A Comparative Study of the Syntactic Analysis of Pali and Sinhala Languages

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Early Sinhala Literature is based on the Pali literature. Most of the time the writers have translated Pali sources into Sinhala. (i.e. Pali Bodhiwamsa>Sinhala Bodhiwamsa) At that time, the Sinhala writers have employed the make out in Sinhalese in place of the word Translation. The researchers have shown the early Sinhala texts (i.e. Amawathura/Saddharmarathnawaliya) as the adaptation of the original Pali Sources. The main objective of this study is to find out the nature of the methods of adaptation, and to which extent Sinhala language has diverged from Pali in case of syntax.

The syntactic study deals with the word order, case in noun, voice in verb, the agreement of the subject and the predicate, etc. As far as Sinhala is concerned, the above categories had evolved considerably already by the 9th century. As a result, syntactic features had diverged from middle Indian languages including Pali. This divergence is clear from the Dhampiya Atuwa Getapadaya and the inscriptions in the earlier period. The way syntactic features developed into a profound level by the twelfth century is evident from the texts of Gurulugomi, (i.e. Dharmapradeepikawa, Amawathura) and in contemporary slab inscriptions.

The objective of this study is to observe the similarities and differences of these two languages and to examine the Sinhala syntactic characteristics as they differ from Pali syntactic characteristics.

The methodology used in this study forms a revision of previous research on the given topic and a comparison of Sinhala and Pali syntactic features as is apparent in the data. The study will apply knowledge in grammatical analysis and translation methods.

The results of this research are as follows: there are more similarities and some differences; some special syntactic characteristics have laid these two languages. So that early Sinhala language is based on the Pali language.

Key words: *Sinhala language, Pali language, Syntactic analysis*