

**THE LANGUAGE AUTHORITY ACQUIRED BY THE  
GRAMMATICAL STRUCTURE OF "SIDATH  
SANGARAWA" THROUGH THE BOOK TITLED "PADA  
NIITHIYA" WRITTEN BY "VERAGAMA PUNCHI  
BANDARA"**

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**Introduction (with objectives)**

*Sidath Sangarawa* is the oldest study carried out on Sinhala grammar and was written by Ven. Pathiraja Piruwanpathi Thero in 13<sup>th</sup> century. *Sidath Sangarawa* has been used as the guide book to teach and learn Sinhala grammar for a long period of time. The book titled *Pada Nithiya* was also compiled on Sinhala grammar by Veragama Punchi Bandara during 19<sup>th</sup> century. The deterioration of Sinhala language starts with the impact of foreign invasions and it became prominent during the British rule. But, later, the scholars convinced the rulers that the education, administration and official work are important to be carried out in vernacular language of the country. As a result of that the steps were taken and implemented to carry out the education, administrative work and the governance in Sinhala medium. The scholars who considered that *Sidath Sangarawa* is much complicated study to be used to learn and teach Sinhala grammar, there for the scholars compiled supporting books

to grasp the theories explained in *Sidath Sangarawa*. *Pada Nithiya* is one such compilation. Also, it was recognized as the first text book on Sinhala grammar prescribed for pupils. Though there are newly discovered theories were conveyed in the book, *Sidath Sangarawa* is its source text. As a result of that *Sidath Sangarawa* gained a potential authority in terms of Sinhala grammar, because *Pada Nithiya* standardized the theories of *Sidath Sangarawa*. Accordingly, the research explains and analyses such standardization mentioned in *Pada Nithiya* quoted from *Sidath Sangarawa*.

**Materials and Methods**

The research is based on the design of Sinhala grammar that is descriptively analyzed in both *Sidath Sangarawa* and *Pada Nithiya*. The analysis compiled in twelve chapters in *Sidath Sangarawa* and first ten chapters cohesively annotate the grammatical structure of Sinhala language and last two chapters describe the *Ishtanishta*

and *Alankara* used in Sinhala poetry. This research scrutinizes only the first ten chapters. The book *Pada Nitiya* too analyses the entire corpus of Sinhala Grammar under topic based headings and sub-headings. The paper carries out a comparative study between the grammar analysis of two books. Accordingly, the research brings to light the similarities and the differences of the explanations mentioned in two books in terms of Nomenclature of grammar rules, classification, analysis, and illustrations so as to bring to prominence the authority acquired by *Sidath Sangarawa* through *Pada Nithiya*. The methodologies such as purification, standardization, reformation and modernization which are used in the corpus planning in socio-Linguistics are used to bring out aforesaid similarities and differences.

#### Design, Results and Evaluation

There are differences in the classification of grammar and system of grammar described in, both the books. Punchibandara standardizes the alphabetic analysis explained in *Sidath Sangarawa* and the explanation on Sinhala mixed alphabet and EĻU alphabet and its classification and the description on orthographic symbols of Pali and Sanskrit are a reformation of the analysis explained in *Sidath Sangarawa*. Moreover, Punchibandara standardizes the nine classes of combinations (*Sandhi vidhi nawayaya*) explained in *Sidath Sangarawa* and also analyses the *Para Rupa Sandiya* and *Purva Rupa Sandhiya*. *Sidath Sangarawa* descriptively analyses the gender classes by allocating a separate chapter where as *Pada Nithiya* analyses it under parts of speech such as noun, predicate, affixes, prepositions

(*Nipatha*) etc. Though there is a difference in the descriptions given in two books relevant to case (*Vibhakthi*) analysis, ultimately, *Pada Nithiya* standardizes the nine classes of cases described in *Sidath Sangarawa*.

As a whole, at the comparative analysis, it is realizable that Nomenclature of grammar rules, classification, analysis, and illustrations described in *Sidath Sangarawa* has been standardized by *Pada Nithiya* written by Veragama Punchibandara.

#### Discussion

*Sidath Sangarawa* was compiled after the invasion of invader Kalinga Magha, in a new era which dawn after Sri Lanka underwent an economic and political transformation. History unveils that not only the Vernacular but also the education of the country were at the verge of deterioration at that time. *Pada Nithiya* too was written during such a time period where the country was under the British rule, especially during when Sinhala language was gradually being destroyed. The launching of *Pada Nithiya*, can be defined as an attempt made in securing the nation's identity and its survival. Even the government patronage was lavishly offered on this purpose. *Sidath Sangarawa* stood a stand of time as the fundamental book used in learning and teaching Sinhala language for a long time and with the impact of language evolution which occurred during 19<sup>th</sup> century, the contemporary academics understood the complexity of *Sidath Sangarawa*. Therefore, they compiled grammar books simplifying the intricacies of *Sidath Sangarawa* including the applications of spoken language and



reformed it to address the language needs of current society. *Pada Nithiya* is one such product. Therefore, it is clear that the *Pada Nithiya* and *Sidath Sangarawa* were compiled so as to address the language needs of the society and the specialty of the relationship is that the latter was the source text of the former.

#### Conclusion

Both *Sidath Sangarawa* and *Pada Nithiya* were compiled with the objective of securing the nation's identity and the survival of the vernacular for a long period of time. *Sidath Sangarawa* was compiled for the classical Sinhala language with the association of contemporary poetry and sophisticated usages of the language. But, *Pada Nithiya* has been compiled for mixed Sinhala taking into the consideration of daily usages of the language which prevailed during that era in the society while using *Sidath Sangarawa* as its source text. Through this process, Veragama Punchibandara standardized the theories of *Sidath Sangarawa* while full filling the language needs of current society and subsequently, he standardized the objectives and the grammar theories of *Sidath Sangarawa* while reforming and modernizing the design of grammar explained in *Sidath Sangarawa*.

#### References

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