

English Literature "It's Growth and Development in India"

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ARTICLE DETAILS

Article History

Published Online: 19 June 2018

Keywords

Importance of English Language,
Teaching of Language, Responsibility of
teacher's, SPSS

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ABSTRACT

English Language is actively playing a dominating role in today's world as a global village. English is educated from fifth standard to twelfth standard. Due to the fact Hindi language is the medium of teaching for all government schools; English actually is among the subjects to be taught. The present study aims to approach the growth and development of Indian English literature. The method is to begin with from the purpose of examine teachers who will be teaching English and also the method is secondly from the purpose of examine students who are learning English as being a subject at Upper Secondary School level. The main task of the study is to obtain data related to independent variables such as the aims of ELT for teaching English which is functioning to satisfy the desired goals of English language teaching

The intention of the existing research is to examine, critically, the actual situation of English language teaching. It's an attempt for evaluation of English language teaching programs in general, its effectiveness, its weak points and how it can attain the aspirations of English language teaching course.

1. Introduction

Development of Indian English Literature in India gathered momentum with the consolidation of British imperialism in India. There is a variety of opinion about the first definitive Indian text in English, although critics agree that Indian literature in English dates back to at least the early nineteenth century. Its beginnings receive their impetus from three sources - the British government's educational reforms, the work of missionaries, and the reception of English language and literature by upper-class Indians. First, there are the educational reforms called for by both the Charter Act of 1813 and the 1835 English Education Act of William Bentinck. In an effort to redress some of the greedy practices of the British East India Company servants, the English Parliament approved the Charter Act, which made England responsible for the educational improvement of the natives. The subsequent English Education Act, prompted by Macaulay's famous minute on Indian education, made English the medium of Indian education and English literature a disciplinary subject in Indian educational institutions.

It may be noted here that even before Bentinck's 1835 English Education Act, instruction in English existed in Indian colleges. In the early 1800s, English was taught side by side with Oriental studies, its teaching marked by the sort of classical approach taken to Latin and Greek in British colleges. However, with the withdrawal of funds to Oriental studies, the secular character of such instruction was to give way to an increasingly Christian inflection. Missionary activity, the second aspect contributing to the origin of Indian literature in English, profited directly from this shift in emphasis. The 1813 Charter Act had opened India to the missionaries, but it posed no serious threat to the Orientalists. With the passing of the 1835 English Education Act, Orientalism received its most severe blow, and, most satisfyingly to the missionaries, English emerged as the sole bearer of morality. However, above and beyond the

educational reforms and the missionary activities, it was the vested interests on part of the higher class Indians to receive the benefits arising out of English education that assured the place of English language and literature in the stream of Indian education. Hence, the third impetus to the beginnings of Indian writing in English would have to engage this reception. All of this is to suggest that the reception of English in India, or the third impetus to early Indian writing in English, needs to be understood as radical and history-changing, yet subject to mixed-feelings, negotiation and rebellious appropriation on the part of Indians themselves. Thus the development of English Literature in India was a result of the inter-mingling of the social codes of the British and the Indians. There was a definite change in the mindset of the people as well a greater reception of English language in the country which prompted many writers to take up English as the medium of instruction and expression, and thus English literature gradually developed.

2. Growth of Indian English Literature

English, the language of international status, is especially remarkable for its flexible and variable character. It is not tied down to typical English conventions and social, cultural and literary background in various countries when it is read and spoken. It, on the other hand, has come under the dominant influence of the cultural and social background of the countries concerned. The geographical, climatic, social and cultural conditions prevalent in a country have determined the character of written and spoken English. Now-a-days English is not of the English men alone. It has become the cultural and literary heritage of mankind. The Americans have done a lot to transform English idiom and modes of expressions and have successfully adjusted it to the expression of their national character and temperament. Hence, the English of an American is different from that of an English man. Similarly the English of African, Australian and Arab countries is cautioned by national

denominations. Hence we have seen the Black consciousness movement in English Literature written by Negroes. They are keenly alive to the racial and colour discriminations and have made English, a suitable medium to air their grievances and the evils of apartheid.

In India, too, English has been moulded and transformed to express the diverse phases of Indian Cultural, Social and Literary background. It has been used to express spontaneously and powerfully the varying shades of emotions, thoughts and feelings typical to Indian character. Therefore, the English of an Indian writer is not the English of an English writer. The pronunciation of English in India has been greatly in India has been greatly affected by her geography and climate. The Indian writers have invented new methods of expression to communicate the typical Indian background. We, therefore, have Indian English and Indo-Anglian Literature. The term 'Indo-Anglian' is used to denote original literary creation in the English language by Indians. The term 'Indo-Anglian' is first used as early as in 1833 when a book published in Calcutta bore the title 'Indo-Anglian Literature' which contained specimen compositions from native students. After publication of two admirable books by K. R. Srinivasa Iyengar, the term 'Indo-Anglian' has not only acquired wide currency but has come to stay as a familiar and accepted term which is applied to Indian Contribution to literature in English. This Indo-Anglian literature came into existence soon after Macaulay introduced English education in 1835. This literature was motivated by political, economic and cultural factors. First it was pleasure to write in English. It was imitative; it soon became assimilative and

adoptive. The terms, "Indo-Anglian", "Indo-English" "Indian Writings in English" are all synonymous and the flowering of Indian English Literature is the direct result of formal English education in India.

3. Writers of Indian English Literature

India boasts of a rich literary history dating from the ancient times. The Hindu sage and Sanskrit poet Valmiki, the author of the epic 'Ramayana', played a crucial role in the development of Classical Sanskrit literature in the first millennium BCE. Over the next few centuries, accomplished writers in several other regional languages came up, further enriching Indian literature. The 5th century playwright Kalidasa is widely regarded as the greatest poet and dramatist in the Sanskrit language, while 15th century poets Kabir and Tulsidas were major figures in Hindi literature. Devaki Nandan Khatri, a 19th century writer belonged to the first generation of popular novelists in the modern Hindi language. Early in the 20th century, Bengali poet Rabindranath Tagore became India's first Nobel laureate. India has 22 officially recognized languages, and each language has produced its own talented writers who have done the country proud. Coming to the contemporary era, Indian writers are making a mark in not only traditional Indian languages, but in English literature as well. Writers like R. K. Narayan, Vikram Seth, Salman Rushdie, Arundhati Roy, Raja Rao, and Amitav Ghosh are among the more popular writers of the late 20th and early 21st century. Read on to discover about the life and works of famous Indian writers.

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