



TRACING THE DEVELOPMENT OF INDIAN ENGLISH WRITING: AN OVERVIEW OF ORIGIN AND PROGRESS

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ABSTRACT

Nowadays the writings of Indian writers who are writing in English are becoming acclaim from around the world. they're the best sellers of this era. there's a lot of work being done in the local languages but those writers are experiencing lesser rise and development. Hence, it are often said that the research problem is that despite its own developed network of vernacular languages and literature, how is it that Indian writers who are writing in English are rising and growing at such a rapid pace. So a search was pursued with three questions viz. the explanations for the rise and growth of Indian English writers, from when such an increase and growth commenced and what is the impact of the rise and growth of Indian English writers on the society, language and literature of India. This research took an applied method and the specified data was collected from secondary sources. The conclusion reached on the idea of the analysis of the data was that most Indian English writers come from affluent backgrounds. Even though once they write about the middle and lower classes they portray it in a manner that someone belonging to the upper classes will do. This helps them to attach to the world. But there's lack of connect with the vast majority of the population of this country. it had been only after LPG (Liberalization-Privatization-Globalization) that the doors and windows of India were opened for the rest of the world. This was the period when actually for the first time everyone saw the event of foreign readership of the Indian English writers. This was the time of the early 1990s. This was the period when the domestic readers also started taking the Indian English writers and rediscovering many of them. And, as a results of this increased interaction between India and the rest of the world, India's relevance will increase within the global podiums.

KEY WORDS: Indian English writers, society, language, colonial

INTRODUCTION

India is one among the earliest human civilizations of the world. The Indus Valley civilization existed and flourished about five thousand years ago. Since then this country has developed its own set of culture, language, systems, traditions and norms. This country was separated within the north by the Himalayas and in the west, south and east by the Arabian Sea, Indian Ocean and the Bay of Bengal respectively. Thus, through some millenniums it was seen that India existed within herself and was cut faraway from the world. Availability of resources, suitable climate for agriculture and a strongly tied social organization helped this country to survive through ages even when she was cut off from the rest of the world. This isolation in the pre historic and historic ages, helped in the event of Indian languages and Indian culture. Indian languages were self-sufficient and didn't have to depend on any foreign language for its survival or development. These vernacular languages had their own set of grammars and most of them shared a common point of origin, i.e. Sanskrit. In these languages, the traditional scriptures were written, hymns were framed that were passed on from generation to generation and everyday communication was done.

Indian writing in English is primarily a results of the English colonial rule in India spanning almost two centuries. there's an undeniable relation between the literary work and the

historical background out of which it arises. In spite of the western imperialism and colonialism the Indian culture has grown incredibly over the past 2 hundred years. it's a well-known fact that the Englishmen came to India on the pretext of trade and immediately realized that a stable political control would substantially increase their profits. The Industrial Revolution in England could only sustain itself through the capital made in the Indian territories in the form of revenue collection. They then commenced to annex different territories in and around India and set up a colonial empire. British rule completely ruined the agricultural self-sufficiency of the farmers and the trade of silk cloth saw a downslide thanks to the English factory produced cloth more easily and cheaply available.

The weavers and artisans lost their job and had to sustain themselves by working in cotton plantations. The old existing order underwent an entire and systematic destruction and overhaul bringing misery, poverty and death to many Indians. After some years of colonial rule and consolidation, English empire got embroiled in a hotly debated and discussed issue of introduction of English language in educational institutes. during a watershed decision English was introduced within the Indian education system, and was understood to be a special epistemological template during which not only the language but lifestyle and culture was imposed. because it is apparent with scorn and despise towards Indian languages, the



only purpose regarding English was to strengthen their rule and brainwash the colonized; and to not empower or produce scholars. Moreover, the colonizers only had contempt and disdain for the established languages, knowledge, beliefs, religion and academic institutes, labelling them as being irrational, pagan, barbaric, unscientific and immoral. With the introduction of English language the missionaries got a far better hold on the country and political the empire established the notions that it is a benevolent authority and has now taken the responsibility of bringing light within the form of knowledge to the ignorant population. As a results of English education a few writers and poets converted to Christianity and imitated a method of writing prose and poetry like the English Romantics and classics.

The colonizers were initially largely successful in creating 'a class' of interpreters between them and therefore the masses. Education as a tool within the hands of the English proved to a great ideological weapon to legitimize their authority within the colonies. Evidently a hierarchy is made in which the western education model encompasses wisdom and knowledge as against the colonized people that are imbeciles. The education introduced was naturally lopsided and it not only valorised English traditions and way of life, it also provided the newly urban English educated a really limited and constricted space for liberal thought. The Indians began to believe that the colonizers had an ethical responsibility to fulfil as the country was depicted to be infected by depravity, bestiality and religious bigotry. The evangelists propagated Christianity in schools indirectly by teaching biblical scriptures instead of English grammar. These pioneering works of poetry, fiction, drama, travel, and belles-lettres are little read today except by specialists, but once they were published they were, by the mere fact of being in English, audacious acts of mimicry and self-assertion

English as a language came to India with the arrival of British. When the British started using English as the official language during this country, at that point the vernacular languages of India were quite developed. that they had a history of a few thousand years attached to them. The reason behind this being the hard work put for the development of these languages for a few millenniums. But still, English started gathering importance. After independence in 1947, English gained more importance. A generation was created where Indians are more comfortable in English, than in their native languages. The writings of Indian writers who are writing in English are getting acclaim from round the world. they're the best sellers of this era. this is often a very interesting situation. Had India not been one among the earliest civilizations with a developed network of its own languages, then things would be expected and there would have been nothing to research about. But it's not like that. there's a lot of work being wiped out the local languages but those writers are experiencing lesser rise and development. Hence, it is often said that the research problem is that despite its own developed network of vernacular languages and literature, how is it that Indian writers who are writing in English are rising and growing at such a rapid pace.

Among the later writers, the foremost notable is Salman Rushdie, born in India and now living within the USA. Rushdie, together with his famous work *Midnight's Children* (Booker Prize 1981, Booker of Bookers 1992, and better of the Bookers 2008), ushered during a new trend of writing. He used a hybrid language – English generously peppered with Indian terms – to convey a topic that could be seen as representing the vast canvas of India. He is usually categorized under the magic realism mode of writing most famously associated with Gabriel García Márquez. Nayantara Sehgal was one among the first female Indian writers in English to receive wide recognition. Her fiction deals with India's elite responding to the crises engendered by political change. She was awarded the 1986 Sahitya Akademi Award for English, for her novel, *Rich Like Us* (1985), by the Sahitya Akademi, India's National Academy of Letters. Anita Desai, who was shortlisted for the Booker Prize 3 times, received a Sahitya Akademi Award in 1978 for her novel *Fire on the Mountain* and a British Guardian Prize for *The Village by the ocean*. Her daughter Kiran Desai won the 2006 Man Booker Prize for her second novel, *The Inheritance of Loss*.

Ruskin Bond received Sahitya Akademi Award for his collection of short stories *Our Trees Still Grow in Dehra* in 1992. he's also the author of a historical novel *A Flight of Pigeons*, which is predicated on an episode during the Indian Rebellion of 1857. Vikram Seth, author of *The Golden Gate* (1986) and *A Suitable Boy* (1994) is a writer who uses a purer English and more realistic themes. Being a self-confessed fan of Austen, his attention is on the story, its details and its twists and turns. Vikram Seth is notable both as an accomplished novelist and poet. Vikram Seth is also a prolific poet.

Another writer who has contributed immensely to the Indian English Literature is Amitav Ghosh who is the author of *The Circle of Reason* (his 1986 debut novel), *The Shadow Lines* (1988), *The Calcutta Chromosome* (1995), *The Glass Palace* (2000), *The Hungry Tide* (2004), and *Sea of Poppies* (2008), the primary volume of *The Ibis* trilogy, set within the 1830s, just before the Opium War, which encapsulates the colonial history of the East. Ghosh's latest work of fiction is *River of Smoke* (2011), the second volume of *The Ibis* trilogy. Rohinton Mistry may be a n India born Canadian author who is a Neustadt International Prize for Literature laureate (2012). His first book *Tales from FirozshaBaag* (1987) published by Penguin Books Canada may be a collection of 11 short stories. His novels *Such an extended Journey* (1991) and *A Fine Balance* (1995) earned him great acclaim.

Shashi Tharoor, in his the good Indian Novel (1989), follows a story-telling (though during a satirical) mode as within the Mahabharata drawing his ideas by going back and forth in time. His work as UN official living outside India has given him a viewpoint that helps construct an objective Indianness.

Vikram Chandra is another author who shuffles between India and therefore the United States and has received critical acclaim for his first novel *Red Earth and Pouring Rain* (1995) and collection of short stories *Love and Longing in Bombay* (1997).



His namesake Vikram A. Chandra may be a renowned journalist and the author of *The Srinagar Conspiracy* (2000).

Suketu Mehta is another writer currently based within the United States who authored *Maximum City* (2004), an autobiographical account of his experiences within the city of Mumbai. In 2008, Arvind Adiga received the person Booker Prize for his debut novel *The White Tiger*.

Recent writers in India like Arundhati Roy and David Davidar show a direction towards contextuality and rootedness in their works. Arundhati Roy, a trained architect and therefore the 1997 Booker prize winner for her *The God of Small Things*, calls herself a "home grown" writer. Her award-winning book is about in the immensely physical landscape of Kerala. Davidar sets his *The House of Blue Mangoes* in Southern Tamil Nadu. In both the books, geography and politics are integral to the narrative. In his novel *Lament of Mohini* (2000), Shreekumar Varma touches upon the unique matriarchal system and therefore the sammandham system of marriage as he writes about the Namboodiris and therefore the aristocrats of Kerala.

CONCLUSION

English is not really an alien language to us. It is the language of our intellectual make-up - like Sanskrit or Persian was before - but not of our emotional make-up. We are all instinctively bilingual, many of us in our own language and in English. We cannot write like the English. We should not. We can only write as Indians. We have grown to look at the large world as a part of us. Our method of expression therefore has to be a dialect which will someday prove to be as distinctive and colourful as the Irish or the American. Time alone will justify it. The readership and production of numerous writings both in quality and quantity in vernacular languages in India is by far larger than the English counterpart. One has to assess the readership of Indian English writing which is at best nominal in India, the target thus, seem to be the widely English speaking western world. Given the fact that English today is the language not only of upward social mobility and outward geographical mobility, but also a major tool for accessing knowledge at the higher level." One cannot remain blind to the major characteristic feature of Indian English literature, both linguistic and cultural, that its influence extends beyond the limits of any elitist paradigm.

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