A COMPARATIVE STUDY OF SINHALESE LITERATURE
IN THE ELEVENTH AND TWELFTH CENTURIES

by

Gatara Dhammapala

59537

Thesis submitted for the Degree of
Doctor of Philosophy
University of London
1973
Abstract

The thesis consists of six chapters.

The first chapter deals with the historical background of the period (eleventh and twelfth centuries A.D.). It sums up the results of the Cōla invasion and examines the nature and the functions of intellectuals' awakening after the re-establishment of Śrīlāvaliye rule with special reference to the age of Parākramabāhu I.

The second chapter treats briefly almost all the works of the period with their respective authors. It includes various categories of works, literary and otherwise, written in Sinhalese, Pali and Sanskrit.

The third chapter concerns the concept of bhakti and its special significance in the context of devotional literature. It also shows how this concept was transferred to the Buddha by later Buddhist devotee writers.

The fourth chapter makes a comparative study of the works of Gurulugomi and Vidyācakravarti. It
examines their inspirations and influences from such Buddhist works as Avadānas as well as Śanskrit poetic traditions and some Śanskrit prose works. It also assesses the literary quality of each work.

The fifth chapter contains a comparative study of the Sasanāvata and the Muvadevdāvata. It deals with the concept of poetry with special reference to the Siyabasilakara, and examines the inspiration of these Sinhalese poems from Buddhist literary traditions in addition to their influence from Śanskrit poetic traditions. It also approaches each work aesthetically following the rasa theory as postulated by Anandavardhana and Visvanātha.

The sixth chapter deals with the problem of literary translation. It examines the translating processes put into practice by Ceylonese writers from early times. It pays special attention to the translating processes practised by Gurulugomi and Vidyācakravarti in their renderings of verse and prose.
## Contents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Abstract</td>
<td>2-3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acknowledgements</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abbreviations</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Introduction</td>
<td>8-21</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Chapter I

**Historical Background**

(a) The invasion of Gōlas and expansion of Hinduism  
(b) The intellectual awakening during the period  

### Chapter II

**On Scholars and Their Works**  
Kassapa, Ānanda, Buddhappiya and Vedeça, Anuruddha, Moggallāna,  
Buddharakkhita, Sāriputta and his disciples: Saṅgharakkhita, Sumaṅgala, Vācissara, Dhammakitti,  
Author of the Mahābodhivamsa-granthipadaya,  
Author of the Ātaka-atuva-gatapadaya,  
Atthaddass, Authors of the Sasadāvata and the Muvadevdāvata,  
Gurulugomā, Vidyācakravarti  
A perspective on authors and their works  

73-151
Chapter III

The Devotional Literature

(a) Bhakti cult
(b) A note on the historical development of devotional literature
(c) Some aspects of Ceylonese devotional works
(d) Some devotional aspects of the Butsarana

Chapter IV

A Comparative Study of the Prose Works of Gurugomi and Vidyācakravartī

Dharmapradīpikāva, Amāvatura, Butsarana

Chapter V

A Comparative Study of the Sasadāvata and the Muvadevdāvata

(a) An observation on the concept of poetry
(b) A general consideration of the Sasadāvata and the Muvadevdāvata
(c) A comparison between the Sasadāvata and the Muvadevdāvata

Chapter VI

A Study of the Art of Translation

(a) Some aspects of literary translation
(b) Some distinctive features inherent in the renderings of Gurugomi and Vidyācakravartī

Conclusion

Bibliography