

## An Analytical Study on 'Funny Boy' written by Shyam Selvadurai Regarding the Reasons for the Ethnic Conflict in Sri Lanka

D.N. Aloysius

Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities, Rajarata University of Sri Lanka, Sri Lanka  
aloysiusrjt@gmail.com

**Abstract:** Ethnic crisis is a very significant issue to be discussed regarding the theme of the conference. It is a well-known fact that 30 year prolonged war in Sri Lanka was entirely based on the ethnic issue, which resulted in great calamity accompanied by huge bloodshed. Shyam Selvadurai's novel, 'Funny Boy' comprehensively highlights this social problem. He has indirectly emphasized some important facts for emerging such a tragic and violent situation in the country. The present study makes both Sinhala and Tamil communities aware of the possibility of implementing the author's observations. The research problem in the study is to find out whether Selvadurai has observed the reasons for the ethnic conflict in Sri Lanka in a realistic way and can his observations be implemented to avoid such issues. The objective of the study is to ascertain whether Selvadurai is correct in his observations. Methodology applied in the study was entirely based on the primary data. Interviews, discussions and observations were the specific tools used for the present study. Both selected Sinhala and Tamil people were interviewed regarding the issue. Unbiased people were selected for this purpose so as to obtain authentic data. According to the analysis of the novel, it was found that Selvadurai has indirectly suggested that intermarriage system is an appropriate solution for the ethnic conflict in Sri Lanka. It was also found that communal minded Sinhala people were violent and aggressive in mobs. Through interviews and observations, it was revealed that they were so violent and harassed the innocent Tamil people. Ex LTTE activists, who later leave their movement and come to the southern part of Sri Lanka in order to become good citizens also are not accepted by some Sinhala people. It is now obvious that Selvadurai has made genuine efforts to bring peace to Sri Lanka through his novel. Unfortunately, his efforts seem to be a failure and ultimately, it was found through the present study that if the people of Sri Lanka are prepared to implement the attitudes of the author, grudges between Sinhala and Tamil communities will automatically vanish.

**Keywords:** Ethnic crisis, Prolonged war, Bloodshed, Genuine efforts, Peace