

An Investigation on the Relevancy of the Use of Chandasa in the Versification (With Emphasis on Sinhalese Chandas Tradition)

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Chandasa (prosody) and *Vṛtta* (metre) are the two basic elements that give formative beauty in poetry. Everything related to *chandas* is considered in the *chandas-śāstra*. Eastern, as well as Western scholars, adopt a relevant methodology for the versification. However, some recent scholars have pointed out that *vṛtta* is not the basic element of poetry, and *vṛtta* is a non-relevant use, and some poets have not paid accurate attention to the relevancy of *chandasa* in the versification. In this context, is it really a meaningful work being done by *vṛtta* being the basis of poetry? It seems appropriate to investigate whether the relevancy of the use of the set of characteristic features of *chandasa* used in the versification has been transmitted by the ancient *Chandas* tradition is the main research problem in this study. The qualitative research methodology was used for this purpose, and texts written in *Chandasa* were used as primary sources, and the books and articles written on *chandasa*, *vṛtta* and on its relevant use were also used as secondary sources for this study. It is mainly observed whether there is an inseparable integration between the components of *chandasa*, *vṛtta* and the relevant use of *chandasa*. Also, the observation is done paying a firm attention to the Sinhala poetic literature and Sinhala *chandas* tradition as whether the relevancy is extant in the naming of *chandasa* and *vṛtta*, *vṛtta* based *rasa* (aesthetic-experience) production, *vṛtta* based communication, concentration of mood through *vṛtta*, and in the use of syllable (*akṣara*), tempo (*tāla*), *eḷivaṭa*, pause (*yatiya*). Based on these observations, it is concluded in this research that *chandasa* and *vṛtta* are the basic elements in versification, *chandas* should be used relevantly in versification, *chandasa* has evolved in a relevant pattern since its origin. Also, it is impossible to examine, separating these aspects one with another, since there is an inseparable combination between *chandasa*, *vṛtta* and its relevancy.

Keywords: Poetic meter, Poetry, Prosody, Sinhalese *Chandas* Tradition