



Indian Writing in English: A Survey

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The present research work highlights a woman's rebellion against the conventional ideologies, breaking the shackles of exploitation and oppression, awakening with a sense of identity, to assert their humanity and common sensibility in religious diversity, in the different phases or time of the social system. It has been seen that the status of woman has not much changed in the era of Premchand and in the era of Manju Kapur. This hypothesis is validated with the analysis, observation and interpretation of the selected novels of both the writers who belong to two different eras, languages, cultures and regions but have one thing common i.e. their portrayal of woman. In order to accomplish the objectives, an indigenous model has been developed and the novels are analyzed and the conclusions have been drawn on its basis. Before the further discussion, it is imperative to survey Indian Writing in English which is also termed as Indian Literature in English and Indian Literature in English Translation.

Keywords: *Indo-Anglian Literature, Colonial Influence, Nationalist Movement, Social Issues.*



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1. INDIAN ENGLISH LITERATURE: AN OVERVIEW

The literature produced on the Indian subcontinent is termed as 'Indian literature'. The republic of India recognizes 22 languages officially. Indians got introduced to English men and the language by 1599 when East India Company was formed in India but the literature written largely by Indians in English has its starting point in year 1800. The introduction of English into the complex and hierarchical language system of India has proved to be the most enduring aspect of this domination.

Out of this necessity to develop English as the language and administration in India, the

British rulers made English the universal medium of instruction in higher education as well as English was made compulsory subject of study for college graduates along with this it was equally compulsory though less stringent, a college graduate must study some literature in his/her own language. Thus, college education in India till 1947 encouraged every student, except in some metropolitan centres to be bilingual and nurtured him/her in a bi-literary context.

However, the English language remains the principal vehicle and vernacular was neglected in the due course correspondingly, English as a link language was shared by all educated Indians, and made them fit for employment in several

capacities under the British. English became a neutral language territory as Indians could communicate with British as well as one another. This neutrality soon became clear after 1947 and English was replaced by Hindi as the liberated nation's official language. Yet for several reasons, Hindi has not been nationally accepted as the official language of India, and English continues to function officially in this capacity. Now English has the status of link language and each state in India is free to use its regional language as the medium of instruction.

Indian Writing in English or Indo-Anglian Literature (not in English alone, but all Indian writing) is greatly influenced by the writings from England. Still it is certainly not a product or an extension of the British literature but a distinct entity and having an identity of its own. The appellation Indo-Anglian was first used as early as 1883 to describe a volume printed in Calcutta, containing specimen compositions from 'Native Students' (Bansiramani4). The term 'Anglo-Indian' was coined by E. F. Oaten when he won prize at Cambridge in 1908 and later published as a book entitled *A sketch of Anglo-Indian literature*. E.F. Oaten included the writings of Anglo-Indians like the poet Henry Derozio and Indians like Toru Dutt, Sarojini Naidu, Rabindranath Tagore, Aurobindo Ghosh with Anglo-Indian writers like Sir Edwin Arnold, Sir William Jones, John Leyden, F W Bain, Meadows Taylor. Having no racial significance 'Anglo-Indian' implies the bonding of England and India. Indians did not find the word Anglo-Indian an apt designation as Anglo-Indians had become a racial group in India with English as their mother tongue. Oaten's list includes Maikel Madhusudan Dutta's '*Is this called civilization?*' as an 'Anglo- Indian work' without conceding that it is a translation of the original Bangla play, *Ekeyi ki boley savyata?* (Mukharjee, 3)

So to distinguish the literary works of Indians on Indian themes, Indo-English and Indo-Anglian words came to be used. According to V. K. Gokak, Indo-Anglian literature refers to the work of Indian writers in English and Indo-English literature consists of translations by Indians from Indian literature into English. He stated categorically that Tagore's *Gitanjali* - the only Asian book which has been awarded the Nobel Prize in literature-is contribution, not to Indo-Anglian, but also to Indo-English. (Bansiramani, 4)

Hence, finally we are having Indian English Literature and Indian English Literature in Translation i.e. Indian Regional Literature got translated into English. Though Indian English literature originated as a necessary outcome of the introduction of English education in India under colonial rule. It is now recognized that Indian English literature is not only part of Commonwealth literature, but also occupies a great significance in the World literature.

2. CONCLUSION

By 1930 Indian English literature was almost a century old with no substantial output by the novelists. There was then an abrupt change. The Gandhian age (1920-1947) witnessed the sudden flourishing of the form. By this time the entire nation was stirred up completely by the nationalist movements. The nationalists were becoming more concerned about the future of the country. The most noteworthy leitmotifs of Indian English novels during of this time were the communal problems, East- West relationship, the plight of the untouchables, the landless poor etc. Novelists like Mulk Raj Anand, Raja Rao and R. K. Narayan had strong impact of Gandhian philosophy and Gandhian thought.

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