



SYMBOLIC REPRESENTATIONS OF WATER IN BRITISH AND SRI LANKAN POETRY – A COMPARISON OF JOHN KEATS AND H. M. KUDALIGAMA

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Abstract

Poetry is enriched with different manifestations of water. The symbolic representation of water in the poetry of British Romantic era and the poetical works of the second wave of Colombo Age is investigated in this research. The study is conducted with reference to John Keats and H.M.Kudaligama. The objectives of this research are to identify the metaphoric manifestations of water while exploring the compatibility of both poets in this regard. The references to water in their poems were extracted from a qualitative investigation of secondary materials. Purity, ferocity, power and resilience of water in their poetic manifestations can be identified as a symbolic representation which respectively draws upon impermanence, transience, fluidity, changeability, non-stagnation, renewability and complexity of life. Thus, it can be argued that there is an allegorical perception of water in both poets despite the temporal and special distinction both poets.

Keywords: *Water, Romanticism, Symbolic Representation, Keats, Kudaligama*