

Are The Social Issues Realistically Portrayed in Sri Lankan English Short Story?

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Genres such as poetry, drama, novels or short stories are created by literary talented personalities in a country based on one's experience or on social problems which prevailed or are prevailing in a particular community or society. In Sri Lanka, too, the situation is the same. For instance, when some literary works in Sinhala and English are closely examined, it is apparent that majority of such literary creations are absolutely based on one's experience in his life time or social problems confronted by the people in a particular country or during a particular time period. The research problem of the present study is whether social problems of Sri Lanka are virtually portrayed in the Sri Lankan English short story. It is really significant to investigate this issue so as to ascertain the link between the prevalent social issues and their relationship with the Sri Lankan English short story. The objective of the study is to find out whether the Sri Lankan English short story writers have addressed the social problems in a realistic way. Methodology applied in the study was entirely based on secondary data. Relevant short stories, critical essays and articles on them were closely investigated. Some comments made in journals, magazines and newspapers were also examined and analyzed. Selected Sri Lankan English short stories written by Seeta Kulatunga, Neil Fernandopulle, Gunadasa Amarasekara, Vijitha Fernando and Chitra Fernando were the other sources, which were critically analyzed for obtaining the relevant information to observe whether the short story writers have identified the most significant social issues prevalent in the society during the 1970's, 1980' and 1990's. It was ultimately found that the most prominent social issues such as abject poverty, migration to the Middle East as housemaids, discrimination due to the low caste system, war victims, and violation of fundamental rights of poor and helpless people have been realistically addressed by the Sri Lankan English short story.

Key words: Social issues, Sri Lankan English short story, Portrayed realistic