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**A comparative study of poetic style in sarojini Naidu and Toru Dutt's works.**

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**Abstract**

This comparative study delves into the poetic styles of two prominent Indian poets, Sarojini Naidu and Toru Dutt. Despite being separated by time and regional influences, both Naidu and Dutt significantly contributed to the Indian literary landscape during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. This research aims to explore and analyze the distinct poetic elements, themes, and techniques employed by these remarkable women poets, shedding light on their unique contributions to Indian poetry. The study draws on an extensive analysis of a diverse range of poems from Naidu and Dutt's respective collections. By examining the contextual backgrounds of their works, the researchers seek to identify the impact of their upbringing, education, and social surroundings on their poetic expression. Additionally, this investigation explores the cultural and historical themes that both poets frequently utilized, such as nationalism, women's rights, and the celebration of India's rich heritage. The comparative study also focuses on the literary devices employed by Naidu and Dutt, including imagery, symbolism, rhythm, and rhyme schemes. By analyzing these techniques, the research aims to unveil the unique and shared characteristics of their poetic voices, as well as their individual approaches to crafting verses.

**Keywords:-**Sarojini Naidu, Toru Dutt, Poetic Style, Comparative Study, Indian Poetry

**Introduction**

The world of Indian poetry has been enriched by the eloquence and creativity of numerous poets who have left an indelible mark on its literary landscape. Among them, Sarojini Naidu and Toru Dutt stand as exemplars of poetic brilliance from the late 19th and early 20th centuries, captivating readers with their evocative verses and profound themes. Both women defied societal norms of their time and became trailblazers in the world of Indian literature, using their poetry to express their thoughts, emotions, and aspirations. Sarojini Naidu, popularly known as the "Nightingale of India," was an accomplished poet, politician, and a prominent figure in the Indian independence movement. Born in 1879, she was the first woman to become the President of the Indian National Congress and later served as India's first female Governor. Her poetry often celebrated the beauty of nature, love, and patriotism, combining a delicate balance of imagery and lyrical charm. In contrast, Toru Dutt, born in 1856, belonged to an earlier generation and hailed from a mixed cultural heritage with

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French and Bengali roots. Her unique upbringing exposed her to diverse literary traditions, reflecting in her works that often showcased a fusion of Western and Indian influences. Dutt's poetry was deeply rooted in themes of Indian mythology, ancient legends, and historical tales, woven together with a touch of Victorian sensibility.

This comparative study sets out to explore and analyze the poetic styles of these two remarkable women poets, Sarojini Naidu and Toru Dutt. By closely examining their works, we aim to unveil the distinct elements and techniques that characterized their poetry. Additionally, we seek to understand how their upbringing, education, and societal context may have influenced their poetic expression, leading to the creation of verses that have left a lasting impact on the Indian literary tradition.

“Upon his head he wore a crown  
That vestment scarlet reached low down,  
His waist, a golden girdle, bright.  
His skin was dark, as bronze; his face  
Irradiate and yet severe;  
His eyes had much of love and grace  
But glowed so bright, they filled with fear.”

By delving into the cultural and historical themes present in their poetry, such as nationalism, women's rights, and the celebration of India's rich heritage, we aim to unravel the deeper messages encoded within their verses. Furthermore, this study will analyze the literary devices employed by Naidu and Dutt, including their use of imagery, symbolism, rhythm, and rhyme schemes, to identify the unique hallmarks of their poetic voices. Intriguingly, the reception and legacy of their poetry will also be examined to gauge the extent of their influence on the Indian literary canon. By juxtaposing their works and exploring their artistic contributions, this study seeks to offer a comprehensive understanding of the poetic styles of Sarojini Naidu and Toru Dutt, paying homage to their contributions to Indian literature and paving the way for a deeper appreciation of their timeless verses.

Sarojini Naidu's poetry exhibits a remarkable harmony between humanity, nature, and myth. To her, nature and myth intertwine seamlessly, becoming one cohesive entity. In her poem "Harvest Hymn," she glorifies the earth as Prithvi, the sun as Surya, the rain as Varuna, and the creator of the universe as Brahma. This merging of natural elements with divine beings reflects her deep appreciation for the interconnectedness of the cosmos.

The lotus holds a significant mythological association in Naidu's works. It symbolizes various legendary figures, such as Lakshman, who is said to be lotus-born, Saraswati, who is depicted as lotus-seated, and Buddha, who is often described as lotus-throned. By using these

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mythological references, Naidu enriches her poetry with layers of cultural significance and spiritual connotations.

In twilight's embrace, stars ignite,  
Whispers of wind, a gentle sprite,  
Nature's canvas, a breathtaking sight,  
Time stands still, a moment's flight,  
Boundless beauty, pure delight,  
Infinite wonders, every night.

**Scope of the Research**

The research on the poetic style in Sarojini Naidu and Toru Dutt's works presents a compelling exploration into the remarkable contributions of these two pioneering Indian women poets. Sarojini Naidu, known as the Nightingale of India, and Toru Dutt, a prominent figure of the Bengal Renaissance, both left an indelible mark on Indian literature with their profound verses. The scope of this research delves into the examination and comparison of their poetic styles, drawing insights from their respective body of works. Sarojini Naidu's poetry is characterized by its lyrical beauty, vivid imagery, and eloquent use of metaphors, often inspired by Indian folklore and mythology. Her verses reflect themes of nationalism, love, and the celebration of nature, making her an emblematic figure in the realm of Indian Independence poetry. On the other hand, Toru Dutt's poetry demonstrates a harmonious fusion of Western and Indian influences. Her works reflect her bilingual upbringing, skillfully blending English Romanticism with Indian themes, such as ancient legends and customs. Dutt's poetry is marked by its nostalgic tone, evoking a sense of longing for her homeland and exploring themes of cultural identity and heritage. By conducting an in-depth analysis of their poems, the research aims to shed light on the distinct poetic techniques employed by Naidu and Dutt, as well as their individual contributions to Indian literature. This exploration will not only deepen our understanding of their artistic brilliance but also contribute to the broader field of comparative literature and gender studies, highlighting the significant role played by these two exceptional women poets in shaping India's poetic landscape.

**Sarojini Naidu:**

Sarojini Naidu (1879-1949) was an acclaimed Indian poet, freedom fighter, and politician. Born in Hyderabad, India, she demonstrated exceptional literary talent from a young age. Naidu's eloquence and command over languages led to her being known as the Nightingale of India. She earned a reputation for her enchanting use of language and mesmerizing poetic style.

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Naidu's poetry often celebrated the beauty of India's landscapes, culture, and traditions. Her verses were imbued with rich imagery, vivid metaphors, and a sense of patriotism. She played a significant role in India's struggle for independence and worked alongside Mahatma Gandhi and other leaders to advocate for freedom from British colonial rule. Naidu's poetry also reflected her support for women's rights and social reform.

Later in her life, she became the first woman to preside over the Indian National Congress and was appointed as the Governor of the United Provinces (present-day Uttar Pradesh). Her journey from a prolific poet to a prominent political figure serves as an inspiration to women across India and the world.

### **Toru Dutt:**

Toru Dutt (1856-1877) was a Bengali-English poet, writer, and translator, born in Calcutta (now Kolkata), India. Along with her siblings, Toru had an English education and was exposed to both Western and Indian literary traditions from an early age. This bilingual upbringing deeply influenced her poetic style.

Her poetry exhibited a rare blend of Eastern and Western elements. She wrote in English, drawing inspiration from English Romantic poets while simultaneously incorporating themes from Indian epics and mythology. Her literary works often portrayed a sense of longing for her homeland and a nostalgic yearning for her cultural roots.

Toru Dutt's contribution to literature was tragically cut short when she passed away at a young age of 21. Despite her short life, she left a lasting impact on Indian literature and is considered one of the earliest Indian women poets to write in English. Her collection of poems, ancient legends, and translations earned her a posthumous reputation as a pioneering figure in Indian literature and an emblematic representative of the Bengal Renaissance.

Both Sarojini Naidu and Toru Dutt hold a significant place in India's literary history, with their poetry and writings continuing to inspire generations of readers and writers alike.

### **Research problem**

The research problem focusing on the poetic style in Sarojini Naidu and Toru Dutt's works seeks to explore and compare the distinct literary techniques employed by these two pioneering Indian women poets. Sarojini Naidu, renowned as the Nightingale of India, and Toru Dutt, a prominent figure of the Bengal Renaissance, both contributed significantly to Indian literature with their exceptional poetic talents.

This research problem aims to delve into the nuances of their respective styles, examining elements such as imagery, metaphors, use of language, themes, and cultural influences. By conducting a thorough analysis of their poems, the study endeavors to highlight the individual artistic expressions of Naidu and Dutt while also identifying any common threads

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that may exist in their poetic endeavors. Additionally, the research problem seeks to shed light on the broader impact of their works on Indian poetry and literature, showcasing the significance of their contributions in shaping the poetic landscape of the country.

**Significance of the study**

The study exploring the poetic styles of Sarojini Naidu and Toru Dutt holds immense significance as it delves into the remarkable contributions of these two pioneering women poets of Indian literature. Both Naidu and Dutt were instrumental in shaping the landscape of Indian poetry during the late 19th and early 20th centuries, and a comparative analysis of their poetic styles promises valuable insights.

Understanding their poetic styles provides a window into the cultural and historical context of their times. Naidu's poetry reflects the vibrancy and struggle for independence in British-ruled India, infused with a deep sense of nationalism and a celebration of Indian traditions. On the other hand, Dutt's verses often explored themes of longing, nostalgia, and melancholy, capturing the essence of the colonial experience and the cross-cultural encounters of the time.

Examining their literary techniques, such as the use of symbolism, metaphors, and linguistic devices, can shed light on their distinct approaches to poetry. Naidu's eloquent and rhythmic compositions demonstrate her mastery of blending Indian imagery with Western literary forms, while Dutt's incorporation of Indo-English elements showcases her fusion of Eastern and Western literary traditions. This study can contribute to a broader discourse on gender representation in literature. By analyzing the poetic expressions of these women writers, it becomes possible to understand how they challenged societal norms and paved the way for future generations of female poets.

**Conclusion**

The study of the poetic style in Sarojini Naidu and Toru Dutt's works offers a captivating journey through the realms of Indian poetry and literary history. These two remarkable women poets have left an indelible legacy with their unique and influential contributions. Sarojini Naidu's poetry showcases a profound love for her country and its rich cultural heritage. Her lyrical and evocative use of language, infused with vibrant imagery and metaphors, has firmly established her as one of the most celebrated poets of the Indian Independence movement. Through her verses, she not only expressed the fervor of patriotism but also celebrated the beauty of nature and love. On the other hand, Toru Dutt's poetry exhibits a remarkable fusion of Eastern and Western influences, showcasing her versatility as a poet. Her bilingual upbringing allowed her to expertly weave English Romanticism with Indian themes, resulting in a poetic style that is both nostalgic and enchanting. Her exploration of ancient Indian legends and customs demonstrates a deep

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reverence for her cultural roots.

Both poets, despite belonging to different eras, share a common thread of celebrating their Indian identity through their works. Their poetry reflects a sense of national pride, cultural heritage, and a profound connection to the land they call home. The research on the poetic style in Naidu and Dutt's works not only highlights their individual artistry but also showcases the importance of women's voices in shaping the literary landscape of India. Their impact on Indian literature transcends time, inspiring generations of poets and readers alike. Through their verses, Sarojini Naidu and Toru Dutt continue to leave an enduring impression on the hearts and minds of people, reminding us of the power of poetry to convey emotions, culture, and the essence of a nation.

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