

Reflections of 1971 Insurrection Through the Eyes of Sri Lankan English Poets

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This study looks into the reflections of 1971 insurrection in contemporary Sri Lankan poetry, mainly discussing the major socio-political incidents which took place from the late 1950s to the early 1970s in Sri Lankan society. It vividly explores the approach of the poets towards the times of tension and the social issues once prevailed in Sri Lanka, where they convey the uncertainty of survival and the difficulties faced by the people in the society through their poetry. It also focuses on the use of language and imagery to show the realistic picture of the time, and the nature of the chaotic catastrophe which emerged with the social, cultural and political ideologies of the society. Moreover, the study entails an in-depth analysis of the social issues depicted in the poems. Interpretative epistemology and Textual analysis were used in analyzing the data for the study. It discusses the tangled complexities of social issues as painted by the major poets in the period of 1960s and 1970s such as Ashley Halpe, Suvimalee Gunaratna, Lakshmi de Silva, and Anne Ranasinghe. The study analyses the 1971 insurrection, as it is the ultimate and result of many social problems of the society which had a significant impact on the creative and influential poetic advancement. The poetry in this era in crucial form and it was also central to the re-articulation of the debate on politics in the then society. This study tries to articulate how far the poets were successful in depicting the traumatic society that prevailed in that era realistically, through their poetry by communicating and mediating between readers' emotions and poets' emotions during the era of insurgency. The study seeks to answer the questions such as how far the Sri Lankan poets in English have accurately identified the social trauma caused by the insurgency and how realistically they are portrayed in the poetry, showcasing poets as non-legislators of the law to the public sphere and the nation.

Keywords: 1971 insurgency; poetry; social issues; social trauma