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**Sri Lankan Poetry on Independence movement:  
A comparative study of Sinhala and Tamil  
Poetry on Independence from 1900-1948**

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## **ABSTRACT**

**TOPIC:** Sri Lankan Poetry on Independence Movement:  
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It is generally perceived that both Sinhala & Tamil poets of Sri Lanka have enormously contributed to the independence movement of this country by providing necessary inspiration lavishly and inculcating appropriate attitudes, raising cultural awareness in the masses. Those who stimulated the pioneers of our independence movement were none other than the poets of this country. However, it is apparent that their valued contribution towards the struggle of independence has not been given due recognition and the patriotic inspiration sparked by them among the Sri Lankan nation has not been assessed sufficiently. Therefore, it remains great necessity to re-evaluate the work of both Sinhala & Tamil poets prior to independence.

This study also attempts to trace through Sinhala & Tamil poetry of the selected poets to witness if their existed signs of ethnocentric perspectives prior to independence. It is beyond arguments that they were the pioneers of the struggle of independence as it is manifested in their literary creations. However

since the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century till the state of independence was granted in 1948, the most of their poetry seem to have been directed towards one common interest which was long awaited freedom from foreign rule. It is in the post independence era that the unfortunate ethnic tensions emerge. In this study it is expected to investigate whether any of the Sinhala or Tamil poets selected for this research has been responsible in germinating ethnic consciousness among the people of this county. It is hypothesized that both Sinhala & Tamil poets manoeuvred our people towards independence, but in their later works they do display signs of ethnocentrism to some extent.

The research under takes a comparative study of renowned poets of both Sinhala & Tamil communities of Sri Lanka.