

Recreated Fiction: Translations of Three Award-winning Sinhala Short Stories into English

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Translation is a process of recreating thoughts stated in one language (Source Language), in another (Target Language). Literary translation is the recreation of such thoughts in the arena of literature, and here, I look at three translations of national award-winning short stories from Sinhala to English. They are '*Kapitange Puttu*' from the short story collection *Kanal Pare Nishacharayo* (1986), by Dayasena Gunasinghe; '*Kafka Saha Thaththa*' from the collection of Minis Wataya (2011) by Eric Illayapparachchi; and '*Siyambala saha Parala Ena*' from *Kuriru Surangana Kathawak* (2014) by Piyal Kariyawasam. They were all translated by the writer of this paper and published in two works of fiction published and circulated in the Asian region. In this context, several language specific issues based on the nature of Sinhala, in comparison with English needed to be considered. Furthermore, in short story writing as well as most writings of fiction, both spoken and written varieties of the language are used by writers. Again, specifically when considering Sinhala, this aspect of diglossia is of particular significance, with the availability of the two distinctly different varieties of spoken and written forms of Sinhala. The translation process in this case was thought-for-thought and the focus of the translation was to recreate the original material in English, arguably to make it available to a wider audience. For this paper, I have chosen to problematize and analyze the process of translating these three stories, taking into consideration the aesthetics of the original works of fiction as well as culture specific thoughts and ideas used in them, alongside the struggle to recreate and convey such matters in the translated texts.

Key words: *Sinhala fiction, Sri Lankan fiction in translation, Sri Lankan short stories, Translation*