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Exploring the Impact of Indian Writers on Indian English Literature

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Abstract

An honest endeavor to transmit the exceedingly rare treasures of Indian literature in English is the domain of Indian English literature. Indian English literature has had a remarkable upsurge in popularity and growth within the global literary scene in the post-colonial age, especially from the time preceding India's independence. In the world of literature, Indian English literature has established a unique and independent voice. Indian literature is a profound medium that enables the complex interweaving of the many facets of Indian culture, tradition, social ideals, and historical narratives. Indian literary works eloquently convey the essence of the country's collective identity by deftly capturing the complexities of life within India as well as the experiences of Indians living abroad. Indian fiction of the present day has made a sincere effort to describe and capture the complicated and challenging Indian experience of the modern day in all its facets.

Keywords: Indian English literature, global market, Indian culture, world literature, predicament.

In the years leading up to independence, when the nation was still governed by the British, a wide range of social and political events occurred. In addition, the country as a whole battled for independence from the oppressive British empire. Only a small number of well-known authors were actively producing works in English. Those writers were mostly focused on exposing societal unfairness and entrenched practices, even as they attempted to mobilize people for independence. There is no denying that the British used the English language for administration, education, and international trade. The English language had a significant impact on writers, leading to improvements in their writing skills and a significant increase in their creative capacity.

In 1930, a work depicting a classic Indian scenario was created by writers Raja Rao, Mulk Raj Anand, and R. K. Narayan. The effects of domestic abuse on women, social stratification, religious observances, and long-established cultural practices were the primary topics of their writings. Values of nationalism, patriotism, multiculturalism, and partition were strongly ingrained in the Indian people as a result of the numerous national crises and social turmoil that occurred in the years leading up to and after independence. Following independence, a new period was distinguished by liberalism, new ideas, and social and political issues. Sarojini Naidu, Rabindranath Tagore, Kamala Das, Salman Rushdie, Amitav Ghosh, Kiran Desai, Arundhati Roy, Chetan Bhagat, and many more have contributed to the English literary canon with their novels, poetry, short stories, dramas, and other works covering a diverse array of topics. More and more young Indian writers are dabbling with English-language literature at every developmental level.



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English is no longer reserved for royalty; it is spoken by the common people as well. For a large number of Indians, it eventually becomes their second language of choice. The colonial era provided ideal circumstances for Indian authors to acquire written and spoken English, allowing them to reach a level of competence and mastery in the language. Salman Rushdie, Robinton Mystry, G. V. Desai, and Vikram Chandra were among the Indian authors whose works showcased a wide range of subjects and diasporic perspectives. While sharing the experience of bridging civilizations, these writers strived to exceed the writing of European authors. As a result, the English literary canon now includes works by Indian authors, but in a disorganized fashion. There is, of course, no doubting the substantial impact that Indian authors have had on the English literary canon. Only a few of Indian writers have made it onto more than one award shortlist and have been selected for prestigious literary prizes like the Booker and Noble Prizes. Numerous Indian authors write in English, including Chetan Bhagat and R. K. Narayan. All of these authors have used English to depict Indian locations and experiences.

Professional fiction is among the most valuable contributions that English education has made to India, says M. K. Naik. Indian stories were unquestionably rich, but the modern book was carried over from the wastelands. Indian literature has had a substantial impact because to the inventive and prolific works written in English by Indian writers.

"Indian English literature" encompasses the works of Indian authors who have written in English, regardless of whether they have written in one of India's original languages or another. Twenty years ago, the early works of Sri Aurobindo, Rabindranath Tagore, R. K. Narayan, Raja Rao, Mulk Raj Anand, and K. S. Venkataramani marked the birth of Indian English literature. The works of Indian diaspora authors such as Kiran Desai, Salman Rushdie, Jhumpa Lahiri, Agha Shahid Ali, and V. K. Naipaul have also had an impact on modern Indian literature. Indo-Anglion literature is another name for this kind of writing; post-colonial literature is the more general term. Numerous authors, both male and female, from diverse origins and addressing a broad spectrum of topics compose post-colonial literature. Authors such as R. K. Narayan and Kamala Markndaya have choose to focus on social and psychological issues. "The Painter of Signs" and "A Handful of Rice," two of their works, dealt with the most fundamental and earthy aspects of life, respectively. Writers from the India Diaspora have had a profound impact on the growth of Indian writing in English, and their newfound worldviews have informed modern Indian fiction published in English. With its newfound international and worldwide prominence, Indian English literature has expanded its fictional themes and given rise to a unique literary tradition. Many authors have left indelible marks on literature in the previous many years thanks to their widely



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read works. Indo-English fiction authors over the last several decades have shied away from depictions of traditional Indian culture and background in favor of a multicultural lens through which to examine contemporary global challenges. V. S. Naipaul's new style of expression and expansion of thematic emphasis made him a deserving recipient of the prestigious Noble Prize. They prioritize projecting an image of modernity and globalism and shun discussions of locality. The idea that they can only ever portray the epistemic reality experienced by the impoverished and the socially excluded in their artwork is completely false. The fact that Indian writers dealt with societal difficulties, the fight for independence, and personal matters in their works only contributed to bolster this trend. The immense impact that Indian writers, especially novelists, have had on the world of literature is truly remarkable. Along the way, every author has polished their writing abilities and become more fluent in English. Writers' works now focus more on sociopolitical topics than on traditional aesthetics or old religion, and a straightforward narrative of India's independence has honed their skills to capture the national spirit that drives the populace. The independence struggle had a significant effect on writers. Diasporic writing, migration, diversity, social realism, gender concerns, and the east-west conflict were among the literary movements that evolved in the years following independence, which were in turn influenced by the 1947 Partition.

Rising levels of self-awareness are associated with the increasing use of English among India's middle and upper classes. Furthermore, people may now find acceptable outlets for their expression through writers who employ the English language to tell stories. Indian literature written in English has garnered praise from readers throughout the world. Both the themes and the characters in these priceless works of art were uniquely Indian.

Mask of Conquest: literally Studies and British Rule in India (1990) by Gauri Vishwanath examined the concept and practice of English studies in British India, sparking arguments on its social and cultural goals. The book debuted in 1990.

Contribution of Great Indian Writers to English Literature

Pre independence period (1900-1947)- There weren't many Indian authors working at this time. Their writing delves deeply into sociopolitical issues, long-standing traditions, culture, patriotism, nationalism, and rural origins. The depiction of social prejudice and the misery of individuals who were oppressed was done by them.



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Sri Aurobindo is the first Indian-English poet to accurately retell the story. Famous works like "The Human Cycle" and "The Ideal of Human Society," are based on humanistic ideas, life philosophy, and spiritual outlook on the future.

Rabindranath Tagore (1861-1941) is a prolific poet and playwright who has written in both Bengali and English. A modernist poet, he is noted for his work. He did not adhere to the strict framework of classical forms. A number of his novels, including "Ghare, Baire, Jogajog, and Gora," are among his most notable works. These books are centered on societal concerns, including nationalism, religious fanaticism, the enslavement of women, and the bondage of tradition and custom. His work demonstrates compassion for those who are less fortunate and upholds fundamental human values. The musical plays 'Valmiki Pratibha' and 'Raktakaravi' were respectively written by Tagore. Both 'Home and the World' and 'The Wreck' were written by him.

K. S. Venkataramani (1892-1952) is another writer from the pre-independence era who was inspired by Gandhian principles and his Indo-Anglian ancestry. In addition to books, he also creates short tales. Murugan, The Tiller (1927) and Kandan, The Patriot (1934) are the two novels he has written. Jatadharan and other tales is the title of his book of short stories as well. In his works, he describes Gandhi's followers living in a small, prosperous community that values morality and the arts.

Bhabani Bhattacharya (1906-1998) a writer who was active before to independence. His writings combine numerous facets of historical and social realities with an optimistic view on life. Through his work, we are exposed to the painful and brutal realities of society, which include, among other things, the tragedies of the liberation struggle and the partition, as well as the ills of poverty, corruption, illiteracy, superstition, exploitation, and greed. His sixth novel, which explores spiritual questing and is set in both India and on Hawaii Island in the United States, is set in India. His first five works are set against the backdrop of Indian civilization. "So Many Hungers" (1947), "Music for Mohini" (1952), "He Who Rides Tiger" (1955), "The Goddesses Named Gold" (1960), "Shadow from Ladakh" (1966), and "A Dream of Hawaii" (1978) are just a few of the novels he published.



Post independent period (1950-2000)

Over this period of time, India has achieved significant strides in the fields of science and technology, as well as economic development. To reiterate, the book is an excellent resource for identifying and conveying our time. In the years following independence, fresh literature blossomed thanks to the efforts of Mulk Raj Anand and Raja Rao, who advocated for the traditional form. Books were written in Indian English by them, and they made contributions to the canon of literature.

At the same time, Indian literature in English, regardless of the genre, became extremely popular all over the world. The authors Salman Rushdie, Amitav Ghosh, Vikram Seth, Arundhati Roy, Anita Nair, and Jhumpa Lahiri are becoming increasingly well-known in contemporary India respectively. Through the process of decolonization, they were able to completely portray Indian philosophy and sensibility.

Mulk Raj Anand (1905-2004). Inequalities in society and the struggles of the underprivileged are the subjects of his works. This author is well known for his works "Untouchable," "Coolie," and "The Village and the Private Life of an Indian Princess," all of which show the evil that exists in society. He portrays the protagonists of his books as heroes in the society in which they live.

R. K. Narayan (1906-2001) is yet another the most renowned author in the history of Indian English literature. Malgudi, a fictional village located in southern India, serves as the setting for the events and incidents that are depicted in his work. The books "The Bachelor of Arts," "Painter of Sign," "Swami and Friends," "The English Teacher," "Waiting for Mahatma," "The Guide," and "The Sweet Vendor" are among the most well-known literature that he has written. In order to create a vivid representation of people, he employs sardonic humor.

Raja Rao (1908-2006). Philosophical and metaphysical ideas are intertwined throughout his writings. He plays the character of Savitri in "The Serpent and the Rope," which is one of his works that illustrates the effects of spousal abuse on women who see themselves as being less ambitious. His narration covers both modern life and the deeply ingrained dogma of Hinduism. There are a few of his well-known works that were inspired by Gandhian activities and brought attention to the Gandhi-Irwin alliance. These novels include "The Cat and the Shakespeare," "Comrade," "Kirillov," and "Kanthapura."



Post-Colonial Period

The sudden emergence of creative writing raises awareness about diversity and describes the new India that emerged after colonial rule, with its evolved perspective that is a fusion of modernity and tradition. Indian authors have achieved a prominent place among all other writers on worldwide levels as a result of their employment of revolutionary storytelling method, which displays the global vision of the new generation, which strikes a balance between traditional values and other cultures.

Salman Rushdie (1947) Bombay is where he was born and raised, and he later moved to England to fulfill his academic studies. Myth, symbolism, and theme are all abundant in his works of fiction. The novel 'The Midnight's Children' disrupted the established order of Indian literature written in English. When he writes books, he employs a method that is both highly unique and quite original. The works of Salman Rushdie are characterized by their extraordinary abilities in terms of imagination, comedic sense, and absolute language.

Vikram Seth (1952) 'A Suitable Boy' is author of the work. The author, Seth, sheds light on the social atmosphere of India after it gained its independence in this work. One of the most appealing aspects of his story is the way in which it portrays the social landscape of India, which includes the academic circle, the political arena, and the cultural circle.

In addition, female authors have brought forth a significant amount of change. Unique perspectives on Indian and global society are provided by female authors such as Divya Kumari Banerjee, Sarojini Naidu, Kamala Das, and Bharti Mukharjee, amongst others. They are concerned about the past bondage that hindered the advancement of women. There is a mention of disease in Jhumpa Lahiri's novel "Interpreter of Maladies." The book "The Inheritance of Loss" written by Kiran Desai is an enthralling account of indigenous Indian history and culture. They are immoral in themselves. They assert that they have authority over human life and affairs. The books written by Nayantara Sagal, Shobha De, Manju Kapoor, Namita Ghokhale, Geeta Hariharan, and Shashi Deshpande are able to effectively communicate the experiences of women and the feminist ideas that they hold.

G. V. Desai's Regarding the Hater, Amitav Ghosh's The Circle of Reason, Kiran Nagarkar's Ravan and Eldie, Tabish Kher's An Angels in Pyjamas, Ruken Advani's Beat Hoven among Cows, Mukul Keshwan's Looking through Glass, Vikram Chandra's Red Earth and Pouring Rain, and Chetan Bhagat's White Elephants are among many Indian novels and novelists Shashi Tharoor's The Great Indian Novel, Boman Desai's The Memory of



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Elephants, and Ranjit Lal's *The Crow Chronicals* are all significant. These narrators' contributions to Indian English writing have helped incorporate Indian identity into English literature.

Conclusion

Before India gained its independence, Sri Aurobindo, together with three of India's most renowned authors—Mulk Raj Anand, R. K. Narayan, Raja Rao, and Rabindranath Tagore—worked to advocate for the publication of Indian literature in the English language. By gaining a knowledge of its development, we may be better able to comprehend the expansion and dissemination of Indian literature written in English after the country gained its freedom. Following the country's attainment of independence, authors have employed novel storytelling styles in order to portray the vibrancy of the diaspora as well as the intricate network of cross-cultural relationships. As a result of shifting perspectives, authors are increasingly employing the cosmopolitan topic in order to demonstrate how personal awareness manifests itself as a result of societal oppression. Because there are so many Indian writers, the vast body of Indian literature written in English has profited from this richness. Indian authors have had a significant impact on writing all around the world, therefore establishing their distinct position in the canon of worldwide literature. The expression of Indian sentiment from a contemporary point of view has been accomplished by renowned pre- and post-colonial writers. It has been demonstrated that authors like as Salman Rushdie, Kamala Markhandyaya, Amitav Ghosh, Shobha De, Anita Desai, and Chetan Bhagat have successfully portrayed Indian culture through the prism of contemporary culture. Authors who worked before India gained its independence include R. K. Narayan, K. S. Venkantaramani, and Bhabhani Bhattacharya. The authors in question have endeavored to enhance the global perceptions of India via the creative works of Indian descent that they have produced.



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