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A Study on the Peculiarities of poetry used by the Poet of the Great Epic “*Padyachinthāmani*”

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The *Padyachinthāmani* composed by Kakunewela Sri PiyarathanaThero is accepted by scholars to be a great epic written in accordance with the rules presented by critics of Sanskrit. The great epic consists of thousand and sixty *ślōkas* based on the debate between the Yona King Milinda and the Buddhist sage Nāgasenaas found in the Pali work *Milindapañha*. The *Milindapañha* holds a place of honour in Pali literature as amasterpiece. Well-known for its elegant writing style, the *Milindapañha* cultivates wisdom, critical discernment, logic, and devotion in its reader. Hence, composing a Sanskrit epic based on such a literary masterpiece is considered a difficult undertaking. However, the objective of this research is to examine the Peculiarities of poetry applied in the composition of the great epic *Padyachinthāmani* which is centred on a Buddhist theme and comprises of epic characteristics. Accordingly, the methodology employed to achieve this purpose was data analysis by the means of a literature review, using the great Sanskrit epic *Padyachinthāmani* as the primary source and tomes on poetry and poetic techniques as secondary sources. It was revealed through this study, that the *Padyachinthāmanicomposed* by Kakunewela Sri PiyarathanaThero consists of many Peculiarities of poetryto the scholars of Sanskrit literature.

Keywords: *Epic characteristics, Great epic Padyachinthāmani, Kakunewela Sri PiyarathanaThero, Milindapañha,*