



Indian Writing in English - An Overview

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Abstract:

Language is the most important element of life of a community, culture or race. Language is not only the most important medium of expression and communication but also a crucial means of socio-cultural exchange. It is through language that we get to know our people, communities and cultures. Nowadays a large number of books and especially literary works are being translated into English at a rapid pace. Indian English Literature is a realistic perspective which attempts to reveal the evergreen gems of Indian writing in English. With a wide spread of a unique and extraordinary native talent, Indian writing has emerged as a new formation of Indian culture and voice. With this objective, the present research paper presents views on Indian writing in English.

Keywords: Language, Indian Writing, development, English, family, cultural aspects

Preface:

English is derived from the Indo-European language family. It was earlier called the Indo-Germanic family but now it is known as Indo-Aryan. The name "Indo-European" is given to a specific group of language family forms from which (probably) almost all European languages and the languages of Persia and a part of India have originated. We use the term "Indo-European" only because the languages that make up this family are mostly spread over Europe and India. Many other factors influenced the development of English as a language, including the initial migration and settlement of the Jutes, Saxons and Angles on the New England (today's England) in the fifth and sixth centuries and the continuous development of the language itself through various stages such as ancient, middle and modern. The English language has been an important tool for the colonial enterprises of the British Empire. English has played a significant role in both the colonial and post-independence eras, also known as the 'post-colonial' period. The British exercised complete control over the languages of India through the arbitrary use of English as a means of enforcing laws and in all administrative matters, and through the activities of translation and interpretation carried out throughout their rule. In the introduction to their book *The Empire Writes Wreck: Theory and Practice in Postcolonial Literature*, Bill Ashcroft, Gareth Griffith and Helen Tiffin argue that the "imperial education system" held the "standard" form of the metropolitan language as the norm and marginalized all variations as incorrect. "Language became a medium through which hierarchies of power were perpetuated and a medium through which "truth", "order" and "reality" were conceptualized."

English and Indian Literature:

Through our study we have come to know that the macrocosm of the part has always been the deciding factor in shaping things in all the fields like socio-cultural, avian, institutional, anthropological, political etc. The double standard or bad language has always been accepted as a reality. Indian Literature The very idea of definition of literature is itself very diverse. It has always been difficult to define the scope of Indian literature. In general, the group of literatures written in the Indian languages is called Indian Literature. The early literature of



India was written in Sanskrit, Pali and Lagi. Later, literatures in Hindi and Marathi, Bengali, Sanskrit and Gujarati etc. emerged, which today is considered as the modern Indian literature. The demand for reading the literature of the West was created by imposing English language on the basis of code. English was used in two ways in the first place: first, by making it a language of learning and teaching, so that Indians could know the Western literature and fulfill many secondary purposes (like translation). For example, in the linguistic form; and secondly as a discipline within which the institution of English was established and which was to be shown as the main field of study of English or Ganglo-Anglican literature. Thus, English became the language for connecting cultures and for knowing each other. Shisir Kumar Das, a well-known historian of Indian literature, mentions in his book “A History of Indian Literature” that “This co-existence of English literature with other Indian literatures is a distinctive feature of the Indian literary-linguistic situation.

Indian English literature:

Indian English literature has acquired an independent status in the field of world literature. A wide range of topics are distributed in Indian English writing While this literature reflects on Indian culture, tradition, social and moral values and even Indian history which portrays the lifestyle and culture of Indians. The current Indian English fiction is attempting to give expression to the Indian experience of modern conditions. Early Indian writers used English without mixing Indian words to end up with an expression that was essentially Indian. Apart from the freedom struggle that awakened many Indians fighting for freedom, the writers of the time were able to disseminate their viewpoints, which ultimately helped to inspire and guide the crowd. The joy of achieving a glorious victory against the British rulers was suddenly spoiled by the shocking and painful Partition of 1947. The horrors like mass migration, bold looting and merciless massacres, the tragic consequences and the Partition were portrayed by the writers in their works, which attracted the interest and imagination of the reader, Indian English novels began to prove their mark towards the global dignified story.

English novels began to prove their mark towards global dignified storytelling. The early 20th century saw the gradual development of the novel in English in India. Romesh Chandra Dutt was an important writer of that time. However one name that stands out from this list is that of Rabindranath Tagore. He would not be considered a writer in English as he wrote in Bengali with equal ease and grace. In fact he was known not only as a writer but also as an equally accomplished poet, dramatist and painter. In the late seventies a new generation of novelists and writers from the convent, boarding school educated and elite class started working on English literature.

People like Salman Rushdie, Vikram Seth, Amitabh Ghosh and Dominique Lapierre made a splash in the literary world. Rushdie's *Midnight Children* won the Booker in 1981 and gave a clear message that Indians are here to stay. Arundhati Roy and Kiran Desai repeated this feat by winning the Man Booker in the year 1997 and 2006 respectively. Meanwhile, a new generation of writers like Pankaj Mishra, Chetan Bhagat, Jhumpa Lahiri, William Dalrymple, and Hari Kunjuru came on the international scene and their writings are being appreciated across the world. Special mention to Jhumpa Lahiri and her work; the inspiration for her work stems from the emotional distress caused by cultural diaspora and identity crisis that Indians face when they live outside the boundaries of their culture. English as a global



language has greatly influenced the literature of India. History of Indian Writing in English Indian writing in English can be compared to an old prickly root which has grown its branches again in the modern generation.

The new plants are flourishing with green leaves and shoots which are being enjoyed by all the people not only in the Indian territory but all over the world. Many English newspapers like The Bengal Gazette, The Bombay Herald, The Madras Courier came up to cater to the needs of the fiery youth during the freedom struggle. These English newspapers connected the whole country with a common sense of national sentiment and English education was introduced in India with the sole purpose of amending the British interests so that Indians could be inspired with western ideas which were sooner or later to strengthen the foreign supremacy. British historian and politician Lord Macaulay was a firm believer in anglicizing the education system in India. Macaulay's Minute on Indian Education published in 1835 is considered an important statement in this regard. Their views were based on the notion of the intrinsic right of the British ethnicity, an important comment documented in Macaulay's Minute: linking them with a common agenda of the nation's independence.

Conclusion:

After the 1960s, the influence of the modern British novel brought about thematic and technical changes in Indian English fiction. The post-war period brought about mental disorders among the masses, loss of moral values and disruption of the peace of mind of the people. This painful existence of modern man has been sympathetically explored by Anita Desai and Arun Joshi and has changed the face of the Indian English novel. The novels of Arun Joshi and Anita Desai ushered in a new era in the Indian-English novel and also changed the treatment of psychological themes. Indian English writing is a part of Commonwealth literature and post-colonial studies worldwide. This new literature in English is considered an important element of world literature. Despite different cultures, races and religions, it has successfully adapted and reflected a multicultural society. As a result, there has been widespread interest in the subject both in India and abroad.

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