What is the nature of other post-colonial poetry that we have learnt in the course?

Post-colonial poetry talks a lot about sufferings of people in social, economic physical and mental ways. The exploitation they faced the pain they endured were clearly reflected in the poems of other nations. Rather than praising their nation and developing patriotism other nations poetry mostly focused on how they were exploited and how we all should have a feeling of equality and how to obtain such feeling. When we study African literature, we should remember that colonisation was harshest in Africa. They were highly exploited and savaged by White men and also being subjected to racism. This experience was clearly reflected in the minds of thinking poets and reflected in their poems. The poems were not just language or country or region based they were universally meant. Any country people who read their poems can feel their pain and understand how much they suffered. The English poems discussed in the course were especially shows the feelings of people towards colonialism, how much they were agonised and how they want to be treated equal. Even after independence they reminded the bitterness of subject to despair. The following are the English poems discussed in this course and their meaning, nature and analysis.

**English poets and their poetry in post-colonial times:**

**Poem 1:**

“It is not as you suppose, your lands,

your cars, your money, or your cities

I covet...

It is what gores me most,

that in my own house and in my very own home

you should eye me and all that’s mine

with that practiced, long-drawn, insulting sneer.”

Nature of poem: Exploitation in colonial period

Meaning and analysis:

The above poem was written by Kenya’s poet Joseph Kareyaku. He was an African poet, Africa suffered a lot during colonialism. This poem explains how much they suffered in colonial period. People lost their assets like land, car, money and their cities. Author felt bad because everything he had like home, assets were taken away from his with an insulting sneer. The insulting sneer suggests that they were treated with racism. The unforgettable colonial past comes angrily alive in the above poem.

**Poem 2: If you want to know me**

“This is what I am

empty sockets despairing of possessing of life

a mouth torn open in an anguished wound...

a body tattooed with wounds seen and unseen

from the harsh whip strokes of slavery

tortured and magnificent

proud and mysterious

Africa from head to foot

This is what I am.”

Nature of poem: Psychological exploitation and sufferings of people

Meaning and analysis of poem:

The above poem written by Noemia De Sousa from Mozambique in Africa uses beautiful literary device personification. In the poem me represents every African from colonial times and how much they suffered physically and mentally. People during those times felt like empty sockets despairs of living. Their wounds were like opened mouth torn, they were so much physically abused and whip stocked in even unseen areas that their bodies were filled with scars. The torcher they suffered and endured has affected they physically and mentally.

**Poem 3: Shapes of fear**

“Like an arrested breath

when breathing makes silence imperfect

and the ear cannot differentiate

between the conspiratorial whispers and the winds singing.

... a twig in the courtyard snaps

and report of a gun is understood.”

Nature of poem: The conspirations in colonialism and great change of information

Meaning and analysis of poem:

This poem was written nu Richard Ntiru from Uganda which was much brutalised dark continent with many conspirators with in the country this poem was written addressing their betrayal and peoples fear because of the situation.The poem shapes of fear mention a clear metaphor and simile of the stage of their country, even though the issue might be small there was many deaths. Even their own allies have turned against the country for

better social status their information was leaked. The situation was so frightening that even sound of a broken twig was like a shooting gun. The despair and fear was frightening and even little sounds were mistaken to be sounds of war.

**Poem 4:**

“Open the gates

To East and West

Bring in all

That’s good and best.”

Nature of poem: Trading in post-colonial period and sense of unity

Meaning and analysis of poem:

This poem was written by Linrie Peter to inspire people in friendly trading of goods between states and countries. In the colonial periods all the trading and business was taken care by Britishers but after freedom people have to start trading and trusting partners so this poem served as a motivation to get goods from everywhere the good the best.

**Poem 5:**

“I was seized by a pity more profound

than my young body could bear, I climbed

with the labouring smoke,

I drowned in labouring breakers of bright cloud,

then uncontrollably I began to weep,

inwardly, without tears, with a serene extinction

of all sense; I felt compelled to kneel,

I wept for nothing and for everything”.

Nature of poem: Child labour in colonial period and his feelings

Meaning and analysis of poem:

This poem was written by Caribbean poet Derek Walcot which gives the feel of a child labour working in industry in colonial period. The child in a pitiful state where with a tender body he pushes his limits and does his labour work in middle of smoke. He weeps realising his current situation without tears and feels compelled, even though he weeps nothing changes but he weeps realising he does not have his freedom in life. This poem expresses the pain of child labour and indirectly urges to stop child labouring.

**Additional Poem: I Thank you God**

“I thank you God for creating me black.

White is the colour for special occasions

Black the colour for every day

And I have carried the World since the dawn of time

And my laugh over the World, through the night creates The Day.

Nature of poem: Love towards Africa, self-colour and expressing gratitude to God

Meaning and Analysis of poem:

This poem was written by Bernard Dadie attains special significance to the reaction to the self-glorification and the civilizing zeal of the imperial powers of Europe. In Africa, the advent of the white man's civilizing mission displaced scores of native societies from their own cultural roots. The impact of the spread of Christianity combined with material benefits such as classroom education and well-paid jobs forced many Africans abandon their own faith and adapt the religion of the pale-faced aliens. This situation is responsible for the natives to suffer from culture shock. Nevertheless, the native is expected to owe allegiance to his own tribal culture and embrace Christianity for material benefits.

**Conclusions on other nations poetry from above analysis:**

The response towards end colonialism was different in different regions of Africa. They often reminded the dark past of their society in colonial period. They also showed how people from different sectors felt during colonialism. Some poems were made to make people cheer up and encourage for a new future such as trading. All the poems were involved variety of situations in colonial period and hope for future but they did not involve much people names in poems. The motto is to remember the past and to hope for future.