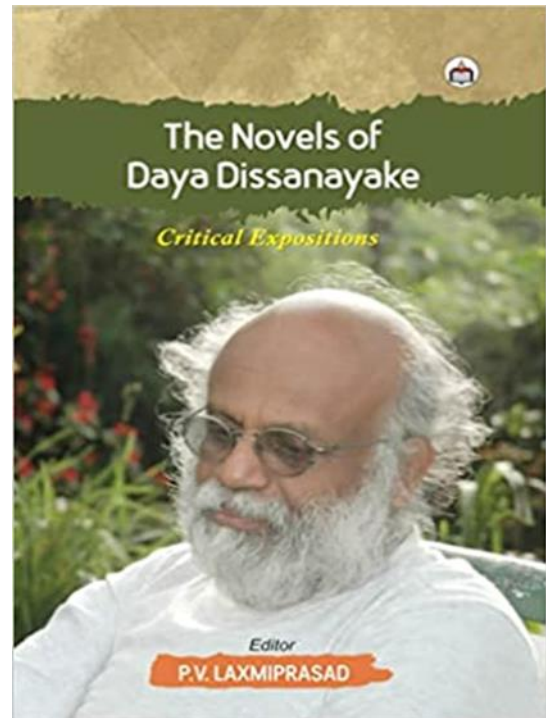


The Novels of Daya Dissanayake: Critical Expositions, Editor:P.V. Laxmiprasad, New Delhi: Authorspress, ISBN: 978-93-5529- 140-0, Pages: 121, 2022.

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The book under review is edited by a renowned critic and an eminent scholar Dr P. V. Laxmiprasad. It is on the novels of a Sri Lankan writer by name Daya Dissanayake who is a recipient of State Literary Award from the Government of Sri Lanka. The editor's selection of writers is noteworthy here. He has included 12 research papers –all well-written and explored from different dimensions. Further, he has included the novelist's bio-note for the benefit of readers.

All the contributors of this volume have done scholarly research on the novels of Daya



Dissanayake. The volume begins with a jointly authored paper entitled “Life in the Limbo”: A Reading of Daya Dissanayake’s Eavesdropper --- SP Soubhaghya and Dr.NU Lekshmi. They have established that Eavesdropper satirizes the patriarchal society that has only contempt for women. As a major theme in the novel, the writer addresses the issues of women who are considered just as sexual objects. Patriarchy that holds dominance and is filled with detest towards women is portrayed through the character Tharanga, who considers women as reproductive machines. The second paper is contributed by Dr Lily Arul Sharmila. She has evaluated the novel The Healer and the Drug Pusher for deeper realities. Daya Dissanayake’s The Healer and the Pusher: A Manifestation of Deeper Reality is the title of paper. The Healer and the Drug Pusher is, according to Lily Sharmila, an epitome of the history and culture of the Indian people, the society of medieval Ceylon, ancient hospitals of Sri Lanka, ancient irrigation works of Ceylon, the annals of internal medicine, the asceticism, and the art of

healing in ancient India, the early history of Buddhism in Ceylon, and life and culture of ancient India. It is a rich legacy that the novelist has demonstrated through the representation of culture and tradition in South Asia. S. Malathy, an established critic, has dealt with “The Theme of Re-birth or Reincarnation: Astounding Revelation in Moonstone”. According to her evaluation, “Moonstone”, depicts the strange life of a protagonist who is prepared to commit a parricide to meet his ideal, his ultimate object of life. He is confident and constant in his attempt to make his father “be reborn”, as his own biological son. To pursue his obsession he makes strenuous efforts, calculating the right time of conception and the right time his father should die. But the unexpected demise of his father deprives him of his chances of success. Another critic, Dr. Anita Arul has dealt with the theme of “Regression” from Daya Dissanayake’s novel *Miracle under the Kumbak Tree* for a critical evaluation. She concludes that the unintentional return to the past because of the shame and hurt is inevitable as it is a part of human condition. Facing unsolvable problems, desires not gratified during childhood daily make Babli get upset with things a get back to normal mood. Childish behavior of having doll with her “It is with her. She holds it to her chest when she goes to sleep. She keeps it with her on the table when she studies. She used to keep it in her school bag when she was a child” (90) and going back to past recalling some incidents can be a temporary relief for Babli. Later in her life time she became aware of some truth regarding life and started come out of brooding and tries to help her father in coming out of depression and starts treatment too. Babli too comes closer to nature and she is away from false memories too. Though the relationship between father Eddie and Babli is stubborn, “the bond, a paternal umbilical cord, would have been there always, invisible and dormant till today, till this moment” (99). In another brilliant paper, Dr Anju S Nair has studied the novel *Moonstone* for inner journey in order to evoke consciousness. She sums up the novel as “Moonstone is an interesting and elusive novel. It is realistic and fantastic. All the incidents seem to take place in the physical and the mental world and this lends ambiguity to the novel. The novel is a complex work of idealism removed from the human conflict of conscience and love”. It shows the awful consequences of a man’s deliberate commitment to himself with a view to gratifying his pride and his ambition. We have another paper contributed jointly by Dr.Beula Hema latha and J.Miraclin. They have worked on the novel *The Healer and the Drug Pusher* for the study of Euthenics. It is entitled as “Capsulisation of Euthenics in Daya Dissanayake’s *The Healer and The Drug Pusher*”. Euthenics is a branch of science that aims to better different aspects of the environment in order to improve humans’ wellbeing and/or the wellbeing of other living things. They explicated that the novelist explores the differences in

lifestyle of people within a thousand years and shows that people nowadays blindly follow the advanced medication methods and food consumption. The author, throughout the novel, tends to inculcate his ideas to the younger generation about the harmful effects of drugs that people consume without hesitation. Renu Milind Dhotre, a research scholar from the University of Mumbai, has reviewed the novel *Miracle under the Kumbak Tree*. The review is by all standards a scholarly one as she has explored multiple themes from the novel. She sums up the review as “the book doesn’t have an ending but a list of options that the protagonist could pursue further, leaving it to the reader’s imagination. This also leaves scope for sequel of the book and there are many avenues for a spin-off” In yet scholarly paper by Dr D. Vijayalakshmi, the central theme gets explored in terms of what Daya Dissanayake largely focused on. I can, without hesitation, put it as the best in terms of the Ecological Wisdom from his novels which move round In the last paper, a scholarly one by Dr R. Karthika Devi focuses on multiple dimensions like spiritual, psychological and philosophical and thrillers and pullers of suspense from the reading of novel *Moonstone* to a brilliant conclusion. Her paper is entitled “The Spiritual, Psychological, Philosophical, and Scientific Suspense Thriller-Elements in Daya Dissanayake’s *Moonstone*” is really a gem of explorations by all standards. She concludes the novel with the Buddhist idea of the world as maya and refers to the eternally changing nature of the world. He has aptly given the last chapter the title ‘Wheel’ which symbolises the very nature of human life. Her evaluation of the novel brings out the many nuances of themes and other dimensions.

Thus, according to the editor, the novels of Daya Dissanayake, a Sri Lankan Writer, have been very meticulously evaluated in terms of significant themes as critics have explored in their papers. This critical volume is highly useful for research scholars in future.