

Key words: *Forbearance, Khalifeh, Martyrdom, Palestinian Literature, Sahar, Violence.*

A Textual Analysis of Yasmine Gooneratne's *A Change of Skies*

Harischandra, Neshantha

English Language Teaching Unit, University of Ruhuna

neshanthahari@yahoo.co.uk

In her contribution to Literature, Yasmine Gooneratne is most famous for two aspects: her promotion of Sri Lankan English Literature, and the use of satire. In this paper, I shall attempt a textual analysis of her first novel, *A Change of Skies* (1991), one of the earliest works in the genre by a Sri Lankan to have won recognition overseas, in the form of the Marjorie Barnard Literary Award (1992) (as well as being nominated for the Commonwealth Writers Prize for that year). I shall focus on the two afore-mentioned features, discussing the writer's use of Sri Lankan English, on the one hand, and satire, on the other, and question whether the contradictions, discrepancies, unrealistic touches, and textual and historical anachronisms I came across are oversights, or masterly disguised uses of her famous technique. My methodology shall consist of readings of primary and secondary sources. In my analysis of the writer's use of Sri Lankan English, I shall arrive at the conclusion that, all in all, her use of Sri Lankan English helps promoting the sub-variety. In my questioning as to whether Gooneratne has been (uncharacteristically) negligent in her background research, or whether she is an even better satirist than she is reputed to be, I shall take some passages in the novel as clues to the conclusion that it is, indeed, the latter.

Key words: *Anachronism, Contradiction, Novel, Satire, Textual Analysis.*