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University of Ruhuna
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## The Faculty Journal of Humanities and Social Sciences

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# The Faculty Journal of Humanities and Social Sciences 

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# The Faculty Journal of Humanities and Social Sciences 

## Volume 10, Issue 01. June 2021

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## Editorial Note

On behalf of the Editorial Board, I am extremely happy to write this editorial note for the Journal of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences (JFHSS), Volume 10, Issue 1, 2021. The JFHSS is a double-blind peer-reviewed scholarly journal published twice a year (June and December) by the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Ruhuna. The members of the Editorial Board, amidst the numerous teaching, research, administrative, and social commitments, managed to come out with a collection of five valuable academic papers that address some crucial issues of timely relevance for the benefit of the academic and research community of Sri Lanka and abroad. The papers in this issue were subjected to a strict blind review process and the authors were requested to revise them more than twice. On behalf of the Editorial Board, I express my humble gratitude and appreciation to all the reviewers for their generous and expert involvement as reviewers to improve the quality of the papers up to a standard suitable for publication in this issue. I am also grateful to the members of the editorial board for their commitment and dedication extended to producing this issue and, to the authors for submitting their valuable academic works to the journal.

Issue 1 of Volume 10 of the Journal of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences (JFHSS) is meant to address some important concerns in the disciplines that are specialized under nine separate departments within the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences as a timely contribution to the ongoing process of producing and disseminating knowledge. The issue consists of 5 papers that present the outcomes of 5 thorough research projects carried out by some academics from the university system of Sri Lanka, specializing in a variety of disciplines including gender studies, geography,
culture and history, English language teaching, and modern Sinhalese poetry, respectively.

The opening paper in the volume by Latha Gunasinghe discusses a feminist approach to the Sinhala novel under the integration of femininity in the art of literature. She examines the gender representations in the Sinhala novel within a feminist approach to literary analysis, using the works of Eva Ranaweera, Sumithra Rahubaddha, K. Jayatilake, and Tennyson Perera. Also, she explains the connection between feminist literature and feminine experience of reality from a feminist standpoint with reference to the feelings, beliefs, and lifestyles of the women portrayed in the respective novels. According to the author, feminism has become a broad concept that goes beyond the issues of equal rights and democratic liberation movements, in the attempts to change the existing social system. Thus, based on a feminist ideology-based analysis of the respective works of fiction, the author argues that points out the necessity of exposure to the worldwide tendencies of femininity in the craftsmanship of fiction.
G.O.G.N Madhushani and H.M.P Herath examine the effects of anthropogenic activities in the natural environment of the Kotmale sub-catchment in the Upper Mahaweli Catchment where land use seem to have undergone a radical change over the years 1997-2011. Using both primary and secondary data collection methods, Chi- square analysis and GIS techniques, satellite images of Landsat of 1997 and 2011, the authors argue that deforestation, unsuitable land use practices, excessive usage of agrochemicals, construction activities, and agricultural activities as the main anthropogenic activities that cause erosion, sedimentation, soil quality degradation, and landslides. The authors also uncover an increasing pattern of built-up area and cultivated lands within
the relevant period, and a gradual decreasing pattern of the vegetation cover and the water bodies in the area.
L. Gamage and the Ven. Kawudagammana Rathanasara Thera examine the social, economic, and cultural changes the two districts in the Southern Province - Galle and Matara - experienced under the British colonial regime across the $19^{\text {th }}$ and $20^{\text {th }}$ centuries, because of the traditional-mode coconut oil industry that pivoted on the sekku, the traditional pressing tool used for extracting oil from copra. Under the British plantation economy, coconut cultivation flourished as a commercial crop while a market for coconut-based products emerged locally as well as internationally. Based on the field studies and in-depth interviews as well as previous research studies considered here as secondary sources, the authors uncover how the sekku owners developed their social status by being wealthy and gaining colonial positions. The authors further find that the sekku industry boosted the region's economy and cultural identity by making a decisive impact on the economic, social, and cultural conditions of the Southern Province during the period concerned.
R. Gunawardane, S. Chandradasa, and H.H. Senevirathne investigate the impact of literature-based language lessons conducted online in enhancing English-speaking skills. They claim to have developed a literature-based language programme and conducted it online for over 15 weeks for the thirdyear undergraduate students who had got registered for the English language programme of the Faculty of Science, University of Ruhuna. The data has been collected from a group of 50 such students through a questionnaire survey with open-ended questions and from 6 English teachers with focus group discussions. Having observed the classrooms to get a better insight into the impact created by these lessons, they find that English lessons based on literature were able to create a conducive teaching and learning atmosphere,
which eventually enhanced the students' intrinsic motivation, creative thinking, active participation, and attendance while reducing their anxiety to a considerable level. They conclude that literature-based language teaching methods inspire language learners in improving their speaking skills to the extent that the language teachers perform well in exploiting the ideal literary texts in the classroom.

In this compilation of papers, the last in line is a detailed investigation into "The conceptual significance of epiphany in the criticism of modern Sinhala hyku-type short lyrics" by the Ven. Aparekke Sirisudhamma Thero. Epiphany in poetry is a rhetorical device applied to provide a sudden insight or realization capable of changing the reader's mindset about a particular aspect of reality, while preserving the reader's independence in enjoying the impact of poetics as well as perceiving reality in the medium of poetry. The author proposes an approach to critical reading of modern Sinhalese short poems with a focus on the use of epiphany and suggests the literary value of short poems as a sub-genre in modern Sinhalese poetry.

Thus the five papers mirror a fraction of the research interests of the faculty. Of course, the editorial board emphasize that the respective authors are solely responsible for the ideas generated in the papers.

The compilation of the journal was obviously a group activity. Therefore on behalf of the editorial board I thank all those who helped in this venture.

Dr. Chandika Gunasinghe
Editor-in-Chief

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## Femininity in literature: A feminist approach on the Sinhala Novel



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## ณందోంతోరి





















#### Abstract

Inquiring into depictions of gender in the Sinhala novel with a feminist approach is the objective of this research paper. The fact that in feminist ideology-based analysis, every social issue is explained in terms of gender is the reason for this. Though the term feminism first came into use in reference to the protests which occurred in relation to issues concerning women in western society in the $19^{\text {th }}$ and $20^{\text {th }}$ centuries, it has by now acquired a broader meaning. Feminism has become a broad concept which, while seeking to end the prevailing discrimination against women by demanding equal rights and amending of laws, also goes beyond equal rights and liberation movements, in attempts to change the existing system. There are several theoretical approaches in feminism. Empowering women, creating gender equality, achieving liberation, removing suppression and discrimination are ideologically targeted in feminism. Feminist literature is solicitous to (i.e., keenly concerned with) fulfilling the role of the feminist movement. In feminist literary criticism the connection between literature and the feminine experience is expounded from a feminist standpoint and the depictions in literature by writers (both male and female) of feelings, beliefs and lifestyles of women are subjected to close scrutiny. Accordingly, this study has been conducted using novels selected from among the works of authors Eva Ranaweera, Sumithra Rahubaddha, K. Jayatilake, and Tennyson Perera.


## Keywords: Novelty, Feminism, Gender, Patriarchy, Literary Criticism

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Effects of Anthropogenic Activities on the Natural Environment in Kotmale Catchment (With special reference to Malhewa, Ramboda and Wedamulla GN Divisions)<br>Madhushani G.O.G.N ${ }^{1}$ and Herath H.M.P ${ }^{2}$<br>Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka<br>${ }^{1}$ nilu2madushani@gmail.com


#### Abstract

The Kotmale sub-catchment is located in Upper Mahaweli Catchment and drains an area of 544 km 2 , which is about 18.8 percent of the total extent of the Upper Mahaweli Catchment. In recent years' various anthropogenic activities have been influencing the Kotmale catchment. Thus, the study examined the effects of anthropogenic activities on natural environment in this particular catchment. This study also examined the land use changes from 1997 to 2011 in the selected catchment area. Both primary and secondary data collection methods were utilized to obtained data. Primary data were collected using a structured questionnaire survey. Interviews and observation methods were also used from randomly selected households in three GN divisions in the study area. The secondary data were collected from Mahaweli Development Authority and Divisional Secretariat of Kotmale. Chisquare analysis and GIS were used to analyze the data. Satellite images of Landsat of 1997 and 2011 were utilized to identify the land use changes. The study found, deforestation, unsuitable land use practices, and excessive usage of agro chemicals, construction activities and agricultural activities to be the main anthropogenic activities causing soil erosion, sedimentation problems, reduced soil quality and landslides. Study also revealed increasing patterns of built-up area and cultivated lands within the periods of 1997 to 2011, and gradual decreasing pattern of vegetation cover and water bodies in the area. Thus, the study emphasizes the need of strong coordination among the government institutions to reduce anthropogenic impact in a particular catchment area and an effective introduction to proper land use practices and river bank conservation activities to regulate the conservation of the catchment.


Keywords: Sub-catchment, natural environment, Anthropogenic Activities, Land use changes

Effects of Anthropogenic Activities on the Natural Environment in Kotmale Catchment (With special reference to Malhewa, Ramboda and Wedamulla GN Divisions)

## 1. Introduction

A catchment is defined as "a geographic area in which all water running off the land drains to a specific location" (Bandaranayke, 2007). Catchments vary in size. It can cover a small or a large area of land. Catchments provide a number of functions to sustain the eco system. For example, it provides water for living beings, maintains hydrological cycle, and provides habitats for plants and wildlife, and water for human recreational use.

Ancient Sri Lanka was renowned for its hydraulic civilization. The ancient people established their settlements in the watershed areas to fulfil their agricultural purposes and other needs. Even a present people have concentrated to wet areas for water. Water is an essential resource and a component for the entire eco system. Thus, many settlements, industries, factories, agricultural lands can be seen in watershed areas. At present there are numbers of anthropogenic activities destroying the watershed in the world including deforestation, forest fires, sand mining, gem mining, dumping garbage, harmful developments activities and excessive usage of agro chemicals. Globally the main reasons for increase of problems in watershed areas are urbanization, rapid growth of population and industrialization.

Riverine habitats of Sri Lanka are rapidly being altered through many anthropogenic activities such as intensive agricultural activities, heavy agrochemical usage, damming, discharging various waste materials and industrial effluents and deforestation. With the rapid growth of population their requirements also increase. Therefore, improper land use practices increase. People use land without having adequate knowledge and knowledge in techniques. They use unsuitable lands like steep slopes areas for their settlements and farming. Finally, it leads to soil erosion. In addition, soil erosion causes to land degradation; reduces water quality and causes loss of soil fertility.

Deforestation is another activity that adversely affects to the watershed areas. People who are living in watershed areas tend to destroy the forest cover due to many reasons
which includes clearing for logging, agricultural purposes, and settlements and urbanization. In these cases, trees are never re-planted. The absence of vegetation erodes top soil more quickly and makes unsystematic water cycling. Destroying the forests mean increasing the availability of Carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. Finally global warming could occur and it would be the main reason for climate change. Declining biodiversity is another impact of deforestation. When forests are destroyed many wonderful species both plants and animals would be lost and many others would remain endangered.

At present people tend to use agrochemicals in excessive amounts to get more harvest. However, it will cause eutrophication in reservoirs. It means with soil erosion and surface runoff, nitrogen and phosphate in the agricultural areas flow into the river and it will increase nitrogen and phosphate concentration in the reservoir. Due to that algae bloom will occur and aquatic animals like fish will be destroyed.

The Kotmale sub-catchment is located in Nuwara Eliya district. It is 70 km in length and is one of the major tributaries of the Mahaweli River at the head water. This sub catchment drains an area of 544 sq . km, which is about $18.8 \%$ of the total extent of the Upper Mahaweli Catchment. Malhewa, Ramboda, and Wedamulla GN divisions in Kotmale Catchment were selected as the area of study. Total size of the study area was sixteen square kilometers.

### 1.1. Statement of the Problem

Human activities have direct effects on the problems in the watershed in Kotmale catchment. With the rapid growth of population their requirements have also increased. Therefore, improper land use practices are increasing. People use lands without having any knowledge and knowledge in techniques. They further use unsuitable lands like steep slopes as their settlements and for farming. Finally, it leads to soil erosion. As a result, the Kotmale hydroelectric reservoir has come to the great risk of sedimentation. In addition, soil erosion causes land degradation, reduced water quality and loss of soil fertility.

Kotmale is a conserve area. However, people who are living in these areas tend to destroy the forest cover for many reasons. These include clearing for logging, for agricultural purposes, settlements and urbanization. In these cases, trees are never replanted. The absence of vegetation causes erodes topsoil more quickly and makes unsystematic water cycles. Destroying the forests means increasing the availability of Carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. Finally global warming can occur and it would be the main reason for climate changes. Declining biodiversity is another result of deforestation. When forests are destroyed many species both plants and animals will be lost and many others will remain endangered (Natural resources of Sri Lanka, 2000).

The major part of Kotmale catchment is covered by agricultural lands including tea, paddy and vegetable. At present people tend to use agrochemicals to get more harvest. However, it will cause eutrophication in the reservoirs. Due to this algae bloom will occur and aquatic animals like fish will be destroyed. Such kinds of conditions had occurred in Kotmale reservoir in the past. It will occur again due to excessive usage of agrochemical. According to the Amarathunga etal.,(2013) Kotmale reservoir is highly sensitive towards eutrophication and blooming effects mainly due to nutrient loading.

Although many conservation activities are implemented to conserve the watershed area still there are problems in Kotmale catchment area. If these issues increase more and more, it will affect the community and the environment as well as the quantity and quality of water of Kotmale reservoir negatively. Therefore, it is important to identify interference of human activities in the Kotmale catchment.

### 1.2. Objectives of the study

Main objective
To identify the effects of anthropogenic activities on natural environment in the Kotmale catchment area

## Sub objective

To observe the land use changes in the study area from 1997 to 2011.

## 2. Literature Review

### 2.1. World context

According to Bahadur (2009) land degradation is still a very common problem in the mountainous areas in Asian countries. The main reason for land degradation was inappropriate land use practices in slopes. Rainfall erosivity, soil erodibility, slope length and steepness, crop management and conservation practices are the main factors that influenced the soil erosion. Majority of the total soil loss can be attributed to the shifting cultivation along the steep slope. It has consisted about seventy percent of the total soil loss. For this study, Upper Nam Wa Watershed in Nan Province of Thailand was taken as a study area. Geographic information system and the remote sensing have been used to map soil erosion susceptibility. An Earth Resources Data Analysis System (ERDAS) imagine image processor has been used for the digital analysis of satellite data and topographical analysis of the contour data for deriving the land use/land cover and the topographical data of the watershed, respectively. Furthermore, soil erosion was calculated using the universal soil loss equation.

Matano et al., (2006) has studied the effect of land use changes on land degradation in Mara River Basin Kenya. The primary cause of land use change was found to be local needs. The rapid growth of population directly influenced the land use changes at the upper Mara River basin as the people who were living in this area have used forest land for agricultural purposes, livestock grazing and human settlement including urban development. In this study analysis was done using Geographic Information System and various statistical packages, including Genstat and the Statistical Package for Social Sciences software version 11.0. One way analysis, correlations, regression and principal component analysis methods and soil analysis have used to analyze the data.

According to Semmahasak (2014), the Mae Rim watershed in Northern Thailand has encountered a serious problem, due to steep slopes, high rainfall and increased

Effects of Anthropogenic Activities on the Natural Environment in Kotmale Catchment (With special reference to Malhewa, Ramboda and Wedamulla GN Divisions)
shifting cultivations by hill tribes. The activities of these tribes have aggravated soil erosion and increased the flux of sediment into rivers, floodplains and reservoirs. According to him major causes for severe soil erosion was conversion from deciduous forest areas to field crops. He has found it by overlaying maps between the current soil erosion risk (in 2009) and the land use change map during the 1989-2009. The severe soil erosion source had seemed to be associated with bare land (44\%), field crop land ( $27 \%$ ) and high steep slope ( $16 \%$ ). Furthermore, this study has stated that the agricultural patch expanding in the forested land can become an area vulnerable to drastic soil erosion. Within the Upper Ping River Basin, the Mae Rim watershed is selected as the case study area for this study. Both primary and secondary data has been used as the data collection methods. Statistical analysis methods such as correlation and regression have been used to find the relationship between the two variables. In addition, GIS and Remote Sensing has been used for map analysis.

### 2.2. The Sri Lankan context

Hewawasam (2009) has studied the effects of land use on the upper Mahaweli catchment area related to erosion, landslides and siltation in hydropower reservoirs of Sri Lanka. According to him there are two types of forests in the upper Mahaweli Catchment. They are tropical lower montane (900-1500 m) and tropical upper montane (> 1500 m ). Upper Mahaweli Catchment had a thick forest cover before the colonial era. However natural forest cover of the Upper Mahaweli Catchment has gradually decreased during the last two centuries. The main reason for it was the large-scale deforestation for plantation agriculture in $19^{\text {th }}$ century. In addition, the forest cover in the hill country has reduced due to the developments and human settlement.

Further soil erosion and landslides are severe problems in the hill country. With the population growth people tend to use land improperly for their settlements, development activities and farming. Presently vegetables are grown extensively on steep slopes of the Upper Mahaweli Catchment without proper land management practices. It causes soil erosion. Tea cultivation is one of another reason for soil
erosion in Upper Mahaweli Catchment and it is a major type of land use in the Upper Mahaweli Catchment. This study also emphasized that the river Mahaweli and its tributaries carry enormous amounts of sediments during the rainy seasons. Therefore, hydroelectric reservoirs in the region are under great risk of sedimentation. Due to the siltation problem storage capacities of reservoirs reduce and it will threat the hydropower generation in the country in future. Anthropogenically intervened soil erosion in the Upper Mahaweli Catchment has resulted in a number of another negative impacts: namely, decline in soil fertility, reduction in soil depth, sedimentation in agricultural lands, sedimentation in rivers and floods in the lowlands, increasing frequency of landslides, damage to the infrastructure, and the change of water quality of waterways and ecological systems (Hewawasam, 2009).

Amarathunga et al. (2013) have conducted a study on the behavior and loading of suspended sediment and nutrient in the Upper Kotmale Basin. According to this study the Nanu Oya sub catchment is the most critical area subjected to soil erosion and sedimentation. When comparing with other river basins Nanu Oya showed a higher nitrogen load because of the vegetable cultivation. Upper Kotmale Basin was selected as a study area and eight sampling locations were selected considering all major rivers in Upper Kotmale basin. Cluster analysis and descriptive statistic was used for analysis of nutrient and suspended sediment loading in streams using Microsoft Excel and SPSS package. Further Arc GIS 10.1 version was used to prepare maps for this study.

According to Shirantha et al. (2010) the upper watershed of Dambagastalawa River has multiple threats due to number of human related activities. Therefore, they have conducted research to evaluate future sustainability of the catchments. Ultimately, they have found that Dambagastalawa Oya micro-catchment in Kotmale catchment to have severe water quality depletion due to agricultural based activities. Therefore, it has caused to generate eutrophication. Six sampling sites were selected for the study representing the river catchment. Primary data collection methods were used for data collection and collected data were analyzed using laboratory experiments.

Effects of Anthropogenic Activities on the Natural Environment in Kotmale Catchment (With special reference to Malhewa, Ramboda and Wedamulla GN Divisions)

Wijayawardhana (2006) found agriculture and anthropogenic activities to have a significant effects on the water quality. This study has covered Belihul Oya and Kotmale Oya. In adjacent to Belihul Oya area anthropogenic activities were negligible because this area was relatively uninhabited. But there were anthropogenic activities of varying intensities in adjacent to Kotmale Oya. Ultimately this study emphasized that the concentrations of the ions in downstream of Belihul Oya and Kotmale Oya below the upper limits set by WHO and Sri Lanka Standard Institution for drinking water. It further revealed that nutrient addition due to human activities were higher compared to natural, biological and geological processes.

Amarasekara et al. (2010) explained that intensive farming on steep slopes, excessive usage of fertilizers, and accumulation of nutrients in downstream water bodies due to soil erosion may cause environmental hazards in the Upper Mahaweli Catchment Area. Intensive vegetable farming is currently a major land use type in the upper part of the Kurundu Oya catchment. Farmers tend to grow exotic vegetables than other field crops because of high market demands, suitable climate and their preferences. Furthermore, inappropriate land management practices associated with intensive vegetable farming have caused many problems such as soil erosion and sedimentation of water bodies. In addition, with the surface runoff nitrogen and phosphorus of agricultural land flow into the lowland and it causes nutrient levels to increase in the stream water. This study was conducted in the Kurundu Oya sub catchment of the Upper Mahaweli Catchment. Three villages were selected along Kurundu Oya catchment representing lower, middle and upper parts of the catchment and questionnaire survey was done using 150 householders to collect the information. Soil analysis and water analysis were used to describe soil fertility levels and to assess the existing quality of stream water.

## 3. Methodology

### 3.1. Data Collection Methods

Primary data are important to collect ideas and opinions of the community. To achieve the objectives of the study, primary data were collected from sixty families in Malhewa, Ramboda and Wedamulla Grama Niladhari divisions in Kotmale Catchment using simple random sampling method. Primary data were collected using structured questionnaire method, direct personal interviews and Observation method. In this study secondary data related to demographic information, physical and socioeconomic information was gathered from the report of the divisional secretariat office in Kotmale and in Mahaweli Development Authority in Kotmale. In addition, reliable books, journals, magazines and websites have been used to gather information.

### 3.2. Sample and Sampling Procedure

A sample is a part of the population of interest and a sub collection selected from a population. All objectives should be fulfilled through the selected sample. Therefore, sampling plays an important role. This study was based on the simple random sampling method. A simple random sample is a subset of a statistical population in which each member of the subset has an equal probability of being chosen. In this study the sample was selected from the Malhewa, Ramboda and Wedamulla Grama Niladhari divisions using the simple random sampling method. The total sample size was sixty.

### 3.3. Data analysis

Analysis of data implies the way the study is going and through its procedure objectives of the study can be fulfilled and suitable suggestions and recommendations can be proposed. In this study the chi square test was used as the data analysis technique and Geographic Information System was used to observe land use changes from 1997 to 2011 in the study area.

### 3.3.1 Map analysis using Geographic Information System

A geographic information system (GIS) is a computer system for capturing, storing, checking, and displaying data related to positions on earth's surface. GIS can show many kinds of data on one map. This enables people to see more easily, analyze, and understand patterns and relationships. In this case GIS has used to analyze the land use changes in study area from 1997 to 2011.

To identify land use changes in the study area satellite images were used and these satellite images were downloaded from United States Geological Survey (USGS) Earth Explorer website.

Table 1: Details of Land sat data collected from United States Geological Survey

| No | Acquisi <br> tion <br> Date | Satellite <br> Sensor | Path | Row | Original Band |  | Spectral <br> range ( nm ) |  | Spatial <br> Resolution |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  |  |  |  | NIR | RED | NIR | RED |  |
| 01 | $\begin{aligned} & 1997- \\ & 02-23 \end{aligned}$ | LANDS <br> AT 5 TM | 141 | 55 | 4 | 3 | $\begin{aligned} & \hline 0.77 \\ & 0.90 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \hline 0.63 \\ & 0.69 \end{aligned}$ | 30m |
| 02 | $\begin{aligned} & \hline 2011- \\ & 04-03 \end{aligned}$ | LANDS <br> AT 5 TM | 141 | 55 | 4 | 3 | $\begin{aligned} & \hline 0.77 \\ & 0.90 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 0.63 \\ & 0.69 \end{aligned}$ | 30m |

Source: Metadata of Landsat satellite images of 1997 and 2011
The Normalized Differences Vegetation Index (NDVI) is an index of plant "greenness" or photosynthetic activity, and is one of the most commonly used vegetation indices. The NDVI is calculated using the following formula.

$$
\mathrm{NDVI}=\frac{(\mathrm{NIR}-\mathrm{RED})}{(\mathrm{NIR}+\mathrm{RED})}
$$

NIR is the near infrared band value for a cell and RED is the red band value for the cell. NDVI can be calculated for any image that has a red and a near infrared band. Negative value of NDVI (values approaching -1) corresponding to water. Values
close to zero ( -0.1 to 0.1 ) generally correspond to barren areas of rock, sand, or snow. Lastly, low, positive values represent shrubs and grassland (approximately 0.2 to 0.4 ), while high values indicate temperature and tropical rainforests. Following figure represents the flow chart of NDVI Analysis.


### 3.3.2 Chi Square Test

Chi square test $\left(X^{2}\right)$ can be utilized mainly for three purposes as to test whether any random variable as a specific theoretical distribution, to test the goodness of fit of a model and to check the dependency of two criteria of classification of qualitative data.

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In this case, Chi square test was used to identify the interference of human activities in the watershed in Kotmale catchment area. SPSS statistical package was used to analyze the data.

## Assumption

1. All the observations must be independent
2. All the events must be mutually exclusive
3. There must be a large observation
4. For comparison purposes, the data must be in its original units

## Hypothesis

$\mathrm{H}_{0}$ : There is no association between the dependent variable and the explanatory variable
$H_{1}$ : There is an association between the dependent variable and the explanatory variable

## Chi-square test formula

$$
\chi^{2}=\sum_{i} \frac{\left(O_{i}-E_{i}\right)^{2}}{E_{i}}
$$

$\mathrm{O}_{\mathrm{ij}}=$ Observed frequency in each category
$\mathrm{E}_{\mathrm{ij}}=$ Expected frequency in the corresponding category
r = Numbers of rows
c = Numbers of columns

If the chi-square value is higher than the critical value, then there is a significant difference or, in a chi-square test, a P-value that is less than or equal to significance level indicates that there is no significant relationship between the two variables.

## 4. Results and Discussion

### 4.1. Effects of Anthropogenic Activities on the Natural Environment in the Study Area

Soil erosion is one of the main issues faced by people in the study area. According to the findings, the majority of the sample ( $95 \%$ ) is still facing soil erosion. Among them 37 percent of people are facing the problem of soil erosion in a higher level. 50 percent of people are facing soil erosion problems at a moderate level and 8 percent of people are facing soil erosion problem at a lower level. When considering the soil erosion level, the highest number of paddy farmers is suffering from soil erosion problem at a high level because paddy farmers are not able to use proper soil conservation methods in the fields. According to peoples' opinion soil erosion is also high in steep slope areas. Improper land use practices of people have caused to soil erosion. As a result, Kotmale reservoir is at the risk of sedimentation. In addition, soil erosion has caused to land degradation, reduce water quality and loss of soil quality. According to chi-square analysis there is an association between human activities and soil erosion (Table No 2).

Hypotheses are stated as follows. According to the decision rule if P value is less than 0.05 there is enough evidence to reject $\mathrm{H}_{0}$ at 0.05 significance level.
$\mathrm{H}_{1} \mathrm{a}$-There is an association between paddy cultivation and soil erosion
$\mathrm{H}_{1} \mathrm{~b}$-There is an association between construction activities and soil erosion
$\mathrm{H}_{1} \mathrm{c}$-There is an association between tea cultivation and soil erosion

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Table 2: Relationship between human activities and soil erosion

| Hypothesis | $\boldsymbol{\chi 2}$ value | P value | Conclusion |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| $\mathrm{H}_{1} \mathrm{a}$ | 5.742 | 0.017 | There is an <br> association <br> between paddy <br> cultivation and soil <br> erosion. |
| $\mathrm{H}_{1} \mathrm{~b}$ | 27.692 | 0.000 | There is an <br> association <br> between <br> construction <br> activities and soil <br> erosion. |
| $\mathrm{H}_{1} \mathrm{c}$ | 22.848 | 0.000 | There is an <br> association <br> between tea <br> cultivation and soil <br> erosion. |

Source: Sample Survey, 2016
Water scarcity is another problem found from the study area. Majority of people have faced water scarcity problems. It was recorded as 88 percent. Less number of people do not have water scarcity. It was recorded as 12 percent. Most people have suffered from water scarcity during the period of January to April. Table 3 clearly shows an association between construction activities and water scarcity. Hypotheses are stated as follows to find out whether there is a relationship between human activities and water scarcity. According to the decision rule if P value is less than 0.05 there is enough evidence to reject $\mathrm{H}_{0}$ at 0.05 significance level.
$\mathrm{H}_{1} \mathrm{a}$-There is an association between paddy cultivation and water scarcity
$\mathrm{H}_{1} \mathrm{~b}$-There is an association between construction activities and water scarcity
$\mathrm{H}_{1} \mathrm{c}$-There is an association between tea cultivation and water scarcity

Table 3: Relationship between human activities and water scarcity

| Hypothesis | $\boldsymbol{\chi 2}$ value | $\mathbf{P}$ value | Conclusion |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| $\mathrm{H}_{1} \mathrm{a}$ | 0.022 | 0.881 | There is no association <br> between paddy <br> cultivation and water <br> scarcity. |
| $\mathrm{H}_{1} \mathrm{~b}$ | 10.062 | 0.002 | There is an association <br> between construction <br> activities and water <br> scarcity. |
| $\mathrm{H}_{1} \mathrm{c}$ | 3.258 | 0.071 | There is no association <br> between tea <br> cultivation and water <br> scarcity. |

Source: Sample Survey, 2016
Most people have accepted that sedimentation problems of streams more than the earlier period. It was recorded as $54 \% .27$ percent of people and 19 percent of people have accepted that river bank erosion and differences of the water levels were higher than earlier respectively. Deforestation and improper land use practices cause changes in the water levels in the streams and river bank erosion. Soil erosion is the main cause to increase sedimentation problem. According to majority soil quality of this area has reduced than the early period. It was recorded as 75 percent but a less number has accepted the soil quality of this area which has not changed compared to earlier. According to the results of the sample survey soil erosion, usage of agrochemicals, deforestation and monoculture are the reasons for declined soil quality. Although farmers use several biological and mechanical soil conservation strategies they are still suffering from erosion. Especially soil quality of agricultural land has reduced due to heavy usage of agro chemicals. Table 4 shows the relationship between human activities and the soil quality. Hypotheses are stated as follows to find out whether there is a relationship between human activities and soil quality. According to the decision rule, if P value less than 0.05 there is enough evidence to reject $\mathrm{H}_{0}$ at 0.05 significance level.

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## Hypothesis:

$\mathrm{H}_{1} \mathrm{a}$-There is an association between paddy cultivation and soil quality
$\mathrm{H}_{1} \mathrm{~b}$-There is an association between construction activities and soil quality
$\mathrm{H}_{1} \mathrm{c}$-There is an association between livestock farming and soil quality
$\mathrm{H}_{1} \mathrm{~d}$-There is an association between tea cultivation and soil quality
$\mathrm{H}_{1} \mathrm{e}$-There is an association between vetivar method and soil quality
$\mathrm{H}_{1} \mathrm{f}$-There is an association between boulder bund method and soil quality
$\mathrm{H}_{1} \mathrm{~g}$-There is an association between contour drain method and soil quality
$\mathrm{H}_{1} \mathrm{~h}$-There is an association between waste management activities and soil quality
Table 4: Relationship between human activities and soil quality

| Hypothesis | $\chi \mathbf{2}$ value | P value | Conclusion |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| $\mathrm{H}_{1} \mathrm{a}$ | 11.560 | 0.003 | There is an association <br> between paddy <br> cultivation and soil <br> quality. |
| $\mathrm{H}_{1} \mathrm{~b}$ | 5.007 | 0.025 | There is an association <br> between construction <br> activities and soil <br> quality. |
| $\mathrm{H}_{1} \mathrm{c}$ | 43.558 | 0.000 | There is an association <br> between livestock <br> farming and soil <br> quality. |
| $\mathrm{H}_{1} \mathrm{~d}$ | 11.408 | 0.003 | There is an association <br> between tea cultivation <br> and Soil quality. |
| $\mathrm{H}_{1} \mathrm{e}$ | 14.590 | 0.001 | There is an association <br> between vetivar method <br> and soil quality. |
| $\mathrm{H}_{1} \mathrm{f}$ | 8.527 | 0.014 | There is an association <br> between boulder bund <br> method and soil quality. |
| $\mathrm{H}_{1} \mathrm{~g}$ | 6.924 | 0.031 | There is an association <br> between contour drain <br> method and soil quality. |


| $\mathrm{H}_{1} \mathrm{~h}$ | 12.007 | 0.007 | There is an association <br> between waste <br> management activities <br> and soil quality. |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |

Source: Sample Survey, 2016
Landslides are common in these areas due to topography. This research also found an association between construction activities and landslides. Most people tend to use sloppy land areas for construction without having proper land use techniques. However, people follow several conservation strategies to minimize the soil erosion problem in these areas. Table 5 clearly shows the relationship between human activities and landslides. Hypotheses are stated as follows.
$\mathrm{H}_{1} \mathrm{a}$-There is an association between paddy cultivation and landslides
$\mathrm{H}_{1} \mathrm{~b}$-There is an association between construction activities and landslides
$\mathrm{H}_{1} \mathrm{c}$-There is an association between vetivar method and landslides
$\mathrm{H}_{1} \mathrm{~d}$-There is an association between boulder bund method and landslides
$\mathrm{H}_{1} \mathrm{e}$-There is an association between contour drain method and landslides
Table 5: Relationship between human activities and landslides

| Hypothesis | $\boldsymbol{\chi 2}$ value | $\mathbf{P}$ value | Conclusion |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| $\mathrm{H}_{1} \mathrm{a}$ | 0.857 | 0.355 | There is no association <br> between paddy <br> cultivation and <br> landslides. |
| $\mathrm{H}_{1} \mathrm{~b}$ | 23.774 | 0.000 | There is an association <br> between construction <br> activities and landslides. |
| $\mathrm{H}_{1} \mathrm{c}$ | 4.861 | 0.027 | There is an association <br> between vetivar method <br> and landslides. |
| $\mathrm{H}_{1} \mathrm{~d}$ | 4.212 | 0.040 | There is an association <br> between boulder bund <br> method and landslides. |
| $\mathrm{H}_{1} \mathrm{e}$ | 6.400 | 0.011 | There is an association <br> between contour drain <br> method and landslides. |

Source: Sample Survey, 2016

According to the result of this survey all people have strongly accepted the fact that the forest cover of their village has reduced compared to earlier. 30 percent of people have accepted settlement activities to be the main reason for deforestation. 28 percent of people mentioned that agricultural activities were the reason for deforestation.

In addition, people also have recognized illegal clearance of forest cover and construction activities as reasons behind the deforestation in the study area. The absence of vegetation cover erodes topsoil faster and creates an unsystematic water cycle. Moreover declining biodiversity is another impact of deforestation. Table 6 further shows findings of this research. Hypotheses are stated as follows to find out relationship between human activities and natural and human environment.
$\mathrm{H}_{1} \mathrm{a}$-There is an association between deforestation and rainfall pattern
$\mathrm{H}_{1} \mathrm{~b}$-There is an association between construction activities and deforestation
$\mathrm{H}_{1} \mathrm{c}$-There is an association between livestock farming and differences in drinking water
$\mathrm{H}_{1} \mathrm{~d}$-There is an association between tea cultivation and deforestation

Table 6: Relationship between human activities and natural and human environment

| Hypothesis | $\chi^{2}$ value | P value | Conclusion |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| $\mathrm{H}_{1} \mathrm{a}$ | 7.212 | 0.007 | There is an association between <br> deforestation and rainfall pattern |
| $\mathrm{H}_{1} \mathrm{~b}$ | 16.364 | 0.000 | There is an association between <br> construction activities and <br> deforestation. |
| $\mathrm{H}_{1} \mathrm{c}$ | 2.321 | 0.128 | There is no association between <br> livestock farming and differences <br> in drinking water. |
| $\mathrm{H}_{1} \mathrm{~d}$ | 17.100 | 0.000 | There is an association between <br> tea cultivation and deforestation. |

Source: Sample Survey, 2016

Farmers in the study area also use more agrochemicals than standard level for their agriculture activities including tea and vegetables. 72 percent of people have used fertilizer for paddy cultivation at a standard level. However, 28 percent of people have used fertilizer more than the standard level. 52 percent of people have used fertilizer for tea cultivation at standard level and 48 percent of people have used fertilizer more than the standard level. 21 percent of people have used fertilizer for vegetable cultivation in standard level. But higher numbers of people have used fertilizer for vegetable cultivation more than the standard level. It was represented as 79 percent. Most of people have used U709, T 750 for tea cultivation, V2, TDM for paddy cultivation and SA. I, SA. II, TSP for vegetable cultivation. Most people who are engaged in vegetable cultivation use more fertilizers than other agricultural activities to get more harvest within a short period of time. With surface runoff nitrogen and phosphate in these agricultural lands flow into reservoirs and it increases high nitrogen and phosphate concentration in the reservoir.

### 4.2. Land Use Changes in the Study Area from 1997 to 2011

When studying the interference of human activities in the watershed it is important to identify the land use changes in watershed. Therefore, land use change of study area was identified using NDVI. Earth surface consists of several resources including natural and manmade resources. It includes river, streams, reservoirs, soil, forest, rock and several manmade features including building, road network and agricultural land. Land use map of Malhewa, Wedamulla and Ramboda Grama Niladhari divisions was used to find out the land use changes from 1997 to 2011.
I. Land use of Study Area in 1997

Table 7: Land use of Study Area in 1997

| Land use category | Area in Sq.kms | Percentage of the total <br> area (\%) |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Forest | 5 | 31.25 |
| Scrub | 4.5 | 28.125 |

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| Cultivated Area | 4 | 25 |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Buildup Area | 1.5 | 9.375 |
| Water Bodies | 1 | 6.25 |
| Total | 16 | 100 |

Source: Field Survey, 2016
The land use statistics of 1997 in the study area is given in Table 7 Forest was in the dominant land use category and the area has extended up to $5 \mathrm{~km}^{2}$. It is comprised of 31.25 percent of the study area. Scrub and cultivated area were the other major land cover classes in the area of study. It is comprised of $4.5 \mathrm{~km}^{2}$ and $4 \mathrm{~km}^{2}$ respectively. As a percentage value it occupied 28.125 percent and 25 percent. Build-up area is spread throughout the study area near the water bodies and it has showed nuclear settlement pattern. It occupied $1.5 \mathrm{~km}^{2}$ and constituted 10 percent of study area. Water bodies comprised $1 \mathrm{~km}^{2}$ and constituted 6 percent. Map 4.1 shows that land use map of study area in 1997.


Map 1: Land use Map of Study Area in 1997
Source: Prepared by author according to USGS data

## II. Land use of Study Area in 2011

The change in land use in 2011 are presented in Table 8. The table reveals the cultivated area to be the dominant land use with a total land area of $5.5 \mathrm{~km}^{2}$ which consist of 34 percent of the study area. Scrub has occupied $3.7 \mathrm{~km}^{2}$ which was 23 percent of the total area. Cultivated area has spread to an area of 5.5 km 2 and it has occupied 34.37 percent of the study area. Tea, paddy and homestead are the main cultivation patterns in study area.

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Table 8: Land use of Study Area in 2011

| Land use category | Area in Sq.kms | Percentage of the total area (\%) |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Forest | 3 | 18.75 |
| Scrub | 3.7 | 23.125 |
| Cultivated Area | 5.5 | 34.375 |
| Buildup Area | 3 | 18.75 |
| Water Bodies | 0.8 | 5 |
| Total | 16 | 100 |

Source: Field data, 2016


Map 1 : Land Use Map in the Study Area in 2011
Source: Prepared by author according to USGS data
III. Land Use Change in Study Area 1997-2011

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Table 9: Land Use Change in Study Area 1997-2011

| Land use category | Area in $\mathrm{km}^{2}$ (\%) <br> 1997 | Area in $\mathrm{km}^{2}(\%)$ <br> 2011 | Change in area (\%) |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Forest | 31.25 | 18.75 | -12.5 |
| Scrub | 28.125 | 23.125 | -5 |
| Cultivated Area | 25 | 34.375 | 9.375 |
| Buildup Area | 9.375 | 18.75 | 9.375 |
| Water Bodies | 6.25 | 5 | -1.25 |
| Total | 100 | 100 | 37.5 |

Source: Field data, 2016
According to the above table forest occupied 31 percent of the study area in 1997 which has come down to a total of 19 percent in 2011 showing a net decrease of 12.5 percent. Scrub in the study area in 1997 has recorded 28 percent and it has come down to 23 percent in 2011showing net decrease of 5 percent. Cultivated area in 1997 has recorded 25 percent. However, it has recorded 34 percent in 2011. Water bodies in the study area in 1997 has spread an area of 6 percent and it has spread an area of 5 percent in 2011 showing a net decrease of 1.25 percent.


Figure 1: Land Use Change Statistics 1997-2011

Source: Field data, 2016

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Figure 1 illustrates the land use changes in the study area from 1997 to 2011.According to this figure forest cover, scrub and water bodies have reduced during the period of 1997 to 2011. However, the cultivated area and build-up area in the study area have increased between the periods of 1997-2011.

Deforestation is the main reason that reduces forest cover and scrub. People are tending to destroy forest cover for many purposes including agricultural activities, settlements and construction activities. Water bodies in the study area have reduced due to many reasons. Population growth is one of the reasons to reduce water bodies. In addition, drought condition directly causes to reduce water bodies. Water scarcity is one of the problems faced by people in this area mainly during the period of January to April. For instance, water bodies in Kotmale area gradually have decreased due to droughts during the period of January-April in 2016. Due to the water level of Kotmale reservoir has gradually decreased. In addition, drought condition had severely occurred in Kotmale area in 2009.

When considering the cultivated area, tea, paddy and vegetables are the main crop types that people are cultivating at present. However, tea is the main cultivation in the study area than paddy and vegetables. Chena cultivation was one of main agricultural activities in the past and it has eradicated at present. However, with the population growth deforestation has occurred. Thus, cultivated areas and build-up area have increased.

Population growth, development activities, tourism industry, increasing infrastructure are the main reasons to increase buildup areas. Ramboda is famous for tourism because of the climate and the natural beauty of waterfalls including Ramboda falls. Therefore, local and foreign tourists attract to this area for recreation activities. It directly causes to increase buildup area. Gampola-NuwaraEliya main road is located through the ramboda and wedamulla GN divisions. Therefore, buildup areas have increased than earlier and most of the buildings are located along the road. Ramboda tunnel is one of main development projects in the study area. Construction of Ramboda tunnel was completed in 2007.With the upper Kotmale
project road network in Malhewa GN division was reconstructed. Therefore, buildup areas in study area have increased.

## 5. Conclusion

Many human activities that have affected the watershed were identified using statistical analysis and map analysis in Kotmale catchment area. According to this study deforestation, improper land use practices, excessive usage of agrochemicals, construction activities and agricultural activities are the human activities that have influenced the natural environment in Kotmale Catchment.

Deforestation is a huge problem in Kotmale catchment. According to this study most people have strongly accepted that forest cover has reduced than early period. According to them cutting trees illegally and clearing forest cover for agricultural, settlement and construction purposes are the main reasons to deforestation. This finding has identified by Hewawasam in 2009.According to this study deforestation in Kotmale catchment has affected rainfall patterns in the Kotmale area.

According to this study improper land use practices have increased in Kotmale catchment. With the population growth people have used land for agriculture and construction without proper a management. Improper land use practices are common in agricultural lands in Kotmale catchment. According to the study the majority of people have accepted that unsystematic cultivation pattern and unsuitable constructions to have caused mass movements in Kotmale catchment area. This finding was also identified by Amarasekara in 2009.According to the findings 54 percent of people have identified that sedimentation problem in streams and rivers have increased than early period.

Excessive usage of agro chemicals have caused to generate several problems in Kotmale Catchment area. According to a sample survey 79 percent of people who are engaged in vegetable cultivation have used fertilizer more than the standard level. In addition, the usage of pesticide in vegetable cultivation is at a higher level in Kotmale catchment. Agricultural activities in Kotmale catchment have directly affected the

Kotmale catchment. According to the finding of this study tea cultivation has caused soil erosion, reduced forest cover and made the soil quality decline. Paddy cultivation has caused soil erosion and made the soil quality decline. However, paddy cultivation has no influence on to landslides and reduction of forest cover.

Soil erosion is the main problem faced by people in Kotmale catchment. According to this study 95 percent of people are still facing soil erosion problem and 37 percent of people are facing soil erosion problem at higher level. According to the opinions of 25 percent of people soil quality has reduced in Kotmale catchment compared to earlier. Soil erosion has caused reduced soil quality. This finding was identified by Hewawasam in 2009. In addition, excessive usage of agro chemicals have also reduced the soil quality.

According to this study waste management activities have affected to soil quality and majority of people dump garbage on the land. Livestock farming has affected the soil quality in Kotmale catchment. However according to this study livestock farming has not caused differences in water. According to the finding of this study construction activities in Kotmale catchment area have caused landslides, soil erosion, water scarcity, and declined soil quality.

According to this study people have used soil conservation activities, planting programs, waste management and legal procedure to mitigate problems in Kotmale catchment at present. People have used vetiver method, contour drains and boulder bunds to minimize the soil erosion. According to finding of this study vetiver method, construct boulder bunds and contour drains have influenced to soil erosion and soil quality.

According to map analysis forest cover has got reduced by 12.5 percent. Scrub and water bodies have got reduced by 5 percent and 1.25 percent respectively. However, build-up area and cultivated area has increased by 9.37 percent. According to the opinion of the majority of people build-up areas and tea cultivation has increased than earlier and forest cover has decreased than earlier.

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Sekku: A Historical Study on Social, Economic and Cultural Background of the related on Sekku (Based on Galle and Matara Districts)



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#### Abstract

Sekku (Chekku) is a traditional tool used for extracting oil. Sekku industry flourished with the development of coconut cultivation as a commercial crop in Sri Lanka during the colonial period. Although the Sekku industry was prevalent in many parts of the island, Southern Province was specialized. The Sekku industry had made positive progress in the region. Sekku has become an obsolete tool, by the end of the twentieth century and a thing of the past with the advancement of technology. No research has yet been done on the historical perspective of the socio-economic and cultural background associated with the Sekku industry in the Southern Province during the colonial period. This study fills in these gaps by answering the research problem 'How did the Sekku industry affect the social, economic, and cultural conditions of the 19th and 20th centuries in the two districts of Galle and Matara. Primary and secondary literature sources were utilized for this research. Some of those primary sources are deposited in the National Archives of Colombo. Some research articles and books have been used as secondary sources. Aditionaly, field study was conducted in Ahangama, Goviyapana, Benthara, Galwadugoda, Weligama, and Matara areas. Indepth interviews were conducted with the support of knowledge-rich individuals.This is a qualititative research. This research revealed how Sekku owners increased their social status by becoming wealthy and gaining colonial positions. The Sekku industry was also able to boost the region's economy by creating new jobs. The study also revealed how the $S e k k u$ industry has contributed to the growth of the road system in the Southern Province. Cultural identity was also created in parallel with the sekku industry. Sekku was not just a tool but had a decisive impact on the economic, social, and cultural conditions of the Southern Province at that time.


Keywords: Sekku (Chekku), Oil extracting, Colonial period, Southern Province, Coconut cultivation

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## త్రอమరైఁ ఁ్రి




## ๕ணฺఃరశయ గ్రిక



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# Use of literature-based online ESL materials in enhancing the English speaking skills of undergraduate learners 

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#### Abstract

This study attempted to investigate the impact of literature-based ESL lessons conducted online in enhancing English-speaking skills and analyze the perceptions of the BSc undergraduates towards these lessons. Thus, a literature-based language programme was developed and conducted online for over 15 weeks for the third-year students who had registered for the English language programme of the Faculty of Science, University of Ruhuna. A questionnaire survey with open-ended questions was administered to a group of 50 third-year students selected using convenient sampling. Moreover, focus group discussions were carried out with 6 English teachers and classrooms were meticulously observed to get a better insight into the impact created by these lessons. The data accumulated was qualitatively analyzed. The responses of the participants revealed that English lessons based on literature were able to create a conducive teaching and learning atmosphere, which eventually enhanced active participation, intrinsic motivation, creative thinking, and attendance of the students while reducing their anxiety to a considerable level. Hence, it was evident that this would be an effective method to inspire language learners in improving their speaking skills. Nevertheless, language teachers should also be smart in exploiting the ideal literary texts to reap the best out of the approach.


Keywords: Speaking skills, Literature-based Language Lessons, Undergraduates

## 1. Introduction

Currently, nobody can renounce the fact that English language teaching and learning plays a vital role in the lives of individuals. Thus, a significant number of students are required to learn English during their secondary and tertiary education through compulsory language programs (Trang, 2007). Dealing with the Sri Lankan context, although most of the consecutive governments stressed the value of English and the importance of producing English-speaking citizens, most of the secondary educational institutions and universities are still struggling hard to achieve the expected language learning outcomes (Sanmuganathan, 2017). As Wattegama (2018) pointed out the majority of the students are unable to pass the written paper at the GCE (Ordinary Level and Advanced Level) examinations even though they have been learning English for 10-12 years consecutively. As per Wijesinghe (2015) when those students are enrolled into universities the tragedy remains untouched for language teachers, respective departments, and units as they face the challenge to inspire the university students towards a successful language learning process. Hence, 'who should be blamed?' Nevertheless, the greatest share of the blame directly goes to the language teachers and the departments (Editorial, Daily News, 2010), because in any atmosphere of language fostering, the language teachers and the respective language teaching departments attain the prime attention.

This issue remains rather drastic when the industry complains that most of the graduates lack the necessary speech competency although their writing ability is fairly acceptable. As indicated by Aliakabari and Jamalvendi (2010) it is by the speaking skill that learners are judged, which can be applied to the Sri Lankan graduates as well. That is, the English Language competence of Sri Lankan graduates is generally determined based on their ability to speak in English (Wijewardene et. al. 2014). Nevertheless, English language communication is one of the most shared issues faced by a considerable number of undergraduates. The majority of the undergraduates of the University of Ruhuna, Faculty of Science also belong to the similar category as in many circumstances they satisfy themselves by achieving the
basic language requirement which is a simple pass for the General English examinations prescribed for them in their students' handbooks, without which their degree is withheld. Consequently, their proficiency in English speaking is not tested, whereas only their ability to read and write based on a written paper is tested at the examinations, which may have resulted in poor attention to English speech.

However, the challenge of enhancing the communicative competency of the undergraduates was further challenged as physical classrooms and traditional learning strategies were rapidly replaced with the online mode of teaching and learning due to the outbreak of the COVID-19 Pandemic. It was a challenge for both the learners and the language teachers (Oraif and Elyas, 2021). This distinctive elearning directly influenced the learner behaviour that most of the students continued to be passive listeners on digital platforms. Moreover, the limited number of available linguistics and communicative resources allocated to enhance the speaking skills of the undergraduates were ineffective. Therefore, a deeply fondled requirement has emerged at the Faculty of Science, the University of Ruhuna to create an approach that would address the communicative barriers of the undergraduates more precisely during the time that COVID-19 had revolutionized the entire system of teaching and learning. That is teaching the English Language through Literature to enhance the communicative competence of the undergraduates.

### 1.1. Research problem (Background / Literature Survey)

Focusing on speaking, the ability to speak is considered the most indispensable skill as it is the basis for communication (Aungwatanakun, 1994 as cited in Oradee, 2012). Since speaking necessitates a comprehensive vocabulary, elements of grammar and socio-cultural awareness speaking skill is not easy to attain (as cited in Al-Roud, 2016). Further, speaking is considered as one of the forgotten skills for it is not tested for examinations and more attention is paid to grammar (1987, in Leong \& Ahmadi, 2016). The fact that speaking is not usually tested for examinations, and it necessitates more time for practice leads the teachers into ignoring its usefulness in the classroom atmosphere (Bashir, Azeem \& Dogar, 2011). As stated by Clifford (1987), regardless
of the value of speaking, it has been discarded in several language learning environments giving more attention to grammar (as cited in Leong \& Ahmadi, 2016). Thus, it is evident that poor English language communication many obstruct the students from achieving the best outcomes of the years of dedication in language learning.

Hence, teaching English through literature to enhance the speaking ability of the undergraduates will be undeniably significant. Thus, literature would be truly important in developing a taste or a drive among L2 learners to learn the language. It would break up the fabricated belief that literature should not be limited to the privileged few, but for all the second language learners to appreciate the autonomy of learning English. Therefore, literature would be an emotional boost and a mechanism for an attitudinal transformation for both the language teachers and the students.

Against this backdrop, several scholars have stated different definitions for the umbrella term 'Literature' and considered it an opulent source for language development. Literature is the use of language successfully under inapposite circumstances (Baird 1968; Shazu, 2014). According to Brumfit and Carter (1986), literature is a supporter of language (as cited in Babaee and Yahya, 2014). As Llach (2007) identified "Literature is constituted by language and it represents one of the most recurrent uses of language." As per Willmott (1979), the connection between literature and language is synergetic; which means both are not only entwined but also meticulously interrelated. Literature is engrained in language and language acquires life through Literature (as cited in Ihejirika, 2014). Hence, literature is considered to be a great potential resource in teaching language and communication skills, especially speaking skills for language learners. It further enhances their intercultural competence as it opens a window to the culture of the target language. "... a powerful motivator for the learners to communicate and improve their language skills in an integrated way..." (Gjuzeleva, 2015, p. 20). Thus, literature has become the most treasured tool that can be used in a communicative classroom and outside, merely because of the motive it offers the learners to become more vigilant and reason
analytically using language in a more innovative and a personalized mode (Collie \& Slater, 1987; Duff \& Maley, 1990; Gjuzeleva, 2015). It accomplishes linguistic, methodological, and motivational benchmarks (Duff \& Maley, 1990; Gjuzeleva, 2015). According to Chan (1990), the literature that is used in improving linguistic skills is not the canon of distinct texts or the literature which is symbolized by 'L' reasonably, it comprises songs, television drama, jokes, and graffiti, and it is emerged from the language point of interpretation and is considered for linguistic development which is correct of the current study as well. If it is a poem, novel, or short story it can drive in line with the student's personal experience in actual life scenarios thus providing novel areas for discussions in a language classroom to improve their speaking ability. Literature is assumed to address individuals’ feelings, dreams, imaginations, and experiences that other texts are impotent to do. Moreover, "It expands language awareness, encourages interaction and discussions, and educates the whole learner's personality." (Clandfield \& Foord, 2006 cited in Vural, 2013, p. 16). However, more decisively it is the language teacher who should select which texts to encompass, for what purposes, and what tasks will be done to explore the texts and encourage language growth (Shazu, 2014, Gjuzeleva, 2015). Essentially, "if the teacher radiates boredom, it is unlikely that students will be enthused $\ldots$.. be more energetic, and your enthusiasm for the text will communicate itself to students." (Bibby \& McIlroy, 2013, p. 20). Thus, here the researchers believe that teaching the English Language through Literature would improve the speaking skills of the undergraduates since literature is authentic and considered as a universal language (Beresova, 2014). Therefore, action research was conducted, and a literature-based study programme was designed, implemented online, and assessed accordingly.

## 2. Research Questions

- What is the impact of literature-based lessons conducted online on English speaking competency of the BSc undergraduates?
- What is the perception of the BSc undergraduates on literature-based lessons in enhancing their communicative competence?


## 3. Objectives

The research objectives of the current study were identified as:

- To investigate the impact of Language through Literature lessons conducted online on English speaking competency of the BSc Undergraduates.
- To analyze the perceptions of the BSc Undergraduates towards Language through Literature lessons in enhancing their communicative competency.


## 4. Methodology

The qualitative research approach, as demanded by the nature of the study was employed in order to derive distinct implications. Thus, a literature-based language programme was launched online over 15 weeks limiting each lesson to two hours per week. Based on the convenient sampling method 50 third-year undergraduates, who had registered for the course ENG 3b10, and 6 English lecturers of the Faculty of Science, University of Ruhuna were selected for the study. Different genres such as poetry, short stories, extracts from science fiction, and short movies were utilized in designing the lesson materials. Further, in developing lessons the students' preferences, cultural concerns, subjective requirements, and language capacity were also concerned which headed towards several task-based and student-centered activities such as debates, discussions, dialogues and role-plays to enhance their communicative competence. The data collection and analysis were predominantly qualitative. Hence, the major instruments that were used to gather data were a questionnaire survey with open-ended questions, observations of their performances online, and focus group discussions. Additionally, secondary sources were referred to for a critical evaluation of the research findings.

## 5. Results and analysis.

### 5.1. Student-Centered Learning Atmosphere

The students were immensely pleased about the freedom that they have been provided in the process of language learning through literature. Of relevance is what a student said about it and it proves what a literature-based classroom could be like in terms of being student-centered.
"What is discussed in literature is closer to our life experiences. Once we have contributed to a lesson by saying something, say, even using a few words, we feel some sense of achievement. We usually feel that we are part of the experience. And there is always some room for us to talk about things related to real life scenarios. That is really important."

Hence, it was apparent that teachers simply acted as facilitators rather than language instructors assisting students to involve with the given tasks such as presentations, debates, dramas, language games, and group discussions in a more vigorous manner. A similar circumstance was echoed by Horng et.al (2005) emphasizing the positive consequences of creative teaching as "throughout the class, teachers act as a learning partner, inspirer, navigator, and sharer, while students transform from passive listeners to observers, performers, and co-learners (p.356)." It was noticed that literature-based teaching enhanced teacher creativity too. Therefore, as stressed by the students and teachers, the outcome was a cooperative and conducive language learning atmosphere that permitted both parties to enjoy ample ventures for freethinking, imagination, and creativity which made learning English a congenial experience.

### 5.2. High Attendance

It cannot be forgotten that there is a high rate of absenteeism and as reported by Canagarajah (2002) that could be explained as a 'drastic fall'. Notably, teaching creatively by employing lessons based on literature has provided a solution for the low attendance of the students which was one of the serious issues that the faculty
was experiencing for an extended period. The active participation of the students in the lectures remained to be low during the online lectures and with the use of these specifically designed lessons, considerable growth in the attendance of the students was evident. As revealed by the students, though they encountered a bulk of problems as this is the end of their university life, they were enthusiastic to learn the language in this relaxed manner and felt that they were one family. As stressed by some of the students they were automatically compelled to participate in group activities and were not left out from their groups. Concerning their ideas, there were no right or wrong answers and they were equally appreciated. As pointed out by the teachers, the high attendance of the students was a result of the favorable environment created as a result of their literature-based teaching for the approach was non-threatening for the language learners. The same scenario was stressed by Pugliese (2016) addressing the diversity of a classroom environment as a key factor for a successful teaching experience.
> "A classroom is a microcosm governed by diversity: different social and psychological characteristics, different cognitive strengths and weaknesses, etc. As a result, our pedagogical offers should be as varied as possible: if they aren't, we would run the risk of excluding many of our students." (Pugliese, edit. Xerri \& Vassallo, 2016, p. 20)

### 5.3. Active participation

Active participation can be only expected if the teacher can provide students interesting language learning activities. Thus, as revealed by the students they never missed a chance of expressing their ideas despite their level of capacity to handle the language. What they truly expected from each task was to come out with the best ideas, solutions, and creativity. As identified by the teachers, it was easy for them to implement their creative ideas through literature-based lessons and were enchanted by the expected language outcomes for the performance of the students was above their expectancy. Moreover, as Nunan (2004) affirms it is when users begin to use
language creatively that they are maximally engaged in language acquisition because they are required to draw on their emerging language skills and resources in an integrated way. Thus, it can be said that in language teaching generated out of literature could be productively to use convert passive learners into more active and energetic learners.

### 5.4. Less Anxiousness

The students highlighted the fact that they were not anxious from the beginning to the end of their intensive programme and it was one of the remarkable experiences that they have ever had. As pointed out by main researchers speaking anxiety is one of the common obstacles faced by second language learners. Michael (2016) has stated that students often fear making mistakes in front of their classmates and teachers. He further claims that when learning a new language, students develop varying levels of speaking anxiety due to the fear of making mistakes in the classroom. Hence, in a time at which, the language anxiety of the students has become an issue that needs meticulous attention in the domain of English Language Teaching, it was significant to note that teaching creatively using literature-based lessons has encouraged both competent and low competent learners to actively participate in discussions and enhance their English language knowledge. It was quite clear that their involvement was not because of the students not being seen physically. The use of authentic materials allowed students to match the given contexts with their everyday life thus converting language learning into learning life skills. Since as revealed by the students they were less anxious, and it was apparent that their involvement and commitment towards language learning were significantly high. The following statement given by the students clearly encapsulates this notion.
"Literature-based lessons create a friendly platform for us to say something in English; no matter how the classes are conducted: virtually or physically. Such lessons reduce our fear because we don't have a language-learning mentality when doing such lessons. Because of that, we have the chance to talk about our life and people with minimum fear in making mistakes."

### 5.5. High Intrinsic Motivation

Gunawardane, Chandradasa and Senevirathna (2021) identify the lack of intrinsic motivation of undergraduates to learn English as a challenge to language teachers at university; they claim it to be less visible to many of us. As many of the undergraduates lack the expected language competency and were in a crisis their attitudes toward the English language and motivation on learning play a major part in this mishap Pushpananda (2016). Even as pointed out by Fernando (2005), students' attitudes toward their teacher, the rapport between students and teachers, the timing of the course, and the methodology of teaching have a great influence on students' attitudes and motivation on learning a second language. In this context, a majority of the students stressed that they were extremely motivated to learn the language than they were before. Besides, the need for students to be intrinsically motivated is indispensable for language learning and the findings of the study show that it can be easily achieved though literature-based language teaching as is evident from the following statement made by a student.
"Literature, unlike some science related stuff, is closer to life so that we feel like contributing to discussions in English though we know that our English is not perfect."

Teaching through literature-based lessons has enhanced their motivation in an amicable atmosphere and evaded monotony. Hence, learning English was productive as the students willingly took risks without being afraid of their mistakes. They further emphasized the fact that they have become independent learners, maximized interest, and enhanced free thinking. Moreover, the teachers also pointed out that they too had one of the most productive teaching sessions with their dynamic group of students. Thus, it was an amazing experience to teach the available language components creatively through literature following their intuition as they wished. This was further addressed by Antonia Clare (2016) that creativity is a tremendously important aspect in their career not because it assists their students to learn the language effortlessly, but because it is one of the key secrets for them to develop
further and search novel and adventurous ways to add more shapes into language teaching (edit. Xerri \& Vassallo, 2016). This was also proved by Horng et.al (2005) as they highlighted teacher motivation as a direct result of teaching creatively 'because they perceive the activity of teaching as interesting, involving, satisfying, enjoyable, and a personal challenge.' Thus, it is evident that literature creates a healthy platform for teacher creativity too.

### 5.6. Encouragement for Creative Thinking

As per the students' comments, learning English through literature has enhanced their creative thinking and communicative competency. The students enjoyed the friendly and non-threatening atmosphere generated through literature. They were not limited to a certain framework and the atmosphere has promoted peer interactions to the fullest which eventually assisted students to share their ideas more constructively. The same fact was also devolved by Horng et.al (2005, p. 352) as "In comparison with traditional cramming education, creative instruction encourages students to think independently, participate actively and express themselves freely. Under creative instruction, students are more likely to become creative professionals." Therefore, it was apparent that teaching creatively through the use of literature has broadened their perspectives to learn the language in a more comfortable manner. As per teachers, the approach has made them realize that teaching English is not just teaching grammar structures, reading comprehensions, or conducting repetitious exercises, rather it is inspiring the students with the maximum use of existing resources in a novel way of teaching.

## 6. Conclusion

In conclusion, it could be stated that teaching the English language through literature positively impacts the performance, attitudes, and motivation of the second language learners. This would also be an emotional boost and a mechanism for an attitudinal change for both the language teachers and the students. As teacher-centered approaches are so far outdated it is strongly believed that literature-based language instructions will lead the entire language teaching domain towards a student-centered,
friendlier approach as learner motivation, teacher motivation are direct results of literature-based language instructions. It would allow the learners to go a step beyond what they have already learned as Krashen (1985) pointed out in the Input Hypothesis. Thus this approach of amalgamating language with literature would provide useful insights for all the language teachers and policymakers to design longterm language learning goals to facilitate undergraduates to be productive individuals competent in English language skills. The study also shed light on the significance of the construction of a conducive classroom environment even where the slow learners can benefit in improving their oral competency, which is a deciding factor in the employability of the undergraduates. Further, it was apparent that this could indubitably be an effective remedial measure that could be employed to engage the students actively in online learning platforms, which could otherwise result in monotonous learning environments that hardly motivate the learners. It was also evident that the effectiveness of the lesson solely depends on the way the teacher executes it within the classroom context. Thus, the teacher should also possess the skill to conduct these lessons based on literature in an interesting manner, which would otherwise be futile. Thus, the findings of the study have significant implications for L2 pedagogy at the tertiary level across universities and disciplinary boundaries.

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# The significance of epiphany in criticizing Modern Sinhalese short poems 

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#### Abstract

Short poem, also locally called Scekavi kavi, Sāra saṃṣipta kavi, is one of the most discussed genres in modern Sinhalese poetry. Even though it is often compared with Haiku because of linguistic economy, there is enough evidence to demonstrate that Sinhalese poetry tradition was rich enough to produce such a poetic genre from the beginning itself. It is, however, unfortunate to see some scholars who hold the aesthetic values of quatrain, couplet etc. high regards tend to criticize short poem stating it is nothing but a poetic genre with a linguistic economy and does not have high semantic values. Moreover, some intellectuals called it merely a description of nature without considering the deep semantic aspects and structural dimensions. Nevertheless, a number of studies show that short poems are not just a description of nature, they are characterized by subsequent notable features; signifier and signified, less rhetorical devices, ability read through various semantic dimensions and reader's experiences, epiphanic nature, encoded semantic structures, philosophical background. To be able to grasp the overall semantic background of a short poem, it is pivotal to focus on these features. This paper attempts to provide a more detailed investigation regarding the significance of short poems through epiphany. Epiphany is a concept that provides a sudden insight or realization that changes the reader's understanding. This paves the way for a reader to be independent in understanding a poem and comprehends society, and life without being an ideologist. The research seeks to address the following problem; how to practice epiphany to read or criticize short poems. Thus, it set the stage to carry out a discussion about the utilization of short poems as a sub-genre in modern Sinhalese poetry. Being qualitative research, short poems published after 2010 will be made used as primary sources.


Keywords: Epiphany, Short poems, Literary criticism, Haiku, Insight

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 (Bowen, 1981:103,104).











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The Faculty Journal of Humanities and Social Sciences，Volume 10，Issue 01，June 2021


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