

A Hegemonic Study on Youth Problems Appeared in Modern Sinhala Poetry: from 2000 to 2020

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The present study focused on the youth problems addressed in modern Sinhala poetry in terms of hegemony from the year 2000 to 2020. However, modern poetry is a newly emerged segment which is different from the poetry of Colombo era generations. The birth of this new generation was started in 2000 which could be named as century poets. After the year 2000, the tendency of poetry was different than that of writing in the 1970s. Among them, the trend was mainly focused on the problems of the youth of Sri Lanka who lived in that period. Many authors have discussed these problems in terms of poems. These poems should be investigated or criticized using newly developed theory known as Hegemony which is the evolution of traditional Marxism. Hegemony is the theory that was developed by Antonio Gramsci through his manuscripts written in Prison Notebooks. Dominance or hegemony is the most important fact in Gramsci's concept. According to Gramsci, there are two authorities as dominance and suppressor. Dominance; ruled by self-assent while suppressor is ruled by the authority after the huge suppression. After the year 2000, the poetry depicts both marginalized youth and hegemony. Amongst them, (i) The working of Hegemony to marginalize youth, which includes; youth unrest, the transformation of young love, un-employability, life struggle of labor class (ii) Cultural hegemony in Sri Lanka, which includes sex, economy, education (iii) Globalization and Hegemony, which includes; popular culture, post-war era are the important facts that are appeared and discussed in poetry which were written during 2000-2020 years. During these two decades, most prominent poets who have written poems with related to hegemony are Kumara Hettiarachchi, Manjula Wediwardane, Lakshantha Athukorala, Mahinda Prasad Masimula, Malathi Kalpana Ambrose, Timran Keerthi, Ruwan Bandujeewa, Saumya Sandaruwan Liyanage, and Lahiru Kithalagma. Overall, most of the poetry revealed that the base for that poetry is the ideological state apparatuses which were discussed in hegemony.

Keywords: Poetry, Youth problems, Hegemony, Ideology