

From Kurinji to Kyoto: A Structuralist Exploration of Binary Consciousness in Sangam Tamil Literature and Japanese Anime

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Abstract: *This article undertakes a comparative exploration of Sangam Tamil literature and Japanese anime through the structuralist framework of Claude Levi-Strauss, emphasizing binary oppositions as fundamental cognitive and cultural codes. Both traditions, though separated by vast historical, linguistic, and technological contexts, articulate human consciousness through structured oppositions akam/puram, self/other, tool/companion. Drawing from thinkers such as Susan Bassnett, Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak, and Susan J. Napier, this study positions comparative literature as a dynamic bridge between oral poetics and visual media. Through detailed readings of Sangam verses and anime narratives such as Beyblade and Pokemon, the paper reveals how both traditions internalize universal binaries to map the evolution of identity from childhood to adulthood. Ultimately, it argues that literature and animation function as parallel mythopoetic systems, translating collective emotion and ethics into symbolic form.*

Keywords: Anime, Cultural Consciousness, Structuralism, Binary Oppositions

