

Curriculum Vitae of Madhubhashini (Disanayaka) Ratnayake

Name: Madhubhashini Manjarika Kumari (Disanayaka) Ratnayake

Address: 158, 3rd Lane, Egodawatte Road, Boralesgamuwa, Sri Lanka

Telephone: 0112801955/ 071 847 6565

Date of birth: 26 July 1969

Marital Status: Married

Nationality: Sri Lankan

Occupation: Senior Lecturer
Department of English Language Teaching,
University of Sri Jayewardenepura

Educational Qualifications:

- PhD from Hitotsubashi University, Tokyo, Japan, on Post-war Sinhala and English Fiction, looking particularly at resistance to dominant ideologies of the Sri Lankan nation.
- Masters in American and English Literature (With a focus on creative writing), New York University (NYU), 2010
- BA (First class), University of Allahabad, India, 1995
- Diploma in Teaching English as a Second Language at Tertiary Level, University of Colombo, 1995
- Primary and secondary education in C.M.S. Ladies' College, Colombo

Teaching experience:

- Senior Lecturer, Department of English Language Teaching, University of Sri Jayewardenepura, 2011 -
- Probationary Lecturer in English, Department of English, University of Sri Jayewardenepura, 2000 – 2008
- Instructor in English, University of Colombo, 1994 – 2000

National Level contributions:

- Creator and designer of the “English for Fun Project” in 2022, which is geared to give a chance for language acquisition to young children who do not have English speaking adults around them. This is being piloted at the moment in the Northern Province pre-schools (30 pilot schools at the moment) and in public libraries through the National Library and Documentation Services who have created and are in the process of creating English Language Acquisition Centers (ELACs) for very young children in libraries island-wide, with locally produced recorded audio tracks of nursery rhymes and fables, with accompanying book and teacher’s guide book (both translated into Sinhala and Tamil to help the adults who will be the facilitators in those locations.) Three other levels for middle school, upper school and undergraduate levels are also being made now. This is being implemented at physical level too, with story readers going to public libraries once a month to read to children, free of charge. It started with the Colombo Public Library in January 2023.

- Creator and presenter of the Atharamadiyawa/The In-between Space YouTube channel (<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCtwohMDBL8yyZ4A5uz-oyuA>) dedicated to teaching English as a Second Language and providing access to education in general to anyone who is interested, in both Sinhala and English. (From December 2021 – to present).
- Creator and presenter of the YouTube lesson series ‘Learning English: Short Language Related Talks’

(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bHZGj04J_uk&list=PLNew4xKMEzJYYZ3iv52Gf5ebw6rQeyn6Q) (March 2020 – November 2021):

Starting a free video series that ran 74 episodes during the pandemic lockdown in Sri Lanka that taught English grammar through English poetry, with the poems translated into Sinhala by me and using the Sinhala medium to teach the most hesitant learners of English.
- Founder – Basha Buddy Project:

Starting at national level, the ‘Basha Buddy Project’ in July 2021 that brought together those proficient in English with those less proficient to give the latter a free-of-charge, non-judgmental space to practice producing the English language through texting and through speaking practice, given through WhatsApp messaging and zoom meetings, with the Buddies remaining anonymous throughout. Currently there are close to a 100 ‘Buddies’ volunteering to help those less proficient in the English language. (This has been paused for the

moment after 6 months – to give it out in a new more efficient format – to be restarted soon after the implementation of the ELAC project, given the constraints of time.)

Other interests and activities:

At University Level:

- Represented the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences at the TEDex talks organized by the University of Sri Jayewardenepura in 2023. (The videos have not been uploaded yet).
- One of the two first Co-editors-in-Chief (with the Librarian of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura) of *Savidu* – the newsletter of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura, from 2014 to December 2017 (Volume 1, Issue 1 to Volume 4, Issue 3)
- Editor/Compiler of the *Profile of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura* - 2017

At national level:

Journalist: Worked/works in the Sunday Times newspaper as a feature-writer

- Founder editor and current editor of the ‘100 Word’ creative writing page of the Sunday Times. This ran from 1997 – 2018.
- Creator and writer of the weekly Language Corner page of the Sunday Times (Sunday Times), which concentrates on teaching English through literature and story-telling (2013 – 2017).

- Founder Editor and current editor of the Flash Fiction page of the Sunday Times (2016 – 2017).
- Creator of the *Panhinda* series in the Sunday times (in the 1980s) that ran a Sinhala short story translated into English by me, along with the introduction of the Sinhala writer to the English-speaking world in Sri Lanka. (This ran weekly for two years).

Radio script writer: Wrote a series of radio plays based on the Jataka Tales which were broadcast on SLBC for two years every Full Moon Poya day.

Violinist: Passed Royal School of Music examination (Grades 1 – 8)
 Played violin for the Symphony Orchestra of Sri Lanka

Sitarist: Holds the title of Visharada from the Bathkande School of Music,
 Lucknow

Awards and commendations

- Kala Keerthi Award -given at the Presidential Award Ceremony 2017
- State Literary Award 2020 for the Best Translation from Sinhala to English of a novel, for *The Sowing Festival*, a translation of Somaratne Balasuriya's *Vap magula*.
- Gratiaen Prize 2011 – given to the best creative work in English in Sri Lanka for the novel in manuscript form *There is something I have to tell you*
- State Literary Award for the best collection of short stories in English (1991) for *Driftwood*
- Short listed for the Gratiaen Award for *Tales and Shades and Shadow (2001)*,

A Strange Tale of Love (2005)

- Best Publication Award at the International Research Conference on Humanities and Social Sciences, USJP – 2014 (for ‘There is Something I Have to Tell You’)
- Best Publication Award at the International Research Conference on Humanities and Social Sciences, USJP – 2015 (for ‘The Language Corner’)

Scholarships:

- National Center for Advanced Studies (NCAS) Scholarship for doctoral research at Hitotsubashi University, Tokyo, Japan (2017 -2019)
- United States – Sri Lanka Fulbright Award (2008 – 2010) for postgraduate study at New York University, USA
- Indian Council for Cultural Relations scholarship for undergraduate study (1991 – 1994) at Allahabad University, India
- Representations: represented Sri Lanka at the Iowa International Writing Program in 1996 sponsored by the American Center.

Publications:

- Editor and translator of *The Routledge Companion to Post-war Sinhala Fiction: Resistance and Reconfiguration*, published by Routledge (London and India) in September 2022
- “The Hollow Men of Liyanage Amarakeerthi: The Nexus between Nationalism and Capitalism in Sri Lankan Media” in *Social Change* 52 (1) New Delhi: SAGE, 2022. Pp 132 – 138.

- *The Sowing Festival* [A translation of Somaratne Balasuriya's Sinhala novel *Vap mangula*], Vidarshana Publishers, Kalubowila, 2019
- *Grammar through Literature* Godage International Publishers, Colombo, 2017
- *A Thousand Voiced Choir: A memoir of the two years spent as the Head of the English Language Teaching Unit, University of Sri Jayewardenepura.* Godage International Publishers, Colombo 2017.
- *5 Trilingual Readers: Play with Me, Learning, Keeping Things in Place, Standing in Line, Tell me the Truth* - Prajaya Studio, 2016
- *The Language Corner* (Language Activity Book) University Publication, 2015
- *There is Something I Have to Tell You* (Novel), Prajaya Studio, 2013
- *A Strange Tale of Love* (Linked Stories), Prajaya Studio, 2013
- *Tales of Shades and Shadow* (Short story collection), Vijitha Yapa, 2002, Prajaya Studio 2013
- *Voices from Afar* (Radio dramas), Buddhist Publications Center, 2001
- *Contemporary Sinhala Fiction* (Collection of translations and essays previously published in the Sunday Times newspaper), Godage Publishers, 2000
- *Driftwood* (Short story collection), Godage Publishers, 1991, Prajaya Studio, 2013
- *Raththa* (Adaptation of *Black Beauty*) (English Association of Sri Lanka, CIDA), 1992
- *Animal Tales* (Children's folk stories) (English Association of Sri Lanka, CIDA, BC), 1991

I certify that the details given above are true to the best of my knowledge.

Madhubhashini (Disanayaka) Ratnayake