

## Influence of Colonialism on Indian English Literature

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### **Abstract**

India, together with the present and colonial histories of postcolonial culture, is considered as a rich place with intertextuality and impact. Furthermore, as compared to other colonial powers, British imperialism is significantly more pragmatic. The purpose is not religious, but rather economic. With the rise of "Orientalism," India was the first nation to have a literary effect on the West; nevertheless, this equation was inverted under colonial interference. The British seemed to have made the most significant changes in Indian society. Whereas few Indian critics are only concerned with criticizing and lauding the impact of the West, Indian authors' discriminating reaction provides intricate examples of intertextuality and influence as reception develops. The literary movement has been moulded by the ideals and fundamental beliefs of local people's traditional attitude, culture, social life, and politics. For more than two centuries, British authority and Indian subcontinent dominating power were suspended. Furthermore, it becomes straightforward when you need to comprehend the history of English literature as it relates to the lives of the English people. This mindset pervades the educational, social, and cultural spheres. The movement of the British colony in the provided subcontinent demonstrates the importance of literature on people's social lives. The present research paper describes the study on the Effect of Colonial Rule on English Literature in India.

**Key words:** Colonialism, colonialism, and Indian English literature are all keywords.

### **Introduction**

Indian culture is the oldest on the planet, it is complex and difficult to describe and nail down. Culture may be defined in a variety of ways, including arts, institutions, and population beliefs

that have been passed down from generation to generation. Culture is defined as "one's way of life in society" [1]. An assumption about the way the word 'postcolonial' has been employed would connect to the colonial society that has been colonized, however the assumptions lay many differences referring to different nations' consequences.

The word 'postcolonial' often refers to the 'Third World'. There is a narrow line that separates the Third World from the Postcolonial in today's literary landscape. The aforementioned 'Third World' does not support the overnight idea. This has a lengthy history and is the result of various political, social, literary, and cultural influences interacting. Despite the fact that the British Empire has been colonized for two centuries, India has evolved as a significant concept in the globe due to numerous examples such as economic progress and rest. The literature of India is no longer the literature 'Indianised' by British influence, which has been replicated in the language of English alongside Indian Regional Literature. The concept of British imperialism and 'colonialism' is effective in creating a literary influence on Indians as autonomous or semi-independent collection of regions or princes do under British authority. The statements made by the British in the 1830s concentrate on spreading the system of education in the Indian with the Western Fashion and English as the language primary that undertakes the development of Indian nationalism along with the colonial notion of Indian literature. The manner of communication that employs English language of all the user population of 15 main languages is thought to exert impact on modern Bengali and English literature. The desire to popularize English literature sparked the concept of British influence on literature. Along with the English link, European literature or culture led the door to India, where the geniuses of Indian literature responded immediately. Then, with the British Empire's educational program for native Indian 'colonized' and established a home shortly, English Language invaded the country.

### **Colonization**

Colonization is often seen as a historical occurrence that has occurred from time immemorial. In principle, the formation of authority by one means having more power over others who have less power. The word "colonialism" is derived from Colonia, a Roman term that means "settlement" or "farm" in reference to the Romans being the ones in possession of land. Colonialism is a very troublesome notion. It has been observed that there are several points of view on the methods and meanings where a definition of the word is provided. This is regarded to represent the nation's forced occupation-era expansion into foreign areas.

This phenomena began in the 15th century and evolved in the late nineteenth century. As a result, colonialism has a history all over the world [3]. She goes on to discuss the link between capitalism and colonialism. She went on to say that

"colonialism occurs to be the midwife who has assisted during the time of European capitalism, and one that is part of the colonial expansion at the time of transition to capitalism fails to be taken in Europe."

Furthermore, colonizers adjusted the journey pattern throughout the items traded to hunt for inexpensive raw resources as well as novel marketplaces that offer machine-made products in other regions. The preceding is plainly not friendly, and hence regions must be occupied forcibly. The Barter exchange system has changed the way money is traded. During the first stage, the primary emphasis is placed on a variety of daring and expeditious items. During this period, no attempts have been taken to intervene in the cultural and social systems. This is akin to the barter system used by locals and tourists to exchange things. The following phase began in 1762, with the beginning of the Industrial Revolution. Colonialization has evolved in tandem with industrialization. The Indian subcontinent was divided into two states under British administration. The first is "British India," which refers to portions of the Indian subcontinent that are under the jurisdiction of British colonial forces. If colonialism is a specific element of conquering, imperialism is a larger kind of rule. This is a kind of dominance, coupled with cultural imposition and exploitation via strength over weak countries. It is clear that the British were interested in India for a variety of reasons.

The first is the raw material source, followed by the investment zone and the British products market. The preceding is shown to have numerous impacts and forms, while the following native or "Princely states" that constitute part of the Indian king's reign, the former having central and western Indian sections.

### **Indian English Literature and it forms**

The English Indian Writing has a considerable history that dates back around a century and a half. For over 150 years, the British ruled India. England and India are considered as having commercial, political, and military ties. The English Literature of India arose as a significant result of the introduction of English education in India during the colonial period. According to R. K. Dhawan, in recent years, the same has attracted a lot of attention, both in India and overseas. At this time, England had seized the nation's empire and riches. In response, India has adopted the English language and the concept of situational government. From a

historical standpoint, Indian English Literature travels through many periods such as Indo-English, Indo-Anglian, and Indian Writing is in English alongside Indian Literature.

The phrase "Indian Writing" is extensively used. Such is the corpus of the writer's work, which includes the mother tongue in many languages. 129 of Indian English Writing is seen to recall and also express the multilingual and multi-cultural community despite the varied race, culture, religion, and race. As a result, there is a greater desire in traveling overseas [5].

Different writers' works have attracted a larger readership and received critical praise. As of today, all Indian English authors have made significant contributions to the literature. Writing novelistic works, as well as English poetry and Indian English plays, captured the interest of the populace throughout the British rule period. Because India is ruled by the British, English has been embraced as a language of knowledge and understanding, literary and educational expression, and a vital means of communication among people of many faiths.

The whole regional potential author devoted under the intelligence to portray erudite 'British mother language', learnt during such times. The novel occurrence in Indian literary history has had a unique place in the modern literature world. The innovative phenomena of Indian English Writings is fresh and has gained appeal.

Literary forms in Indian literature are as ancient as the foundations that stretch back millennia, however the novel is a literary genre that is new in India. Epic, poetry, short tales, theater, and fables have long been part of literary history. However, Novel is the most recent arrival. It hasn't been a century since the notion entered the nation and flourished [6].

Gandhi's nationwide movement inspired Indian English novelists and provided them with significant themes such as freedom struggle, East-West encounter, communal problem, and miserable conditions of untouchables, poor who are landless, the downtrodden, oppressed, and economically exploited. Novelists then turned to the past in order to concentrate on present themes. The book that deals with political or social topics that are important in India. Several authors have used English as an expressive medium and have had a significant impact on literary forms.

### **Influence of Colonialism on Indian English Literature**

The name "colony" was taken from the Latin phrase "Colonus" and refers to "a planter or settler in a different land." The larger term "postcolonialism" has been best understood by following the terms "post" and "colony" derivation. The name "post" is derived from the Latin word "postis," which means "behind" or "after." So the word refers to the period after

colonization." In a larger sense, "postcolonialism" is a phrase that refers to the way ethnicity, race, culture, and human identity are depicted in contemporary times, after the independence of various countries [7].

Colonialism is seen as one of the most heinous and demeaning acts in global history. This affected the historical trajectory of nations and colonizers under authority. Several languages and signs are currently in use across the globe. Nonetheless, English is the language that has the most claim and is then considered by people all over the world. Displacement during the colonial period has been suggested as a cause for English to be reinforced as the worldwide linguistic standard. Novels are seen as an appropriate vehicle for reflecting the physical and intellectual riches of the past, and they have reminded Indians of their rights and duties. The concept of national identity evolved from literature throughout the nineteenth century, and the bulk of Indian writers are viewed as enlightenment voices.

The preceding has paved the way for a better comprehension of the facts and the genuine situation till the turn of the twentieth century. During this period, Rabindranath Tagore began work on his book, which would be a challenge to colonial standards, colonial control, and authority, providing a new perspective on Indian nationalism. Furthermore, a colonial experience as the popular thread that would bring together the territory of the third world. Despite the fact that colonial cultural dominance changed depending on colonizer, it was discovered that the aims were the same. Its major goal was to gain from the people and natural resources of colonies. British colonialism has had an impact on Indian education and literature.

Indian authors began to create short stories, poetry, and novels in the English language. Successful authors such as R.K. Narayan, Rabindranath Tagore, Salman Rushdie, and others have authored books and poems in English that have won the hearts of people all over the world [8].

Although English is the second language in universities and schools, it is also the medium of teaching. Without a question, British colonialism had an impact on the Indian subcontinent. Colonialism exacerbated ethnic conflict by introducing the notion of social hierarchy. The British impact is pervasive and visible on Asia's subcontinent. The English language's endurance may be traced to the above. Several Indians are perceived to be fluent in English as colonialists attempt to export culture or ideals via the teaching of English to the Indian populace. The adoption of the English language in British colonies has resulted in its use in

government and education. America, Canada, and Australia are all affected by colonization and have adopted the language as their native tongue. The English supremacy is notable during the period of British colonialism, when English linguistic imperialism is seen across the contemporary globe, followed by colonialism. As witnessed in the Asian continent, British colonialism has had a significant impact on the Indian subcontinent. Furthermore, the British revolutionized India's government, economics, commerce, and trade, introducing the English language, which turned out to be a gift in disguise for the countrymen throughout the growth period. English is replacing Hindi in a few areas, including education, government, trade and commerce, and information technology. There is a high demand in India for institutions that provide English education, and the country is currently moving toward instructors who are certified in English for both domestic and international teaching. It cannot be disputed that the literature is perceived to remain in a hybridized state, which never has the same forceful and difficult to create impact as English Literature discovery. The critical Indian debate on Western effect is intriguing enough to the point where the concerns seem to have a paratextual dimension. Such a debate may therefore be separated into two big critics who may have an effect everywhere, as well as other critics who are hesitant to observe the impact or attempt to minimize it. But what links the two is the need to discriminate between those who are thought excellent and those who are sterile or have a negative impact. A. Colonialism and Language Thinking about colonialism and literature at the same time entails thinking about linguistic issues.

The colonizer's and colonized's languages will clash on different levels, such as those of domination, control, and obedience, or of cultural authority and prestige, and, related to all of them, of linguistic, and linked to this, cultural identity. These issues may be traced back to antiquity; nevertheless, since European colonialism started in early premodern periods (despite a mythos like that of Bacchus having previously existed in India), it may be permissible to begin thoughts here at the end of the fifteenth century. The topic of the usage of English and the composition of literature in English in India must be seen in the context of European colonialism, starting with Portuguese colonization and continuing until the second part of the twentieth century. That is, the question of English in India prior to the beginning of so-called Anglo-Indian literature and contemporary Indian literature in English must be seen against the backdrop of the beginning of European colonization with the Portuguese arriving in Calicut on India's southwestern coast. The use of Portuguese in Goa was part of a

campaign designed to compel colonial people to adhere to Christian-European norms and attitudes. Because it is not restricted to India, the compulsory use of non-Indian languages must be explored in the context of the issue of identity on multiple cultural levels, including religion, nationality, and so on. The Indian battle for independence and liberation from British colonialism had advanced significantly by the 1930s, with the 'boycott of foreign commodities, swadeshi, wearing home-spun garments, khadi, and the taking of untaxed salt'. During the same decade, three writers started to publish works that are often cited as examples of sophisticated Indian writing in English. Narayan contends that English in India must serve different functions and meet different expectations than English in England or other English-speaking countries. Narayan believes this is possible and expresses his faith in English's "flexibility," which he explains with his own experience, which demonstrated that it was possible to "convey unambiguously" the world of his fictitious "small town named Malgudi supposed to be located in a corner of South India." If English is to satisfy the needs of Indian speakers, it must "reach the marketplace and the village green," and appropriate teaching techniques must be devised as well. According to Narayan, "the language must be taught in a simpler manner, through a basic vocabulary, simplified spelling, and explained and interpreted through the many spoken languages of India" . However, it would be incorrect to imply that Narayan was pushing for a second-rate language. One of the most often referenced and well-known passages related to the subject of colonialism, language, and cultural identity is Rajo Rao's Foreword to his book *Kanthapura*.

He, like Naryayan, believes that Indian English must have its own personality. "English is not really an alien language to us," says the text, despite the fact that it has been mentioned several times. It is the language of our intellectual makeup, as Sanskrit and Persian were before it, but not of our emotional makeup. As a result, our mode of speech must be a dialect that will one day be as unique and vivid as Irish or American." The fact that English is not the only language in India that arrived from outside has been used as a justification for language selection on several occasions. When considering the usage of English as an Indian, Salman Rushdie, too, mentions Urdu. We are all naturally multilingual, with many of us writing in both our native tongue and English. We cannot write in the manner of the English. We must not. We can't just write like Indians. We've come to see the big world as a part of ourselves.

Language, Culture, and Identity Returning to Narayan, we would like to point out that in the few pages of *English in India*, Narayan touches on numerous issues raised by other authors,



whether of literature or postcolonial theory. His statement that, despite English being the more significant language in school, he was launched in Sanskrit as well since it was the "classical language of India" reminds me of a discussion between two Hindi instructors in Anita Desai's book *In Custody*. In any case, the issue is problematic; in this exchange, one of them expresses sorrow that they decided to become professors of a topic that is 'only' useful for transmitting tradition but useless for earning enough money to allow someone to move to America, for example, to live a rich life.

Jayadev made a funny expression. Language as communication and culture are thus products of one another. Language conveys culture, and culture carries the complete set of values through which we understand ourselves and our role in the world, notably via orator and literature. Language's association with the mind, soul, identity, and thinking of individuals who speak in their mother tongue causes most colonialist countries to concentrate on language and linguistic identity of those nations while invading other societies. Language is therefore inextricably linked to us as a community of human beings with a distinct shape and character, a distinct history, and a distinct connection to the world.

Most people feel that "language" is the fundamental instrument utilized to give a country cultural identity. Being cognizant of the significance of language and cultural dominance, colonialists aim to express their thoughts, ideas, and practices via language as a cultural instrument in an unseen and undetectable manner throughout their colonialism. They may finish and deepen their process of penetration and colonization on others by implementing this strategy. Many authors educated during colonialism recall how pupils were demoted, ridiculed, or even beaten in colonial schools for speaking their own language. Some postcolonial authors and activists propose a total return to the usage of indigenous languages in reaction to the systematic imposition of colonial languages.

Language is often a major issue in postcolonial studies. Colonizers often imposed their language on the peoples they colonized, prohibiting locals from speaking their mother languages. In certain circumstances, invaders outright forbade indigenous languages. Based on this fact, strong governments have covered associated organizations and establishments with lingual expansion and employed all of their societies' talents and potential to enrich this language. As a result, we will see the language grow and other related areas develop on one side. On the other hand, colonialists use linguistic progress and power not only to better the



language itself, but also to strengthen their political base and colonialism on other lingual minority groups.

### **Indian English Literature after Colonialism**

The phrase "postcolonial literature" refers to "people produced literature that is subjugated and formerly colonized." According to several definitions, the term "Postcolonial Literature" refers to the "works body done by colonized people for the annihilation of the influences as exerted in the lives of colonizers by themselves" .

The Postcolonial Literature arose during the mid-twentieth century, when various colonized countries were fighting for independence from colonizers. Different authors favor the language of colonizers, which might be French or English. They hoped to improve inter-nation communication by writing it in English. They also attempted to divert the linguistic tool against the conquerors. When it comes to picking a language to write in, Postcolonial authors have diverse perspectives [9].

Few authors concentrate on writing in their own tongue. Such authors believe that using local language is the greatest way to describe age-old customs, traditions, and manners. Postcolonial English authors used the colonists' vocabulary in order to oppose the colonizers and later repair the harm done in social, historical, economic, and cultural sectors. However, the authors were perceived to change the language in order to build the local e experience. As a result, Indian authors emerged with the goal of uniting Indians and erasing the colonial outlook. It was discovered that the Indian subcontinent was still under to British Imperial control after 200 years. Natives were mistreated throughout the imperial administration.

The moral and cultural lives were mostly misaligned. Because several languages exist, the authors favor English. "Indian English Literature" refers to literature written in English in India. In addition, the authors had to deal with a variety of sub-themes such as "rootlessness," "alienation," "discrimination," "Hybridity," "labor exploitation," "corruption," "poverty," and "marginalization." The novel emerged as the most effective and successful area in Postcolonial Indian English Literature [10].

Post-colonial writers rely on existing texts produced by colonialists, as well as having knowledge and understanding of their political and cultural actions and behaviors toward other countries. They investigate biased colonial studies of acts and their sovereignty effects, and they vigorously challenge the expansionist and transgressors imperialism of colonial powers, particularly those values orders that support Imperialism and are still prevalent in the

Western world. Postcolonial philosophers propose a fresh read of the fragmented text of the globe and cultures positioned in it, emphasizing cultural linguistic identity and a unique look at the connection between dominating and submissive countries. If we examine the world and its situated societies in it through the lenses of thinkers such as Edward Said, Homi Bhabha, and Spivak, we can examine their doubts, which are the most fundamentally challenging part of their thoughts and ideas.

Colonialism, whether in its old or new model, always tries to represent some different sides of its culture that consist of some modern attraction using different and superior language uncommon but significant and reflective concept and by this way representing it humble and old used and cultural disability and dispersion of subordinated nations try to lead them to a generality that they themselves are the symbol of it. This approach also reveals the open-minded people's postmodernist viewpoint. Postcolonialism and its concepts and contents are the outcome of postmodernist ideas, and its definition may be found in the postmodernists' renowned slogan, "to think universally, act regionally." The dependence of postcolonialists on their interior culture is not a sign of retrogression, but rather of reliance on noble birth while thinking broadly.

Postcolonial critics argue with colonialist critics and their cultural politics by writing and depicting them in imperialist terms. Here, the thoughts of subservient countries and their open-mindedness are transmitted, which are obviously thought by native language and portrayed by dominant language. There are several responses in a society, the most potent of which is "creative disobedience," which consists of denying other people's language and switching to insider language, resulting in a lot of mental and literal labor at the end. Subordinated countries continue to struggle in a war that is uneven but manageable on two levels of theory, creative writings, and the use of their language.

At the creative text level, this nation's literature will have an influence on colonialists' minds and thoughts by invading their borders in any manner. As a result, a subjugated country with a claimed identity seems to oppose colonialism. Women authors in Indian English Postcolonial Literature shifted their focus to the issues of poverty, alienation, disappointment, and 'isolation' in Indian families. As a consequence, the English writers of Postcolonial India wrote to raise the voices of the underprivileged in order to elevate them by contributing to national prosperity, both socially and culturally. It was feasible for the writer to modify the reader's thoughts and guide them to a wholistic understanding of nationalism. Postcolonial

Indian authors continued to observe the effect of the same in India by emphasizing the relevance and ideals of "Nationalism." English is the official language of more than 60 nations, and it may be found on all continents.

This implies that English is the most widely spoken language on the planet. The majority of technical, scientific, and academic knowledge on the planet is conveyed in English, and more than 80% of information is kept in embedded electronic retrieval systems in England. English development in Indian literature is the result of English acceptance with literature in Indian culture. In addition, Indians contributed significantly to English-language literature. The works of India in English sparked heated debate about their superiority and inferiority to literature created in other Indian languages. Furthermore, it was said that it was uprooted from the Indian original connotation. It was then accused as being imitative, superficial, and shallow, among other things. English authors from India are chastised because they are not true ambassadors in the postcolonial struggle against European realism. 'Magical realism' fosters cultural hybridity by defamiliarizing the reader and widening their worldview. Colonialism is regarded to have had an influence on the globe, radically changing education, society, and communication.

When the question of the English future arises, there is no adequate solution since the image left is permanent. The English literary effect on Indian literature is wide and has an influence of one literature on another, but it is just a tiny part of a larger story, since British rule in India is closely linked with it. This has a cultural and literary influence on the oppression of global hegemony. The colonialist seeks to incline subjected nations more than ever to their culture's language and push them to mimic, and this imitation includes imitation of daily routines and personal relationships, as well as employing language and identity form. But, as we all know, imitation is always a disguise for the original and, in some ways, a definition of the original; it is similar but not the same. In this sense, language is a colonialist and is imposed on conquered nations more than any other matter, preparing a background and motivation for most unwanted problems and quarrels.

It is also a defensive tool for conquered nations to affirm themselves by applying it and maintaining their identity. The imperialist is scared of this change in cultural and linguistic look, but it must accept it, and this is what undermines its self-confidence more than before. Homi Bhabha, an Indian postcolonialist, believes that the imitation process weakens colonialist self-confidence because imitation is a strange and altered process that conquered

nations follow compulsorily or optionally to imitate and repeat colonial methods and discourses.

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