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## Madol Doova: A Comparative Study with Its English and Tamil Translations

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Martin Wickramasinghe has been hailed by many as one of the forefathers of modern Sinhala literature in Sri Lanka. His works of fiction as well as non-fiction have been widely accepted in Sri Lanka as well as the world to the extent to which many of his works have been translated to many other languages. Madol Doova, the first Sri Lankan publication in the genre of adolescent literature in Sri Lanka, was first published in 1947. The novel traces the adventures of two young boys as they encounter different experiences in the adult world. This novel has been translated to English by Prof, Ashley Halpe and to Tamil by Sundaram Saumiyana.

The purpose of this study is to attempt a textual analysis of the socio-cultural and political representations in the translated texts (English & Tamil) of Martin Wickramasinghe's novel, Madol Doova. In this exercise, we attempted to understand some of the fundamental translation techniques and methods used by the translator. For instance, in the case of the English translation, we observed, the choice made by the translator to retain some of the Sinhala lexicon and direct translations of idiomatic expressions found in the original text. For instance using original words like *mala yaka* (Halpe 2017: 66), *Porisadaya* (Halpe 2017: 31), *almariya* (Halpe 2017: 30), *galibba* (Halpe 2017: 25) and direct translations such as *a tough nut* (Halpe 2017: 25), *a trickster* (Halpe 2017: 49), *It was Greek to me* (Halpe 2017: 28), *The Confidence Trick* (Halpe 2017: 43). Therefore, there are some instances where these translations are sometimes confusing to a monolingual English reader. We believe that this could be because, Halpe was addressing a strong Sinhala- English bilingual readership where code mixing practices are quite common. Comparatively, in the Tamil translation, where the readership is monolingual, socio-cultural representations are more accurately represented through the translated language. This could be attributed to the close relationship between the Tamil and Sinhala communities in Sri Lanka as well as their shared histories and cultures. The conclusions revealed close similarities between Tamil and the original text while the English translation remains culturally distant in certain instances.

**Keywords:** bilingual translation; children's novel; native translators; sinhalese terminology