

A COMMUNICATIONAL STUDY OF THE HUMAN CHARACTERISTICS PORTRAYED IN *SADDHARMA RATHANAWALIYA*

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Introduction

Every person living in the society has different character traits such as *Raga, Moha, Saddha, Buddhi and Vitharka* etc. Each person's physical and mental behavior differs according to his or her character traits. The person behaves singly or communally according to his or her character traits. The communicator must separately identify the character traits of each recipient for a successful communications operation. Communication done without character study is meaningless. The recipient selects and grasps information according to his or her character traits. All behavior of the recipient such as his or her feeding pattern, activities, sleeping, speaking, employment of tools, conducting inter-personal relations and personal likings are all governed by character traits. Because of those reasons, correctly identifying the psychological and biological nature of the recipient is optimally helpful for the nurturing of the modern communications process.

Methodology

In nurturing the character traits and psychological behavior patterns of the

modern recipient, could inkling be derived from Sri Lankan classical prose literature? A research on this was carried out based on the *Saddharma Rathnawaliya* written by Ven. *Dharmasena Thero* in the *Dambadeniya* Era of Sri Lanka. In this research, the psychological approach and the analysis of subject characters are studied in the context of fruitful communication, analysing the contents of the various episodes in the *Saddharma Rathnawaliya* qualitatively.

Data Analysis

The *Saddharma Rathnawaliya* contains three hundred and eight (308) episodes centered on persons of various statuses. All those episodes are centered on character traits. Ven. *Dharmasena Thero* analyses the minds of various persons even challenging the Western psychological teachings. The episodes have been written according to the character traits constructed through each person's status, employment, sex, age, cultural background and social context.

Not only psychological analyses of the mind, the mind becoming unruly, the

person being compelled towards bad behavior and the person going from bad to worse through the mind becoming unruly, but also directing the mind towards goodness, the benefits of directing the mind towards goodness, endeavoring to direct the mind towards goodness, directing the mind through intelligence and achieving mental discipline are contained in these episodes.

The Story of *Bhagineiya Sangharakkhitha Thero*, the Story of a Certain *Bhikku*, The *Soreiya* Story, the Story of Duke *Machchariya Kosiya*, the Story of *Varada Thero*, the Story of *Mahadhana* Trader, the Story of Queen *Rohini* and the Story of a *Bhikku* named *Thissa* can be demonstrated as psychological analyses constructed according to the character traits of various persons.

Conclusion

Here spiritual qualities are introduced through the stories directly and indirectly which help to up list the good qualities of human beings focusing in the social improvement. This shows the importance of building up self discipline for the betterment of the individual and society. Therefore, we can prove that the Psychological teaching of classical literature could be utilized for modern communication.