

Pre-Independence Patriotic Hindi and Sinhala Poems: A Comparative Study on Selected Poems of Maithili Sharan Gupt and S. Mahinda

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This research compares prominent patriotic poetic works of the Indian poet Maithili Sharan Gupt and the Sri Lankan poet Sikkim Mahinda, bringing to light their ideologies on the freedom struggle and the criticisms and taunts they throw at the colonial rule and its followers. The research follows an exploratory, qualitative and inductive approach. The Socio-economic background of the two countries when these poetic works were written are questioned and analysed. The social and educational background of the two poets and the prominent literary works of the relevant age also are studied to get a clear picture of social context and the literary background of the age. The biographies of the two writers are studied to help the reader to understand how these writers honed their skills and to identify the factors which led them to use their literary works to rally nations against the powers of the west. Maithili in his prominent three volume literary work *Bharat Bharati* goes in detail into the philosophy, religion, art, science and natural wealth of the past and the present. He compares the prosperous past to the sobering realities of occupied India. Then he goes on to compare the future to the past and show the reader what they can accomplish with freedom. Mahinda in his writings uses simple lullaby format among a multitude of others to get the youth to join the fight for freedom. Though the core ideology of both these writers remains the same across the numerous patriotic poetic works they created, the techniques and the intensity of this message varies drastically. Mahinda writes in the form of a wrathful youth at his wits end while Maithili is much subtle and gentler in the use of the language.

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