

Dostoevsky's Psychology on Sinhala Cinema
(A Comparison between the short story "The Meek One" by Fyodor
Dostoevsky and the Sinhala film "Oba Nathuwa Oba Ekka" by
Prasanna Vithanage)
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In this study, a comparison is made between the short story 'The Meek One' by Fyodor Dostoevsky (1821-1881), who was most popular for regarding the psychoanalytical characters and incidences and the Sinhalese film, "Oba Nathuwa Oba Ekka" (With You Without You, 2015) by Prasanna Vithanage. Prasanna Vithanage, director and script writer of "Oba Nathuwa Oba Ekka" was influenced by Dostoevsky's short story. He has mentioned it in discussing his film and the critics have discussed about the relationship between the film and the short story. This study, uses the author's own insights and observations for the analysis. The main question is to understand the extent to which the short story has been reflected in the film. To understand the question, selected incidents and characters are used. Especially the behavior of the wife of the owner of the pawning center is examined. She commits suicide after having heard of the decision of his husband to go out of the city. Prasanna has recreated the similar decision as a trip to India. The suicide incident is the most significant one in both creative works. The incident is analyzed step by step. The reasons behind the incident and how those reasons were reflected by Dostoevsky and Prasanna Vithanage are also investigated with a focus on their differences. The critical opinions, reaction of the audience and opinions revealed through a questionnaire distributed among those who watched the film and by comparing all those with the observations made after reading the short story, it is considered that Prasanna Vithanage is not up to the same level of Dostoevsky in examining human psychology and emotions.

Keywords: Dostoevsky, Prasanna Vithanage, The Meek One, With You without You, Pawning centre owner

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