

The Indianization of English

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Abstract



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English, an alien language, has undergone a virtual transformation ever since its introduction in December 1600 in India. This process of reorienting English in terms of linguistic and literary perspectives is known as the nativization or indigenization of English. Macaulay's Minute of 1835 aimed at making "natives of this country good English Scholars" who would act as "interpreters between the rulers and the ruled", "a class of persons, Indian in blood and colour, English in taste, in opinion, in morals and in intellect." On March, 1835, Lord William Bentinck resolved that "the great object of the British Government ought to be the promotion of European literature and science.....and all the funds be appropriated for the purpose of education would be best utilized on English education alone." Sir Charles Wood was the first to realize the vital importance of the use of vernaculars in educational system. In this Dispatch of 1854 Wood emphasized that the mother tongue would be the base, but English would reign at the higher level. Thus, the majority of Indians became bilinguals who used English effectively as a means of self expression and communication both for official and creative purposes, besides their mother tongue. It is these bilinguals who began the process of the acculturation and hybridization of English with Hindi and other Indian languages so that it might become an apt and efficient medium for the expression of typical Indian ethos and sensibility, which could not be expressed in a purely foreign language.

Keywords: Reorienting, Indianization, Vernaculars, Hybridization, Acculturation, Bilinguals.

Introduction

Raja Rammohan Roy, an outstanding intellectual, linguist and social reformer, in his famous Letter on English Education (1823), which is considered as a significant manifesto of Indian Renaissance, preferred western education in English medium to Sanskrit instruction. He was the first Indian writer who adroitly used English for castigating social evils, superstitions and rampant hypocrisy in Indian society in clear, lucid and emphatic style. What distinguishes his prose is his ability to express Indian ethos and sensibility in English.

Aim of the Study

Culture has its roots in the changing society and thereby changing the language. With the change of mediums and media of communication, Indian language also changed radically. It has widely touched upon every domain, where the modes of communication have been changed. Though the roots of English language lies in British and American English but today every Indian is using English with a taste of Indian English. This paper attempts to highlight a few such examples where language is replaced with testing, acronyms, emojis etc. Vocabulary is also getting reshaped. Though these illustrations, the shades of being Indian are noticeable. Hence Indianization of English is the focus of this paper.

Review of Literature

The Indianisation of English : B. Kachru - In the opinion of the author Indianisation of English has become a reality nowadays which cannot be overlooked. He argued that Indian English had over 200 years developed distinctive features that could be identified and demonstrated at all levels. He exposed the limitations of contemporary colonial ethnocentric models of teaching English which instead on one proper way.

R.S.Gupta -Indianisation of English- In this unit he gives an insight into the process of Indianisation of English An awareness of this process of Indianisation of English will perhaps help, revise your attitude towards the so called errors that students may make

English Language Is A Link Language In Social Strata 2013- The author is the opinion that English gives us glimpses of the various developments taking place in the world. It provides us distilled essence of modern knowledge in all fields of human activity it argues that language learning is one of the most important components of a good education

R.S.Pathak : Indianisation of English language and literature (2019) He discussed that English must be studied as an important foreign language it must also continue to be the medium of instruction at least in all field.

Role of English Language In Present Day Scenario In India He focused that English is widely spoken language in current scenario it is dubbed the common language in the modern era's. In short he elaborated that English language is our big window on the world, that English is not just a connecting language in India but in the world as well.

Shrinkhla Ek Shodhparak Vaicharik Patrika

A Indianisation Of English B. Englisation Of Indian In July 2020 The book is a reassignment of linguistic aspects of the english literary works in the multilingual context of India.

Main Text of the Study

Roy is the first writer who successfully endeavoured to nativize English.

H. M. Williams remarks :

Use of English language for administration, inter communication and higher learning resulted in two developments. English became the tool of administrative communication, the language of clerks, officials and technology.

But English was also employed by legislators and journalists and Indian scholars, who inherited the eloquence, the rhetoric of Victorian public speech and letters. English style of polemic and rhetoric took root in India and as they flourished took an oriental colouring.

Indian writers in English had to face serious problems to express Indian ethos, sensibility and socio-cultural aspects in a natural, effective and convincing manner. They could spontaneously and lucidly write in their native language because it was the language of their emotional make up and it abundantly provided apt expressions and idioms for the presentation of the multitudinous variety of Indian life.

How the Indian writers in English, now known as Indian English writers, nativize or decolonize English? What was the innovative technique they employed for the nativization or acculturation of English in order to make it an authentic medium for the veracious presentation of Indian sensibility and ethos. Indian English represents, says C.D. Narasimaiah, "the evolution of a distinct standard the body of which is correct English usage, but whose soul is Indian in colour, thought and imagery." The nativization of English, according to Brij B. Kalhru, "is the result of the acculturation of a Western language in the linguistically and culturally pluralistic context of the subcontinent." Nativization of English "is merely indicative of linguistic changes in a culturally and linguistically pluralistic language-contact situation." The nativized variety of English has been used by Indians to serve the typically Indian needs in distinct Indian contexts for over two hundred years. Raj Rao, the eminent Indian English novelist, once observed that "as long as we are Indian-that is not nationalists, but truly Indians of Indian psyche - we shall have the English language with us and amongst us, and not as guest or friend, but as one of our own, of our caste, our creed, our sect and of our tradition." Nativization is the result of the new-english linguistic and cultural setting in which English is used as a tool of communication. Niranjana Mohanty expresses his views on Indian English in the following lines :

I know that my English is not English
The music I seek in the words
Or in their premeditated silence is not English
It is half Orissan, half Indian
It gives me the flavour of watered rice,
The fragrance of plough shares and soil.

Raja Rao in the Foreword to Kanthapura writes :

One has to convey in a language that is not one's own the spirit that is one's own. One has to convey very shades and missions of a certain thought movement that looks maltreated in an alien language. I use the word alien, yet English is not really an alien language to me. 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 writing in our own language and in English. We cannot write like the English. We should not.

The cultural, social, economic background of India and the manners and habits of Indians are remarkably different from those of English men. Indianness or the typical Indian or national ethos can be naturally expressed in Indian languages and not in English or other foreign languages. The problem of linguistic alienation could be solved by the transference of mother tongue patterns into English. This process of the nativization has been achieved by the linguistic acculturation in Indian context.

Now English is no more an alien language in India. Indian writers employ it as smoothly and effortlessly for various purposes of communication and expression in the fields of literature, science, technology, industry, trade and commerce, public administration and international affairs. How could Indians, especially the creative writers, attain native ease and excellence in the use of English ? The Indian. writers in English adopted various

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linguistic innovations and devices to nativize English as Americans did to Americanize it or Africans did to Africanize it. What Chinua Achebe, a celebrated Nigerian novelist, says of the African writers applies equally to the Indian English.

It will have to be new. English in full
communication with, its ancestral home
but altered to suit African surroundings.

Our English has undoubtedly an indigenous flavour. Our imagery, symbols, idioms, diction and stylistic patterns have a typical Indian colouring. Indian writers have fashioned a distinct and colourful variety of English to serve their purpose. They have forged not only new words but also new syntactic structures, new idioms and new rhythms. They aimed at “consciously reorienting the language” and, says Mulkraj Anand, “synthesizing Indian and European values in contemporary India.” The Indianization or nativization of English implies a conscious creative experiment aimed at imparting a national identity to English. R. K. Narayan wrote :

We are all experimentalists. We are not attempting to write Anglo-Saxon English. The English language, through sheer resilience and mobility, is now undergoing a process of Indianization in the same manner as it adopted U.S. citizenship over a century ago. I cannot say whether the process of transmutation is to be viewed as an enrichment of the English language or a debasement of it.

Prof. P. E. Dustoor observed that “there will always be a more or less indigenous flavour about our English. In our imagery, in our choice of words, in the nuances of meaning we put into our words, we must be expected to be different from Englishmen and Americans alike”. The language recreated on this pattern would authentically express our national temperament and character. According to V-K. Gokak, those writers

Who are true to Indian thought and vision cannot escape the Indian flavour when they write in English. Their style is, in a great measure, conditioned by the learned vocabulary of the subject on which they write. Even when they write fiction, they depend, for their effect, on picturesque Indian phrases and their equivalents in English.

Indian writers have used native expressions and words in English structures in order to nativize English. This is termed the use of loan words from Hindi and other Indian languages. It is a common device in Indian English writing. It is used to express those aspects of Indian life, society and sensibility for which there is no apt and exact expression in English. The assimilation of such words does not affect the grammatical correctness of English language. Yule and Burnell point out :

Words of Indian origin have been insinuating themselves into English ever since the end of the reign of Elizabeth and the beginning of that of James.

Indian words have enriched the vocabulary of English and have been frequently used in literature from the seventeenth century down to our time. Indian social and cultural concepts, politics, trade, commerce, industry, administration, communication, clothes, utensils, cosmetics, eatables etc. have been abundantly used in English. Indira Chowdhury Sengupta remarks :

Over a period of time Indian English has acquired a distinct stock of new words and usages.

[Preface to the Indian English Supplement, Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary, U. U. P., 1996).

The aforementioned Supplement lists the most important of these words, phrases, usages etc. which have been grouped as follows:

1. Words from Indian languages that describe specifically Indian objects, plants, animals, customs, ideas etc.
2. Words current in British English, but used in different senses in India.
3. Words from Indian languages denoting things or ideas for which standard English words exist. Standard English words which have been adopted or shortened to convey a distinctly Indian flavour also belong to this group.
4. Usages and idioms peculiar to Indian English, though the words they contain exist in British and/or American English.

Loan words which abound in the works of Indian English writers are sari, dhoti, achkan, topee, khadi and dupatta, which are the common items of dress; /addu, barfi, jalebi, halwa, chutney, wada, idli, sambar, dosa, bonda aviyal represent food items; peepal, neem, tulsi, koel, ashoka, bailwa, mayur etc. represent flora and fauna. Words from Sanskrit and Hindi are used for philosophy, religion, fine arts etc. Puja, bhajan, arti, karma, shastra, purana, raga, vina express various manifestations of religion. Festivals and socio-cultural institutions are expressed through such words as Holi, Deepawali, Dashehra, brahmin, shudra, hookah, bidi, shikan, acharya, adalat, ahimsa etc. Raja Rao uses typical Indian contexts in Kanthapura in the deft use of words like Parvati, Swaraj, Khaddar, Damyant, Shakuntla, Yasoda, Harikatha, Mahatma etc. A large number of

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Indian loan words have been adopted in the latest edition of Oxford English Dictionary. "The main regional standards for the language of English are British, U.S., Canadian, Australian and Newzealand, South African, Indian, West Indian. The vast majority of words and senses listed in the dictionary are common", writes Judy Pearsall, "to all the major regional standard varieties of English, but where important local differences exist these are recorded." Thus, Indian English has been ungrudgingly accorded the status of the regional variety of English. Infusion of native cultural contexts into alien mode of linguistic expression conveyed through original native words and terms is a major linguistic device used for nativizing English.

The device of the formation of compound words and epithets is known as the formation of hybrid words or the hybridization of language. A hybridized or mixed formation comprises two lexical items, in which at least one is from an Indian language and one from English for example -lathi charge, kumkum mark, Gandhi cap, Brahaminism, policewala, Advaita philosophy, Babu English, Chukka jam, Chhota-sahib, Competition wala, Dandi March, jajmani system, vegetable wala. Raja Rao has created proper nouns by compounding words in Kanthapura as Comer House Moorthy (Moorthy who lives in the corner house), Nose Scratching Nagamma etc.

Indian English writers have also coined new words and phrases to express the exact sense or meaning of a typical Indian experience or phenomenon. This device is also known as- literal translation of Indian language items into English. It can be classified under the following heads :

1. It includes words from Indian languages with peculiar connotations derived from socio-cultural contexts. It amounts to the exact or partially equivalent word formation from a word in Hindi or any other Indian language. Such coinages and expressions abound in the works of Anand, Narayan, Raja Rao and almost all Indian English writers. Mention may be made of twice born for dui, spoiler of salt for namak haram, cow-dust for godhuli, saffronisation for bhagwakaran, hair cutting ceremony for mundan sanskar, brother-in-law, for sala etc.
2. Literal translations of swear words and abusive expressions are found in plenty in early novelists, especially in the novels of Anand. It contributes to the creation of local colour and the ribaldry of low characters. Expressions like You lover of your mother, son of a pig, eater of dung and drinker of urine, spoiler of my salt, rape mother, rape sister etc. are plentiful in the novels of Anand. In Raja Rao we have such phrases as son of a concubine, dung eating curs etc. R. K. Narayan is calm and subdued as does not use harsh abusive expressions. Expressions such as You son of a donkey, You effeminate boy etc. are rare in his novels.
3. Adaptations or shifts are often used in Indian English writing. In it no attempt is made to establish a formal equivalence but emphasis is laid on the communication of sense or meaning, for example : May the vessel of your life never float on the sea of life for tera bera garak ho, may the fires of your own consume you for bhatti mein jaa.
4. What distinguishes Indian English is the literal translation of idioms, proverbs and sayings; for example : Why do you eat my head ? for mera sir kyon kha rahe ho, rats were running about the belly for pet main chuhe dal rahe the, frogs in a well for kup manduk, playing with fire, for aag se khelna, Is this your father's house ? for kya yeh tumhara bap ka makan hai, as one hunts lice in a girl's hair for (ladki ke sir mein jun talashna) my right eye winks for meri dayin ankh phadakti hai, to clean one's vomit for apni ulti chatna. Such expressions are very common and they contribute much to the nativization of English.
5. Indian English writers have adapted conversational or discursal terms or expressions for nativizing their dialogues, as oh ! oh !, He-ho ! he-ho !, Ram, Ram.
6. Images and myths, which give an expression to the writer's individual experience and the collective consciousness, impart a feeling of Indianness in English. Images such as helpless as a calf, as good as kitchen ashes, like rats in a damp cavern, as loose as a tooth about to fall, like a shred of silver embroidery, like silt on the river bank, the woman raged inside like a smouldering fire, ears outstretched, fragile like a mouse etc. are some of the suggestive images transcreated in the works of Indian English writing.
7. Myths, defined as "a traditional story that embodies popular beliefs or explains a practice or a belief or a natural phenomenon" plays a significant role in the indigenization of English. Indian myths with all their multitudinous variety have been explored and used by eminent Indian English writers- Rabindranath Tagore, Dr. S\$. Radhakrishnan, Mahatma Gandhi, Jawahar Lal Nehru, Toru Dutt, Sri Aurobindo, Mulraj Anand, R. K. Narayan, Girish Karnad, Bhabani Bhattacharya, Salman

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Rushdie, Nissim Ezekiel, M. N. Sharma etc. The infusion of native cultural contexts into the alien mode of linguistic expression, which embraces philosophical and mythological overtones, has significantly contributed to the nativization of English. This device significantly changes the tone and temper of the language without affecting its grammar. The use of mythological contexts as Shiva and Parvati, Rama and Sita, Krishna and Radha, Durga, Saraswati etc. gives the impression of an Indian English dialect, based not on a new linguistic structure but on historical, social and cultural contexts.

Indian English writers often use quotations in original form in order to impart typical Indian flavour to their writings. Swami Vivekanand, Raja Rao, Mahatma Gandhi, Jawahar Lal Nehru and many other Indian English writers illustrate this aspect for domesticating English. Sometimes English renderings of quotations from Indian languages appear in Indian English writing, as in Mahatma Gandhi's *The Story of My Experiments with Truth*.

Indian writers have evolved a nativized mode of using certain English words, idioms expressions and usages in a peculiar manner. An Indian English speaker might say : "We're shifting to our new house next week", whereas a British speaker would say : "We're moving to our new house next week". In Indian English the word abstain means to stay away from duty or work, whereas in British English it is usually used with reference to alcohol or voting. In Indian English the word lady doctor is used for a woman who is by profession a doctor or a surgeon, while in British English there is no distinction between a male or a female doctor or surgeon. The following table illustrates the different meanings of certain words in British English and Indian English.

Conclusion

Indian English writers have innovated and nativized English both in vocabulary and construction patterns. The various linguistic and stylistic devices used by them for the indigenization of English have enabled them to write spontaneously, lucidly and clearly as if it were their own language and not an alien language. English is an international language, used in almost in all spheres of life, both at national and international level. It is the language of communication, business, science, technology, industry, medical science, politics, arts and literature, English has undergone total transformation in India, as it did in America, Australia, African countries and commonwealth nations. It bears the indelible stamp of the native genius and ethos of the respective country, In short, English has been nativized in all countries where it is spoken and used, except in England. English has assumed a new form, cultivated a new linguistic pattern and is suffused with typical Indian ethos and sensibility. Indian English writers have cultivated a new idiom, style and mode of expression in commensurate with the genius of India. It has enabled them to present a veracious and veritable picture of India and her people before the west. Indian English writers from Raja Rammohan Roy, to the present day have evolved various stylistic and linguistic patterns for nativizing English. Various cultural, philosophical, historical, political, religious and literary influences have facilitated the acculturation or nativization of English. The most outstanding achievement of Indian English writers is the creative adaptation of English to Indian needs and the assertion of an Indian identity by dealing with Indian issues in their own inimitable style.

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