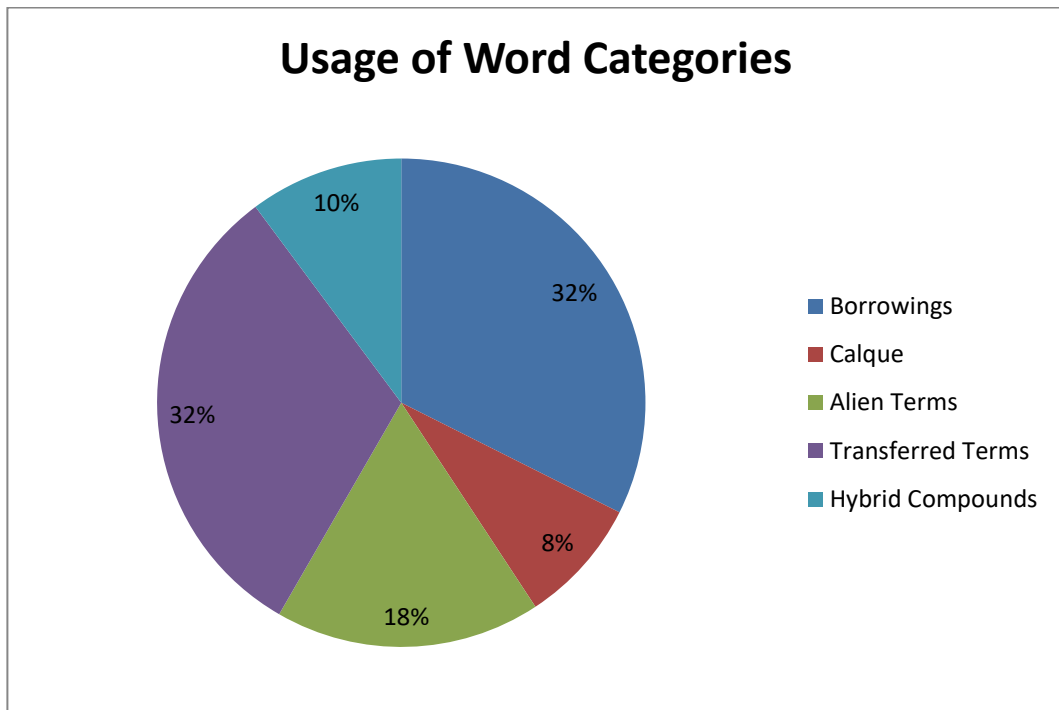


Figure 5: Overall Usage of Word Categories

The pie chart above illustrates the overall usage of the word categories in both the novels. Accordingly, the most frequently used word category in both the novels is borrowings. The second category is transferred terms. Further, the least common category is synonyms. The usage of hybrid compounds and calques is 10% and 8% respectively.

Discussion

Word Categories Used

Language is an important part of culture and it is a tool that highlights and depicts the culture of a country. Language can be analyzed in different ways to understand its importance with regard to the depiction of culture. Different word categories in a language are an effective way to examine a culture through a language. Accordingly,

the word categories used in the two novels play a major role in the depiction of Sri Lankan culture. In the analysis of the collected Sinhala terms five word categories namely; borrowings, calques, alien terms, hybrid compounds, and transferred terms have been identified. Since the novels considered in this study are Sri Lankan English novels written by Sri Lankan authors, Sinhala language and Sri Lankan culture have been employed as the foundation of the literary works. Therefore, all the terms that are employed are taken from the Sinhala language and a direct relationship can be identified between these word categories and Sri Lankan culture. The following discussion stresses on; how these identified word categories contribute in the depiction of culture.

Borrowings

“Borrowing a term is taking a word or expression straight from another language, without translation. The procedure is normally used when a term does not exist in the target culture, or when the translator tries to get some stylistic or exotic effect” (Guerra, 2012). In both the novels *Paduma Meets the Sunbird* and *Reef* many borrowings can be identified. All the terms borrowed are somehow connected to the culture of Sri Lanka.

When considering the borrowed terms included in the novels, certain features that are specific to them can be identified. Firstly, the names of the animals and plants borrowed are quite familiar to the Sri Lankan society and some borrowed names of animals and plants are endemic to Sri Lanka as well.

Eg: - Pethiya, Thilapiya, Nika and Bukenda

Further, certain Sinhala words that have a separate English term are also used as borrowings in the novels. Instead of the English term ‘Siris Tree’, the Sinhala term ‘Mara tree’ has been borrowed. Moreover, the term ‘Seer fish’ has not been used, but the Sinhala term ‘Thora malu’ is utilized. Many such instances can be identified throughout the novels. This is because the used Sinhala terms are much more familiar than the existing English terms to any reader of the Sri Lankan society.

Food items are an important aspect of the culture. There are many food items that can be identified as specific to Sri Lankan culture and, as a result; no separate English terms for those terms are employed. Therefore, names of different food items are used as borrowed terms instead of translating them into English or providing similar terms.

Eg : - Sambol, Del, Themparadu, Pol-kiri badum, Katta sambol, Cadju, Jamanaran, Kavum and Seeni-sambol

Most importantly, the use of the original terms emphasizes the food habits that are particular to Sri Lankans.

Moreover, certain terms that are used in colloquial Sinhala language are also used as borrowings in the novels. Through this the writers have attempted to stress Sri Lankanness and the society of Sri Lanka. Eg : - OIC, Veda, Baas-unna, Chandiyas, Kolla and Guru.

Furthermore, the terms that refer to identities of Sri Lankan culture have been used as direct borrowings to emphasise the specialties and identity of Sri Lankan culture in the novels.

Eg:- Poson perahera, Vesak, Boo tree, yakkhas

Calque

“Calque is ‘a special kind of borrowing’, so, it has the same influence on the enhancement of cultural integration” (Ni, 2009). The word calque is considered a synonym for loan translations. In the two novels considered, calques play an important role with regard to the depiction of culture. When examining the calques identified in the novels it is evident that, all those terms present culturally and socially important aspects in Sri Lanka. In fact, these elements cannot be seen in English culture and, therefore, they are translated word for word without using a similar term from the language in which the novel is written.

The calque ‘green coconut’ can be taken as an example. In Sri Lanka, coconut is used for different purposes and different names are used to refer to the coconut according to its usage. Thus, the term ‘green coconut’ is a term that is used to refer to newly plucked coconut. Moreover, Bombay onions, Estate tractor and Banana-leaf parcel are some other terms that can be identified as calques. The term ‘wild pig’ is another calque found in the novels. Although there is a separate word as ‘wild boar’ the rarely used term is used since it is more comprehensible for an ordinary person. The names of the games mentioned in the novels are also word for word translations.

Eg:- Bun eating race, Lime and spoon race, Sack race, Three legged race

Alien Terms

When the words included in one language are frequently used in another language those terms are called alien terms. A considerable number of words and terms that were taken from languages like Pali, Sanskrit, English, Tamil and Portuguese are there in the Sinhala language. With time these words have become part of Sri Lankan language and eventually the culture. In both the novels considered in the research study a lot of alien terms that are taken from Sinhala language can be identified.

Buddhism is one of the main religions that forms and shapes the lifestyle and the society of the Sri Lankans. As a result, a lot of words have been added to the Sinhala language. Terms such as Nirvana, Mantra and swamini are some words that are borrowed from Sanskrit and incorporated into the Sinhala vocabulary. Sinhala vocabulary. Further, many terms were added to the Sinhala language during the colonial period due to language contact. The word ‘almirah’ found in the novel Reef is an example. It is a word that was taken from Portuguese. Moreover, words like betel, Pappadum and Copra have a Malayalam origin but are abundantly used in colloquial Sinhala. Beedi, Mynah and saree are some identified alien terms with a Hindi origin. Most importantly, many names that can be included in this category have been identified from both the novels. Names such as Carolis, Josap, Lanny, Cooray, Asilin, Rubin, Wilson, Martin and Alice were adopted by Sri Lankans during the colonial era and names such as Mahendran, Bala and Balasingham are Tamil names that are common in Sri Lankan society because Sri Lanka is a multiethnic

country. At present, all these words have become parts of Sri Lankan culture and they contribute in the depiction of Sri Lankan culture in the novels through the language used.

Hybrid Compounds

“A mixed form or a hybrid is described as one which is composed of elements from two or more different languages. Hence, a hybrid comprises two or more elements and at least one element will be from a local language” (Senaratne, 2016). According to the definition provided by Senaratne the hybrid compounds have two units as the constituents, the head word and the modifier. The word structures of the hybrid compounds identified are;

✓ Sinhala (modifier) + English (head word)

Eg :- Takarang tank, Mahogany table

✓ English (modifier) + Sinhala (head word)

Eg :- Del chips, Prawn vadai, Chilli sambol and Steamed pittu

In both the structures mentioned above the used Sinhala term is either a borrowing or a direct Sinhala term. The Sinhala terms that are used as the modifier give a Sri Lankan identity to the English head word used. Similarly, the English modifiers used intensify the meaning of the Sinhala head word used. Most of the hybrid compounds identified belong to the categories such as food, housing, clothes and people. All these categories contain many elements that emphasize the identity of Sri Lanka. Therefore, borrowed Sinhala terms are used together with English terms in the novels in order to highlight the special features of Sri Lankan culture. Moreover, the Sinhala terms employed in the formation of these hybrids are the terms that are commonly used in the language of day-to-day conversations. Further, these can be identified as closely connected elements of Sri Lankan culture.

Transferred Terms

The transferred terms identified in the novels are the names of towns, places, villages, people and animals. All the names are common names that can be found in Sri Lankan society and the names of other places and cities located in Sri Lanka have been included in the novels. All the names of the cities are real names and the writers have included different features that are specific to those areas. Moreover, the names employed are Sinhala names that are commonly used by villagers as well as other people.

Names are an important element of the culture and has a close connection to different aspects of the culture. Names like Gamini, Gemunu and Karuna can be provided as examples for the above mentioned fact. Furthermore many names of cities and villages are used in the novels they transferred to make the novels more realistic to the reader.

Eg :- Habarana, Yakkala, Gampaha and Beligala.

The usage of such familiar terms gives the local touch to the novels and they attract the readers. Further, a close connection with the reader and the story can be constructed with the use of culture related terms.

Direct Sinhala Terms

The use of direct Sinhala terms is another technique which is used by both the novelists. According to this research study, the term 'Direct Sinhala Terms' can be defined as the Sinhala terms that are used instead of the existing English terms. When analyzing the data collected it is identified that the authors have used a considerable number of Sinhala terms that have separate English terms.

Instead of using the existing English terms both the authors have used many borrowed Sinhala terms in their novels. When the Sinhala term is given, even an ordinary reader with fair knowledge of English can understand the story without any disturbance. Further, the story becomes more realistic when terms from the readers culture are included in the novels.

Most of the direct Sinhala words employed in the novels are commonly used in colloquial Sinhala language. Through this the writers have attempted to emphasize the local language and terms used in day-to-day conversations. Words like Appu, Sereppu, Baas-unnaha, Chandiyas, Veda and Kolla are some words that are commonly used by typical villagers in Sri Lanka. Therefore, the writers have used these words in the English novels to emphasize the Sri Lankan culture. Moreover, different nick-names (coined names) included in the novels have also been used as direct Sinhala terms without using a similar term.

Eg:- Mahi bada, Saro, Bothalay, Patholay, Kora Somay

These coined names give a subtle description of the physical appearance of the characters. The connotative meaning of these words can be clearly understood when their connection with the culture is understood. Therefore, the usage of Sinhala terms helps the reader to build a connection with their own culture without any barriers.

Names of different animals and plants have been used in the novels when describing the setting of the stories. Sinhala terms are used for animals and plants, because instead of the lesser-known English terms the Sinhala terms can make the story familiar to the reader and the culture can be depicted vividly.

Eg:- Batagoya -jungle fowl
Scarlet -Rathmal
Cadju -cashew nuts
Kavum -coconut cake

Instead of these English terms writers have directly used the Sinhala terms, because the Sinhala terms are ~~much~~ more familiar to the reader than ~~using~~ the uncommon English terms. Therefore, to make the story relatable to Sri Lankan readers, the authors must have used terms which are familiar to their culture and the society. Moreover, the use of direct Sinhala terms helps the reader to visualize the incidents and the surrounding of the story conveniently.

Code Mixing

As discussed in the literature review, code mixing is identified as an important feature of Sinhala speech community. The speakers who have some knowledge of both Sinhala and English, mix those languages in their day-to-day conversations. This feature can be vividly identified among city dwellers that get exposed to both the languages, but not very frequently among villagers. Accordingly, code mixing has been often used in the novel *Reef*, since it mostly revolves around some characters that belong to upper middle class. Code mixing can be seen in the dialogues uttered by the characters.

Eg :- Poddak huh?, Ane missy, Missy nona

‘Ahey, ohey apa thenna,- Ahey, ahoy thel dhala.....’ is used in fishing industry and these are a type of folk songs distinct to Sri Lanka. These traditional songs are a part of Sri Lankan culture and identity. The sayings used when selling fish types and different goods are also used in the novel *Reef*. This culture of selling things door to door is a common traditional practice that can be seen in Sri Lankan society.

Moreover, a lot of exclamations are extensively used in both the novels. These exclamations are frequently used by Sinhala speakers and are specific to the Sinhala language. Thus, the writers have used these expressions widely in their novels to highlight the Sri Lankanness in their novels.

Eg :- Karunavai my son, Hoy.., Budu ammo-o-o, Ow ow ow, Appo!, Sha!, Oy, oy, Aiow

Furthermore, similar to the way in which people mix Sinhala and English words in conversational language, authors have used both languages when constructing the dialogs in the novels especially in the novel *Reef*.

Accordingly code mixing can be identified as another feature that is used by the authors to depict Sri Lankan culture.

Usage of Word Categories

As Michael Meyler states a lot of borrowings can be identified in Sri Lankan English and they are a unique feature of Sri Lankan English. The results presented in figure 4 and 5 confirm the above statement. According to figure 4 the most frequent word categories in the novels *Paduma Meets the Sunbird* and *Reef* are transferred terms and borrowings respectively. According to figure 5, which illustrates the overall usage of the word categories, borrowings and transferred terms come as the first and the second with regard to the frequency of occurrence. Thus, it is obvious that borrowings are the most common word category used in the novels. In fact, borrowings can be used in order to emphasize Sri Lankan culture. The third most frequent category is alien terms which exist in the source language with a different origin. In both the figures this can be seen.

According to the above discussion it is evident that Sri Lankan English authors use different word categories, other features and specific terms to depict different aspects of Sri Lankan culture. Although all these techniques and characteristics are not common in every Sri Lankan English novel, common features and characteristics particular to the style of the authors with regard to the terminology can be identified. Thus, it is proved that Sinhala terms play an important role in the depiction of Sri Lankan culture.

Conclusion and Recommendations

Many research studies have been conducted with regard to the culture specific items, specifically about the translation of those terms. Nevertheless, the culture related terms play a significant role when writing novels using a second language highlighting the culture of the first language of that particular society. Hence, when translating culture related terms into a second language, different terms from the source language can be borrowed and it would help the reader to understand the content of the text clearly and effectively.

Since this research focuses only on two Sri Lankan novels, the techniques and word categories used by other authors have not been examined. Thus, a similar research can be conducted on more novels to identify those features. The findings of this research study would pave the way for further research to examine the conveyance of culture bound connotative meanings presented in novels written using a second language. Moreover, the research study can be used to examine how culture related terms are used in day today conversations by English speakers of Sri Lankan speech community.

Moreover, it is evident that the incorporation of culture is important when composing school text books, especially the language books. Therefore, this study can be used to understand how the language, specifically the terminology should be used when emphasizing cultural aspects of the first language.

With regard to the first finding of the data analysis, six word categories such as, borrowing, transferred terms, calques, alien terms, hybrid compounds and synonyms are identified. All these word categories contain words that are directly connected with the culture of the source language. This addresses the first objective; to identify different word categories used in the novels. Further, other features such as direct Sinhala terms and code mixing are identified through the data analysis. All these identified characteristics enhance the cultural touch that the writers are attempting to emphasize in their novels. When analyzing the findings of this research study it is evident that the terminology used in Sri Lankan English novels has a considerable impact on the depiction of Sri Lankan culture.

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