

## **THE ROLE OF FICTION WRITERS IN CONFLICT RESOLUTION IN POST COLONIAL SRI LANKA**

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The ethnic conflict in Sri Lanka has made a direct impact on literary production in Sinhala. This is largely due to the fact that it has been the Sinhala-speaking communities who were the authors of Chronicles, ancient prose and poetry. Although there has been a few isolated events related to ethnic conflict in the history of Sri Lanka, there is no evidence of an ethnic consciousness or conflict finding expression in Sinhalese literary works until the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. The aim of this study is to explore and map the capability and contribution of Sinhalese novelists in conflict resolution. This study draws upon conflict resolution studies as well as postcolonial theory, especially the views of *Graham Huggan* and *Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak* on marginality. It undertakes a close reading of the selected fiction, paying particular attention to the narrative perspective. Through close analysis, the study finds that conflicts occupy a central/marginal position within the narrative frameworks: while conflicts are the central means through which events are narrated in the texts. The study also shows that the selected narratives invest in the ethnic communities' perceived relationship with the notions of language, innocence, ignorance, and sexuality in order to neutralize potential biases and validate claims to truth. Though the ethnic conflict has been a major the player, if not the most important player, in the lives of the people in the country there have been only limited attention to its role on the literary production in Sri Lanka. There is practically no critique available on the subject from the point of view of conflict resolutions; The existing discourse while focuses primarily on the themes of ethnicity, often do not question the function of the ethnic communities within the texts. Such analyses take the both Tamil's and Sinhalese' point of view for granted or assume it to be conveying the truth about the Sri Lankan context. This study proposes to analyze the implications of re-reading the narrative investments in conflict resolutions and argues that precisely by reading the ethnicity in the text; significant interventions can be made to the current debates on ethnicity, language, sexuality, and marginality in the field of Sri Lankan literature as well as in postcolonial studies. While many Sri Lankan novelists have engaged in dealing with the issues pertinent to ethnicity, above novelists were selected for study primarily because of their relevance to conflict resolution perspective.