

## The Influence of Sinhalese in Pali Commentaries

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A remarkable amount of literary issues has already been put forward in respect of the discrepancy between the Canonical and Commentarial language pattern by diverse scholars. But most of those researches are confined to the evolutionary progression of Pali language. In accordance with the details in prologues and epilogues of present Pali Commentaries, these have been compiled with special reference to *Sihalatthakatha*-s. Unfortunately, many Pali scholars seem to be not interested in the exploration of Sinhalese influence on the Pali language in the Commentaries. A.P. Buddhadatta has broached the area with a brief critical annotation of the occurrence of some Sinhalese influence of the language which is utilized in Pali *Atthakatha*-s. The influence of Sinhalese language can be more reliably made out in some of the idiomatic phrases which are identical in the Pali commentaries. For instance, the Commentary of DighaNikaya uses a phrase *cittam gabetum* to denote the idea of attracting one's mind. But, it is not a formal usage that can be seen in the Pali Canon, for expressing this intention. In many places of the Canon, this idea is mentioned as *cittam aradbetum* instead of *gabetum*. In fact, the proper sense of the aforementioned statement cannot be realized with the term *cittam gabetum* because it proposes a humoristic meaning such as to *grasp or to hold* (something with the hand). In this paper, an attempt is made to survey such instances of Sinhala influences on Pali Commentaries with particular reference to the first major Nikaya Commentaries of Buddhaghosa

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