

An Experimental Study on Indigenous Knowledge Basis Used for the Protection of Nature through Animal Folklore

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Abstract

It is evident from the study of popular folklore about animals in Sinhala Culture that they are Folklore about animals and trees in the study of folklore is a clear mechanism which has been made up of basis of folk consciousness which shows the relationship and protection between human social Culture and nature. This Mechanism will operate as a process through Folklore about animals and trees in order to establish continuum and protection that maintain an interrelated relationship between humans and animals as a part of special creation by the nature. This study examines how folklore about animals contributes to the development of ethnographical consciousness based on the above matter. The research problem in this study is to find out whether there is any mechanism for protection of the nature through the folk consciousness on animals that has been constructed in Sinhala Society periodically. In that case, factors can be presented as the evidences/findings comparatively examined from the secondary resources which are popular and written about animal folklore and interviews conducted with individuals who had enough knowledge. Having evaluated the status of fear and sacredness, through the folklore about animals, humans has established a way of protection for animals showing the relationship between humans and animals with links to Buddhism and human folk religions. Besides that, based on the contribution by animals to the lives of humans, loving kindness and compassion of humans to animals, poetry and stories have been composed to deliver the message of social communication. For an instance, the stories around the concept of Naga in Sinhala Society show how the relationship has been built between Cobra and humans for the wellbeing of each other. That brings an understanding about the mechanism of creating folk consciousness. At present, the harmony between nature and man which connected the values of Sinhala Society is disappearing due to the fading of that basic foundation. Owing to that, threats arise from the nature for the continuum of human generations. This situation demonstrates that there is a necessity of discussing again about folklore of animals for a better establishment of the protection of the nature. Hence, this research deals with the significance of stating such a discussion.

Keywords- Folklore, Animal Folklore, Folk Consciousness, Mechanism, Protection of the Nature

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