What are major differences between Telugu and the other colonial and post-colonial poetry?

**Differences of Telugu poetry and other poetry in post-colonial times:**

Poems of other nations in post – colonial period focuses on economic, social exploitation in colonial times but Telugu poetry mainly focuses economic exploitation. Other nation poems tell how they were physically and mentally abused and also racism was extreme and hence poems were written to be proud of one’s colour. In Telugu poetry though racism was involved its contribution was very less the poems were more about patriotism and preaching the greatness of India and Telugu land. The poems written by Telugu poets were more self-reflexive and transparent in colonial critique than the Africans or Caribbeans. The difference may be traced back to the “response” that the colonized people from different nations had chosen.

Telugu people chose different to response with respect to Africans to the aftermath of colonisation. Most of the Telugu poets mentioned how much economically exploited we are but they were not interested mentioning cultural, psychological, social exploitation. Even though poets have acknowledged cultural revival they never saw colonialism having a powerful impact on Telugu culture. After colonialism the social evils and many false practices were eradicated completely since during colonialism most of the poets focused on social reforms and eradicating social evils like dowry, child marriage, illiteracy, widow immolation etc. They did not want the such culture to revive back these loop holes in Telugu culture were removed in the period of colonialism.

Other nations poetry was also not much focused in reviving culture. The poems reflected their sufferings psychologically according to different people point of view of different races and economic conditions. African literature reminds us that colonisation was harshest in Africa. They were highly exploited and savaged and brutally torchered 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 poems of Africa can feel their pain and understand how much they suffered. The English poems were 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.

In Telugu poetry the language used was especially difficult in colonial times sanskritised Telugu was used which was incomprehensible by most of the women and illiterate people since they were not allowed to learn Sanskrit. Whereas Other nations poems were especially easily readable and understandable. The poems were written in such a way that they can be understandable by any person and can get the feel of it. The poets of other nation did not long for awards and fame but they wanted their poems to reach masses.

**Example stanzas of Telugu and other Nation poems and their difference:**

**Poem on Mahatma Gandhi: Telugu Poetry**

“Evaru evaru nuvu Bhanisa bathukulaku charama geetham paadinavu

Nidristhunna desanni jaagrutham chesavu Bharatha jaathi pitha ga maarinavu!

Kaali nadaka tho desanni chuttesavu Ahimsanu jathi ki varamga icchinavu

Santhi maargam lo payaninchavu Sathyagraham ane spurthi nimpinavu !

Sandhu gondhulalo nee vigrahalu Currency notla meedha nee prathimalu

Anni karyalayalalo nee chitralu Jaathi mottham nee nama smaranalu!

Margadarshi nuvu Spurthi pradatha nuvvu Santhidhutha nuvu

Sahanaseeli nuvu Vandhanam Mahatma !!”

Nature of poem: Remembering the greatness of Gandhi and showing gratitude

Meaning and analysis of the poem:

This poem was written to remind the hard work and efforts of Mahatma Gandhi who played an important role to obtain Indian Freedom. He brought us a new life by fighting against past slavery life as father of the nation. He associated and formed ally with all the states and made different people with different caste and religion fight together. He did “padayatra” (walking for a cause) to enlighten the concept of freedom in every part of the country. He said not to violence and chose the path of peace and fought with righteous anger. To show gratitude for his efforts we have placed his statues in the streets of India and his Image on currency note. In government buildings there are Gandhi pictures and every one reminds him. He is the path finder, build the confidence and courage to fight against Britishers in a peaceful way. We all should be grateful towards him.

**Poem on Freedom Fighting: English poetry**

Was it yesterday I left my native land?

I'd come to taste of freedom with the exile band.

Freedom to live Freedom to learn Freedom to speak

Was it yesterday I left my native land?

I'd come to taste of fighting with the exile band.

Fighting for life Fighting for truth Fighting for speech.

Was it yesterday I left my native land?

I've not tasted of freedom fighting with the exile band

Learning to live Living to speak

Speaking for freedom.

Nature of poem: Point of view of freedom fighter

Meaning of poem:

This poem is commonly addressed to all the freedom fighters and gives the reader to feel the feelings of freedom fighters who left their country for freedom. A freedom fighter fights for freedom to live, learn and speak. He wants to fight for life and obtain truth. He fights for right to speak. Once he obtains freedom he wants to learn speaking and living and talk about freedom.

**Differences of Telugu and English poetry in post-colonial times by analysing above poems:**

In Telugu poetry the poems are written to encourage the ideas of freedom fighters and develop patriotic feelings towards India. The struggles of freedom fighters are highly appreciated in Telugu poems. Their efforts were quantified and praised and poem indirectly tells the audience to be inspired from them. The poems were modernised during colonialism. In colonial period most of the Telugu poems were written in classical Telugu but after colonialism the poets realised and started writing in colloquial Telugu to reach masses and they also started to write some common English words in their poems. The point of views of particular sector of people is not much involved all the poems in Telugu poems are written in general point of view but includes with a message for a social cause

In English poetry different point of views of people of different sectors like child labour, women, freedom fighter, farmer with different kind of struggles are studied and their struggles and sufferings were reflected in the poem. Other nation poems mostly do not mention the names of freedom fighters and their deeds in their poem. The generalise the person and the struggle of person in colonial times is mentioned is mentioned in various ways. In English poetry personification was especially used and comparions of their sufferings with a happy life were often made to realise how much pain the people of colonial period have endured. The racism and slavery a major topic in English poetry but poems on such topics were less in Telugu poetry.

The other nations poems were rather broad and many poems were applied and appreciated by even other countries. In Telugu poetry most of the poems were region based and the struggles of people of Telugu region. Since English is a global language other nations preffered poems in English rather than in local language thus making them world wide popular whereas Telugu poems even though with great meaning and beauty they became famous in Telugu region but not much famous outside.

Finally the post-colonial poetry of Telugu and English both were very heart touching and beautiful. Even though there are difference they both showed how people struggled physically, mentally, socially and economically in colonial times in their own ways and how they obtained freedom. They showed gratitude towards the people who participated in freedom, God and their country in their own way.