

2.51 The Elements of Communication Presented Through the Criticism of Art and Literature by Regi Siriwardena

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ABSTRACT

The aim of this study is to bring to light the various theoretical elements of communication that the critic and commentator, Regi Siriwardena has explored through his literary writing carried out in the time period of 1947-2004.

The methodology used in this study took into account *the Selected Writings of Regi Siriwardena: Literature and the Arts*, Volume 1, edited by A. J. Canagaratna (Colombo: ICES; 2005). In this volume, his writings have been categorized according to several main theoretical approaches, which are:

- Art, media and communication
- Marx and literature
- Fiction and the Marxist critic
- Form, content, art and ideology
- Ideology and materialism
- Marxism, literature and time
- In the Gut of the living

When we speak of ideology, we must realize that ideology seeps through all human activity and that it is inseparable from the experience of human existence.

In this regard art is richer and more “translucent” than political and economic theory because it is less purely ideological. It is important here to grasp the precise meaning of ‘ideology’ in the context of Marxism. In Marxism Ideology is not a set of doctrines; it signifies the way men live out their roles in class-society, the values, ideas and images which bind them to their social functions thus preventing them from gaining a true knowledge of society as a whole.