

Authentic Documentation of Ethno Cultural Performance of Therukoothu of Tamilnadu

Therukoothu is a traditional art form of Tamilnadu that performs through prose, verse, music and dance, dramatizing stories from the epic, especially Mahabaratha and Ramayana. This art form exist in its uniqueness since it is not performed purely an entertainment purpose but it is rooted in rituals of the Tamil people. Thus, it has its own authenticity which supposes to explicate the cultural identity of the people of Tamilnadu. The authenticity of the ethnic performance cultural inspiration is influenced by generation to generation. Considering the importance of keeping an authentic documentation of Therukoothu, a narrative art form of Tamilnadu, in order to explore its importance to the theatre field, this documentation is much need in this contemporary era.

Aims and Objectives

- The inevitability of Therukoothu in Tamil Culture can be identified in its costume, makeup, dialogue expression and movements which call for an exhaustive study. So the study brings out the unique performance pattern of Therukoothu and their aesthetic values.
- To study the historical and sociological aspects of Therukoothu, one can trace out the authentic pattern of this art form. So the study also concentrates the historical aspects of this art form.

- The choreographic pattern, costume design, make-up, properties and the ritual mode in a worshipping pattern has to be studied carefully because of little variation from one troop to another.
- The effects of urbanization and modernization cause this art form into unauthentic state. So the study deeply analysis the authenticity of this art by documenting the selective traditional Therukoothu troops in Tamilnadu. The documentation process can be done through literature, audio and video.
- Documenting the techniques, aesthetic values and methods of this art will produce a much needed source for the contemporary researchers and future generation for getting knowledge about this rare art.

Plan of Work

This study has to be done in three phase:

Phase No. 1 – Three Months (November 2014 to January 2015)

Collecting the data on and of Therukoothu in order to know the mode of this art form and interacting with the Therukoothu artists for gathering the sources. The genre of cultural expression has its own unique style with deep meaning and expressive devices very much akin to its own environment a cultural way of living and performance to its ritual expression and this ethnic style is a part of the mode of living. Moreover lose of so many aspects in this art form has to be rediscovered through discussion not only with the artists but also with the village community. Hence a deep study is needed to identify the authentic of this art form.

Phase No.2 – Six Months (February 2015 to July 2015)

Since the Therukoothu art form will be performed at the time of summer, the project aims to documenting the Therukoothu Performance from February to July. There are different styles of Therukoothu performance with some variations and commonalities and the text both the verbal and non verbal of the performance in relation to its local mythological background produce difference in information story structure and performance styles, these aspects can be documented through three camera multi-setup video spot editing method with special audio documentation especially for music, songs, and dialogue expressions of the performers and it all so documented literature, at this second phase.

Phase No.3- September2015 to October 2015

Phase three of this project work aims to analysis all the documenting sources in order to explore the authentic pattern of Therukoothu and through that a Therukoothu production will be conduct with the selective traditional Therukoothu troops for stage the authentic Therukoothu pattern of Tamilnadu.

The project will be completed within a year and the outcome of the audio, since the text for Therukoothu is in oral form only, this documentation will give a literary text, video and photographs documentation will be made as catalogue with cross reference for future use and submitted within the stipulated date.