

A comparative study on Literary Influence and Intertextuality
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Literary Influence can be interpreted as the inspiration that a literary text obtain by other creative work, social or critical concepts and many other external facts. Intertextuality does not only consider the effect upon a literary text by other relevant texts, but focus is paid to grasp the inter connection between a group of texts. These two concepts seem to be similar in surface level, but in an in-depth study the differences between these two critical concepts could be identified. Thus, the aim of this study is to examine the different aspects of Literary Influence and Intertextuality with special reference to two selected examples. The two examples are, the poem titled Maradaanen by Bertu B. Kudahetti and the poem titled Apsaraavadekima by Gamini Nishantha Karunarathna. According to the analysis it was found that the Intertextuality is practiced in a broader sense in the field of literature than that of Literary Influence. In Literary Influence, the major attention goes towards the author. I.e. how the author has been influenced by other authors and their writing styles, latest trends in world literature and many other facts. Contrastingly, In Intertextuality, the focus is not solely paid to the author, but the reader and the social milieu come into the fore front also. The previous texts that influence and condition the concerned text can be re-read in the light of the theories relevant to Intertextuality. Therefore it is tempting interpret that Literary Influence and Intertextuality are two different critical concepts which can be used in very different approaches when justifying a literary work.

Key words: Literary Influence, Intertextuality, Critical concepts, Author, Reader

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