

**A Comparative Study on Sidath Sangarawa written by
Ven.Pathiraja Piruwanpathi Thero and Samakalina Sinhala
Lekhana Vyakaranaya; 3 Sandhi Vighrahaya written by
Prof.J.B.Dissanayake**

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Introduction

Sidath Sangarawa was written by *Ven. Pathiraja Piruwanpathi Thero* in 13th Century and in the book he built up the structure of Sinhala grammar, based on the knowledge that he gained by studying the books named *Asakdakava, Kavi Sulumina, Muvadewdawatha* which were written in pure ÉLU Sinhala language. The each and every structural pattern of Sinhala grammar the he discovered in the process of scrutinizing the above mentioned books were descriptively explained and supported by examples in the first chapter. Also the most significant grammar structures and the frequently used grammar structures were separately analyzed in separate chapters as well. Accordingly, all the grammar patterns described in *Sidath Sangarawa* were allocated separate chapters as *Sandhi, Linga, Vibhakthi, Samasa, Visheshana, Visheshya, Kriya, Prathyartha*, subject, accusative form, voice etc. Though the grammar rules are different in each component, there is cohesion or an inter-relationship among their systems or structures. In addition to that the author has compiled two extra chapters to analyze *ishtanishta* and *alankara* used in Sinhala poetry. All the aforesaid grammar rules were analyzed by employing the methods called “*jeka prayogaya*” and “*vyavaharaya*”

He reiterated the perspective and the viewpoint of the senior academicians and prescribed that particular stance to the new learners while clearly establishing the same as his own standpoint. Also the instructions were set out for the youngsters to take both the aspects of old scholars and the existing usages of the language into the exploration at an issue on language rules. This paper gives priority to the system of combinations (*Sandhi*) in Sinhala Language out of the 20 types of grammar structures that were explored in the book. The chapter which analyses the system of combinations

(Sandhi) opens up just after the chapter written on Sinhala alphabet. Thus, it is obvious that the second chapter of *Sidath Sangarawa* is allocated for the analysis of combinations **(Sandhi)**.

The book titled "*Samakalina Sinhala Lekhana : 03 Sandhi Vighraya*" is compiled to analyze the combinations **(Sandhi)** in its usage in the contemporary Sinhala language. Though the history holds implications that the grammar books were written on Sinhala grammar before *Sidath Sangarawa*, the history also unveils that it is the only and the oldest grammar book found to date and it secures its place of being the sole grammar book till end of 18th Century. The supporting books which were written by several other writers to annotate and explain the chapters or points discussed in *Sidath Sangarawa* also approve that. Among the books written on Sinhala grammar during the reign of the British (1815- 1945), the book titled *A Comprehensive Grammar of the Sinhalese Language* written by *Abraham Mendes Gunasekara* in 1891, *Siddhantha Paoikshanaya* or *Swabhasha Nithisaraya* written by *W. N. Gunawardhana* in 1924, *Vyakarana Viraranaya* and *Kriya Vivaranaya* written by *Kumarathunga Munidasa* respectively in 2481 and 2479 are significant. After them, the next considerable juncture of the journey of the grammatical evaluation or exploration on Sinhala language is *Prof. J.B. Dissanayake*.

Though the above mentioned books and the compilations of *J. B. Dissanayake* earned a considerable recognition in the field, *Sidath Sangarawa* was always in the forefront. The grammar rules developed by *J. B. Dissanayake* have been accepted by several scholars and at the same time they were also criticized by some scholars at certain instances. Therefore, all the rules and structures brought out by him have not been standardized. However, his book titled "*Samakalina Sinhala Lekhana Vyakaranaya : 03 Sandhi Vighraya*" is considered as a significant masterpiece because the book has attempted to modify the traditional and typical way of grammar analysis and categorizations established by *Sidath Sangarawa*. Thus, the objective of this research is to comparatively study these modifications made by *J.B. Dissanayake* in 20th Century with the particular grammar system developed in 13th Century by *Sidath Sangarawa*.

Research Problem

The particular grammar structure which has been brought to light in

Sidath Sangarawa gets criticized at times, but the focal point is it being an outstanding and one and only grammar book which existed for centuries, through that, it inevitably gained an authority or a power over the entire field of Sinhala grammar analysis. The books written by *Abraham Mendis Gunasekera, W. F. Gunawardhana, Kumarathunga Munidasa and I.B.Dissanayake* were not lucky enough to acquire such an authority though they do carry significance and a good standard among the books written in the field. *Sidath Sangarawa* has been used as the guide book to teach and learn Sinhala grammar for a long period of time, therefore, the theories; rules brought out by it are rooted in the society as correct and accurate. A comparative study between the above mentioned two books which were compiled in terms of considering the language needs of the contemporary society has not been carried out so far.

This research discusses the similarities and dissimilarities in "*Samakalina Sinhala Lekhana : 03 Sandhi Vighraya*" and *Sidath Sangarawa* while bringing to light how the latter has been standardized, reformed and modified by the former.

Objectives of the Study

Sidath Sangarawa belongs to the 13th Century and "*Samakalina Sinhala Lekhana Vyakaranaya: 03 Sandhi Vighraya*" belongs to the 20th century. As mentioned above, the grammar rules and the system brought out by *Sidath Sangarawa* are considered established, therefore the scholars are reluctant to reject the theories set by *Sidath Sangarawa* because of its authority and the power gained by standing a test of time. Accordingly, the main objective of this research can be a briefed as follows;

Comparatively studying the theory on system of combinations (*Sandhi*) described in both *Sidath Sangarawa* and "*Samakalina Sinhala Lekhana Vyakaranaya: 03 Sandhi Vighraya*". Also the defining system of combinations (*Sandhi*), the method of categorization of combinations (*Sandhi*), its analysis and illustrations were specially considered in this particular process of comparative analysis.

Theoretical Considerations and Empirical Evidence

The analysis of the research is carried out by employing the methodologies of language corpus planning. Both *Ven. Pathiraja Piruwanpaihi Thero* and *J.B. Dissanayake* have fulfilled the language need of the society by compiling grammar books. This is one objective of Corpus planning and it also contributes to secure, not only the purity of the language but the national identity as well. This particular contribution is introduced in corpus planning as preserving Ancient Grammar Structures. Except to that the research probes into find out how the system of combination (*Sandhi*) illustrated in *Sidath Sangarawa* has been standardized, reformed and modified through "*Samakalina Sinhala Lekhana Vyakaranaya: 03 Sandhi Vighraya*".

Methodology

Language is a unique creation and an ability of human beings which was deeply scrutinized and discussed in the fields of various subject arenas due to the origin of linguistics (the subject which study language of a science) language corpus planning is a sub unit of Sociolinguistics in the broader subject area called Linguistics. The definition on language found in Sociolinguistics draws its aspects to the relationship between language and society. Actually language is being always influenced by the nature or the prevailing condition of the current society. *Sidath Sangarawa* was compiled after the invasion of Indian invader *Kalinga Magha*, in a new era rebuilt by the *King Parakramabahu- II* (1236-1270) which dawned after Sri Lanka underwent an economic and political transformation. History unveils that not only the vernacular but also the education of the country including culture were at the verge of deterioration during the reign of *Magha* (1215-1236). *Sidath Sangarawa* was compiled with the objective of securing the nation's identity and the survival of the vernacular for a long period of time, which means to fulfill a social need. On the other hand Prof. *J. B. Dissanayake* has compiled "*Samakalina Sinhala Lekhana : 03 Sandhi Vighraya*" to fulfill an objective similar to that. That is to identify the system of combinations of Sinhala language which is being used in the contemporary society. Like manner, it is realizable that both the books have been compiled to fulfill a need of the society. Thus this research discusses the methodology that has been utilized to define combinations (*Sandhi*), the method used for categorization of combinations (*Sandhi*), its analysis and illustrations were standardized, reformed and modified in Dissanayake's compilation.

Key Findings

The author of *Sidath Sangarawa* utilizes two major methodologies in the process of analyzing the system of Sinhala grammar. That is the language usage of academicians or scholars and the language usage of ordinary people. *Prof.J.B.Dissanayake* also employs the same methodology of “*waharanu seren sapaya*” which means the ordinary usage of language mentioned in *Sidath Sangarawa*. This can be considered as a standardization of *Sidath Sangarawa* by “*Samakalina Sinhala Lekhana : 03 Sandhi Vighraya*”. The system of combinations explained in *Sidath Sangarawa* under a title “*Sandhi Adikaraya*” and *Prof.J.B.Dissanayake* analyses the same under a different title in “*Samakalina Sinhala Lekhana : 03 Sandhi Vighraya*” as “*Sandhi Vighraya*”. *Sidath Sangarawa* analyses the Sinhala combination system categorizing it into nine components but the analysis given in “*Samakalina Sinhala Lekhana : 03 Sandhi Vighraya*” written by *Prof.J.B.Dissanayake* is rather a modification of the system of Sinhala combinations. *Prof.J.B.Dissanayake* allocates thirteen chapters to annotate the five components relevant to system of combinations namely “*Praveshaya*”, “*Padanu Sandhi*”, “*Pada Sandhi*”, “*Saditha Sandhi*”, and “*Sandhi Vimarshanaya*”. Before entering into this analysis, the author descriptively analyses “morphs” and “morphemes” first and then, describes combinations (*Sandhi*) under nine sub- topics. Thus he opens up the analysis of combinations (*Sandhi*). This particular research discloses that the analysis on the system of combinations (*Sandhi*) in Sinhala language unveiled in *Sidath Sangarawa* is not a deep scrutinization and it is simple and abridged compared to the analysis found in “*Samakalina Sinhala Lekhana : 03 Sandhi Vighraya*” written by *Prof.J.B.Dissanayake*.

Conclusion

Though *Sidath Sangarawa* also deals with system of combinations (*Sandhi*) in nine separate headings in describing and analyzing combinations followed by the examples where as *Prof.J.B.Dissanayake's* analysis and perspective is different. He allocates three chapters to analyze the three components of the system of combinations called “*Padanu Sandhi*”, “*Pada Sandhi*” and “*Saditha Pada Sandhi*” and divides the same into other sub categories. Specially, in this comparative study, in the very beginning of the analysis starting from the introduction given on the system of combinations expanding till the finalization of the analysis, we can witness that two

different methodologies were used in the two books. As a whole, it can be concluded that "*Samakalina Sinhala Lekhana : 03 Sandhi Vighraya*" has modified *Sidath Sangarawa*.

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