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**A COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF CHILDREN RELATED SHORT  
STORIES WRITTEN BY PREMCHAND AND MARTIN  
WIKRAMASINGHE.**

Dr. RKD Nilanthi Kumari Rajapaksha

Senior Lecturer in Hindi, Department of Languages, Cultural and Performing Arts, University of Sri  
Jayewardenepura, Gangodawila, Nugegoda, Sri Lanka

**ABSTRACT**

The main objective of this study is to carry out a critical analysis of short stories by Indian writer Premchand and Sri Lankan writer Martin Wickramasinghe to figure out how Children's Problems are depicted. Many researches have already been conducted on the works of Premchand and Martin Wickramasinghe separately. However, no comparative research has been found on the representation of children's problems in their short stories.

Hindi Language and Literature are taught as undergraduate subjects in Sri Lankan universities. Premchand's short stories encompass a part of such syllabi. Comparative researches on Premchand and Martin Wickramasinghe carried out in Sri Lanka or India are insufficient. Thus, another objective of the study is to widen the scope of knowledge on Premchand and Martin Wickramasinghe's literary works.

The main method of research in this study was textual analysis of Premchand's and Martin Wickramasinghe's short stories. In order to find out how Children's Problems are portrayed in their short stories, the following steps have been followed,

Reading Premchand's short stories deeply, collecting data ; Reading of Martin Wickramasinghe's Short Stories deeply, collecting data; Completing the Analysis and categorizing the data obtained; Comparing and making conclusions.

Five significant short stories can be identified from Premchand, related to Children's harassments. namely 'Iid gaha' (Iid Festival), 'alagojha' (Separation), 'mritak Bhoj' (alms in the funeral), 'dudh ka dam' (value of Mother's Milk) and 'taintar' (The girl who born after two boys). Three significant short stories discussing the same issue from the Sri Lankan writer Martin Wickramasinghe are also identified. They were 'vinodasvadaya' (The enjoyment), 'Kuvenihami' (A name of a Woman) and 'Budures' (The Ray of Load Budhdha).

One significant short story was selected from each writer related to the gentleness of Children. They were 'budi kaki' (The Old Grand Mother) by Premchand, and 'Begal' (fake) by the Martin Wickramasinghe.

**Keywords:** Comparative Analysis, Children's Problems, Martin Wikramasinghe, Premchand, Short Stories

## **INTRODUCTION**

The main objective of this study is to carry out a critical analysis of short stories by Indian writer Premchand and Sri Lankan writer Martin Wickramasinghe to figure out how Children's Problems are depicted. Many researches have already been conducted on the works of Premchand and Martin Wickramasinghe separately. However, no comparative research has been found on the representation of children's problems in their short stories.

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## **METHODOLOGY**

The main method of research in this study was textual analysis of Premchand's and Martin Wickramasinghe's short stories. In order to find out how Children's Problems are portrayed in their short stories, the following steps have been followed,

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## **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

Five significant short stories can be identified from Premchand, related to Children's harassments. namely 'Iid gaha' (Iid Festival), 'alagojha' (Separation), 'mritak Bhoj' (alms in the funeral), 'dudh ka dam' ( value of Mother's Milk) and 'taintar' (The girl who born after two boys). Three significant short stories discussing the same issue from the Sri Lankan writer Martin Wickramasinghe are also identified. They were 'vinodasvadaya' (The enjoyment), 'Kuvanihami'(A name of a Woman) and 'Budures' (The Ray of Load Budhdha).

One significant short story was selected from each writer related to the gentleness of Children. They were 'budi kaki' (The Old Grand Mother) by Premchand, and 'Begal' (fake) by the Martin Wickramasinghe.

In the short story 'Iid gaha', a boy is affected by poverty. He had lost his Father and Mother in his early days. He was mothered by his grandmother. Due to deficiency of his grandmother, he was helpless.

In the short story 'alagojha', by Premchand, the main character Raggu is distressed by his step mother. He has to do all household works like a servant.

The main character 'Revathi' in the short story 'mritak bhoj' by Premchand, has faced for the same problem, due to death of her parents. Revathi and her brother were suffering from a large number of troubles due to poverty.

In the short story 'dudh ka dam' by Premchand, the character 'Mangal' is suffering due to deficiency. After the death of Mangal's parents, The Land Lord allows him to live under the magosa tree in front of his bungalow, because her mother had breast fed the Land Lord's child.

In the Short Story 'taintar' by Premchand, A girl is suffered by the blind belief of her parents. The parents had the belief that a girl who born after two boys causes the death of her Mother. The parents wish this girl would die.

In the short story 'vinodasvadaya' by Martin Wickramasinghe, the main character, 'somadasa' a poor boy, has to die due to poverty.

The boy in the short story 'Kuvenihami', is often distressed by his step father.

'Budures' by Martin Wickramasinghe, the boy 'Mallisa' has to work as a servant of a house and faces so many difficulties, because he has lost his parents.

'budi kaki', by Premchand, and 'Begal' by the Martin Wickramasinghe, reveal the gentleness of Children.

The girl named 'ladli' in the short story 'budi kaki' takes care of her old grandmother, even though her parents ignore her.

The children 'Sami' and 'lora' in the short story 'Begal' show the same qualities.

## **CONCLUSION**

The analysis proves that the most of short stories, written by both writers encompass the difficulties faced by the children, mainly due to death of their parents.

The Short Story 'taintar' by Premchand has a different aspect because the girl is suffered by her own parents due to their blind faith.

The short stories, 'budi kaki' written by Premchand, and 'Begal' written by Martin Wickramasinghe have some similarities. The Children of both short stories have some expected intrinsic worth.

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