

UMMAGGA JATHAKAYA

A syntactical study

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2000/2001

ABSTRACT

The main objective of this thesis is to examine the functions of the grammatical categories in the sentence structure in Ummagga Jatakaya. "A Syntactic Study of the Sinhala Ummagga Jatakaya" is the title of my thesis.

Syntax is the study of the behavioural pattern of the words within sentences. In a language like Sanskrit this would mainly be concerned with the rules of Government and Concord involving the cases and moods, but in languages like English - or Chinese, for that matter, – it tended to become a study of word-order. This field of study is given an important place in Panini's Ashtadhyayi too.

For many linguists research in Syntax meant primarily investigation of the word-order. So they base their study of Syntax with an introduction to Morphology. In the same manner, I have done a morphological analysis of the text while analyzing the sentence structures. A discussion of the grammatical categories such as, Gender, Case, Sandhi, Samasa etc. is also included therein. In traditional grammar there occurs a special syntactic device known as Government. This means that certain inflectional forms are used to signal the place of the word in a construction. These categories are known as cases and I have dealt with the same in relevant places.

Analysis of the sentence into parts what we might today call Immediate Constituent Analysis did not go much beyond the subject-predicate cut in antiquity. Therefore, Chomsky introduced the Generative Transformational Theory of Syntax to explain how sentences of the language are characterized by the grammar. I have made an attempt to apply this theory to a certain extent along with the traditional grammar in my second chapter. At the same time I have tried to make use of the analytical approaches stated in Sidat Sangarawa with not much of use as it does not deal with syntax. Most of the traditional grammarians have limited their studies only to Morphology.

The First Chapter of this thesis is an introduction of the study and also of the text Ummagga Jatakaya.

The Second Chapter deals with the sentence patterns that appear in Ummagga Jatakaya and their structures

The Third Chapter deals with a descriptive analysis of sentences with finite verbs

The Fourth Chapter deals with sentences consisting of infinite verbs, and,

Finally the Fifth Chapter is the conclusion of the study.