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**“A Woman’s World”?: A Feminist Literary Approach to the
Depiction of Women’s Issues in Sri Lanka, As Given in Punyakante
Wijenaike’s Fiction**

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Abstract

The purpose of this thesis is to see how Punyakante Wijenaiké's fiction depicts the situation of women in Sri Lanka. The research methods used are: readings of her fiction, reviews and criticisms on her work, personal interviews, and a questionnaire. The introduction consists of the objective of the study, the structure of the thesis, the justification of the research, the methodology used, a brief discussion of the limitations of the study, and a survey of the literature already done on her work. In *A Way of Life*, I attempt to bring out the implications of being a girl child in Sri Lanka during the earlier part of the twentieth century. In *The Waiting Earth*, I analyze the mother-daughter relationship in Sri Lanka, through the two characters Sellohamy and Isabella Hamy. In *Giraya*, I look at the interrelationships among its four main female characters, namely, Kamini, Adelaine, Lucia Hamy and Manel, to show that in Sri Lankan society, contrary to popular belief, the "elite" woman may be more the victim of the "non-elite" woman, than the victimizer. I also discuss her fiction in relation to the concepts of love, marriage, and female sexuality, in a Sri Lankan cultural context. Finally, I sum up the issues raised in the previous chapters, in an attempt to see whether Wijenaiké's fictional world, as John Halverson stated in 1965, is, indeed, "a woman's world".