

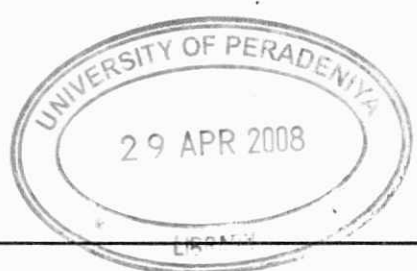
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ABSTRACT

The main objectives of this research on the use of similes in the **Saddharmarathnavaliya** are; a Classification of all the similes (upamā) with their respective subjects of comparison (upamēya) found in this work; an examination of these similes using a few traditional criteria in rhetorics, and a evaluation of the similes from a literary and social perspective in comparison with the source texts.

Chapter 1 discusses briefly the period in which the **Saddharmarathnavaliya** was written. It also gives a comprehensive introduction of the book.

Chapter 2 discusses briefly the features of the structure and the literary style of the **Saddharmarathnavaliya** in comparison with it's main source the Pali **Dhammapadatthakathā**.

Chapter 3 introduced the authoritative definitions of the figurative speech, simile in Sanskrit; then gives an account of it's development upto the 13th Century through Sanskrit. Pali and Sinhala classical prose; and finally compares the use of similes in the **Saddharmarathnavaliya** a that of the traditional system.

Chapter 4 presents a comprehensive classification of the similes in the **Saddharmarathnavaliya**.

Chapter 5 evaluated the similes in the **Saddharmarathnavaliya**. The simile is one of it's narrative techniques.

Chapter 6 examines how the contemporary social life is reflected by the similes in the **Saddharmarathnavaliya**.