



Difference of English Language Accent and Mother Tongue Influence in North and South States of India

¹Dr Pamila Nema, ²Ms Supriya Gupta

¹Assistant Professor Shri Vaishnav Vidyapeeth Vishwavidyalaya, ²Student Alumnus,
¹Department of Humanities Shri Vaishnav Institute of Social Sciences Humanities and Arts,
¹ Shri Vaishnav Vidyapeeth Vishwavidyalaya, Indore, M.P.India

Abstract: English language has become an inseparable part of India and had established as the official language of India along with Hindi. English language studies introduced in India with the arrival of British Empire who came to India in the early 1600s, and brought their religion, culture and language along with them. Thomas Babington Macaulay, also known as Lord Macaulay, introduced English education and modern school system to India. In the initial years, English was not officially established, it was only taught to the local population. By 1700, English was established as a language of administration and as a means of social advancement in India. By 1857, various universities had opened in Bombay, Calcutta and Madras for teaching English was increasingly accepted by the population of India as a language of government, of the social elite, and of the national press. Even after getting Independence, English remained part of India. The English spoken by Indians is British English but when English was introduced in India, the Indians formed a new variety of English which came to be known as Indian.

India is a diverse, multiethnic, multicultural, and multilingual country. In India, because of diversity there are varieties in spoken languages. Each language has different dialects and different accents by the people of different religions or cultures. There are varieties of dialect and accent in India. English language spoken by different cultures gets influenced by the dialects, accents, and colloquial language of that particular culture. Although, some differences can be seen in the English-speaking accent of different cultures in India, but we can see a vast difference in the English accent of North Indian and South Indian states. The difference which we can see in the English-speaking Accent of North Indian and South Indian states are due to their regional differences, their differences in dialects, in cultures and in their colloquial languages.

The paper is an attempt to determine the importance of English language acquisition in India with certain differences. The research paper uses qualitative analysis method. It attempts to analyze the learning process of English language in North Indian and South Indian states. It will also investigate the difference of English accent in North Indian and South Indian states.

Keywords: Dialect, Culture, Accent, North India, South India

Introduction

English has become a language of governance, business, and education because of the British Colonial legacy. The Constitution of India allows English, along with Hindi, to be used in Parliament for business purposes. Even though Hindi has official government support and is widely used as a lingua franca in India, there was significant opposition to its usage in the southern states, as a result, English became the de facto lingua franca in much of the country. Because English is the most spoken language on the planet, it has become a crucial tool for advancing in the corporate world.

Having a great command of the language may provide everyone with a wealth of chances. Many people opt to study English merely to improve their employment prospects or to converse more effectively with people from all over the world. Its learning aids in the formation of international contracts between countries around the world. Its learning paves the way for Indians to find work not just in India but also in other nations. It serves as the common language of Indians, bringing individuals from all throughout the country closer together. A man from the far North can only communicate with a man from the far South of India through the medium of English. In India, it is a language of commerce and industry.

It is also the official language of almost half of the nation and is spoken by majority of people worldwide. It is the world's most widely spoken second language. Another benefit of learning English is that it will allow an individual to gain access to more information, as nowadays, the Internet provides an expanding amount of information, on which the majority of material or content is written in English, making it far more apparent.

This study is an exploration of the cultural difference between North Indian and South Indian states. It also explores the Preference of English Language among North Indian and South Indian people and the variation in their accents. It also aims to recognize the language difference in North India and South India. Mother tongue of North India. Indo-Aryan languages are the Indo-European language family's easternmost branch. Nearly a billion people speak to them in India, Nepal, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and in some more other parts. There are nearly 219 existing Indo-Aryan languages. There is also a large Indo-Aryan diaspora in the United States, the United Kingdom, South Africa etc. Most academics believe that the ancient homeland of Indo-Aryan speakers was an area situated in the northwest of the Indian subcontinent bounded on the east by the Caspian Sea and on the north by Afghanistan. They travelled south and east from there sometime in the second millennium BC. The history of Indo-Aryan languages has gone through various stages, Sanskrit is the liturgical language of Hinduism, Buddhism, and Jainism, and it is represented by old Indo-Aryan languages. The oldest Middle Indo-Aryan languages, which date back to the 3rd century BC, were utilized for literary, philosophical, and religious works. APABHRAMSA (meaning 'corrupt, non-standard') dialects employed for literary purposes before the 6th century AD contain the most sophisticated levels of Middle Indo-Aryan. All Middle Indo-Aryan variations can be included under the label Prakrit, which means 'natural, ordinary,' and refers to spoken vernaculars as opposed to Sanskrit, which means 'excellently created.' 'Current Indo-Aryan languages include most of India's modern languages. They appear in several literary documents dating back to the 12th century. (Kogan p.143)

Due to extensive lexical similarities, most major Indo-Aryan languages constitute a spectrum of regional variations, many of which are mutually intelligible. On purely linguistic criteria, determining whether any of them are dialects of one language or separate languages is often challenging. The Indo-Aryan languages have been impacted by the presence of Dravidian and Austro-Asiatic languages in India and Pakistan.

Mother Tongue of South India

One of the world's largest language families is the Dravidian language family. Linguists generally assume that the Dravidian language family is unconnected to any other language family. In southern India, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, and Nepal, 73 languages are spoken by about 222 million people. Dravidian languages, particularly Tamil, have expanded to Burma, Mauritius, Indonesia, Trinidad, and other countries because of commerce and emigration. Brahui is the only Dravidian language spoken wholly outside of India, with approximately two million people speaking it in Pakistan and 200,000 in Afghanistan. In the year 1816, the Dravidian language family was acknowledged as a separate entity. Dravidian languages predominate in the Indian southern region, whereas Indo-Aryan languages predominate in the northern regions. Dravidian languages are supposed to have originated on the Indian subcontinent and expanded throughout the country. Aryan invasions from the north

introduced the Indo-Aryan languages. They pushed speakers of the ancient Dravidian languages from the north to the south of India.

Four of India's 22 official languages and 14 regional languages are Tamil, Malayalam, Telugu, and Kannada. Administration, education, industry, and the media all use them. All four have a large number of written materials. All four have adapted to the social, political, technological, and economic developments that happened in India over the twentieth century. (Krishnamurti p.1-43)

DIFFERENCE OF ENGLISH ACCENT IN NORTH INDIA AND SOUTH INDIA

Accent

An accent is a way of pronouncing words that is unique to a person, place, area, or country, according to sociolinguistics. Accents are merely one component of a dialect. Accent is just how one pronounces words whereas a dialect encompasses not only pronunciations but also grammar and vocabulary. Accents are formed in different regions with different cultures, history, and identities, all of which influence a person's spoken accent. Both dialect and accent vary within a language, and both are mostly determined by geography.

Dialect

A dialect is a subset of a language spoken in a specific region or by a specific group of people. A dialect is distinct from a language's standard variant. Variations in grammar, vocabulary, and pronunciation define a dialect. A person's dialect can also reflect their region, education, social background, and occupation.

Pronunciation

PRONUNCIATION is more about articulating and speaking a language. Language is described as a technique of communicating ideas through articulate sounds. Only by correctly pronouncing a word can the listener comprehend its meaning.

Accent and Dialect

An accent is a distinctive method of pronouncing words that is unique to a certain region or country. It refers to differences in pronunciation and is a component of dialect. It is linked to a person's region, social status, and socioeconomic background. Dialect, on the other side, is a subset of a language spoken in a specific region or by a specific group of people. Variations in syntax, grammar, vocabulary, and pronunciation characterise it. A dialect is a language variation. Most dialects are linked to geographical location.

Accent and Pronunciation

Accent and pronunciation are two distinct terms and have different meanings. An accent is a distinctive method of speaking a language, especially one which is associated with a specific country, social class, or locality. The stress or emphasis that must be placed on a letter in a certain word is also referred to as accent. Pronunciation, on the other side, is the manner in which a word should be expressed for greater understanding. Pronunciation is all about articulation, while accent is all about intonation. Just because an individual has a different accent doesn't mean that they are speaking a language incorrectly. However, an individual is speaking a language incorrectly, if he/she is not pronouncing the term as it should be pronounced.

Language and Dialect

Language is an organised and conventional means of human communication. It is the use of words in an ordered and customary manner, whether spoken or written. Spoken language and written language are the two basic types of language. Languages belonging to the same family are frequently incomprehensible to one another. Dialect is a type of language that is unique to a particular place or social group. Standard dialects and non-standard dialects are the two primary types of dialects. Dialects of the same language are frequently understandable to one another.

Received Pronunciation

Received Pronunciation, abbreviated as RP, was historically regarded as a prestigious variety of British English spoken without a distinct regional dialect. Also called as British Received Pronunciation, Queen's English, BBC English, etc. It is well-known and frequently used in second language learning as a model for teaching English, as well as the foundation for British English pronunciation instructions in dictionaries. (Nordquist)

Impact of Mother Tongue on Second Language Learning

English speakers tend to use their mother tongue's tone and phonetics in their English speaking. The mother tongue has an influence on all Indians who speak English as a second or third language. They have a trace and accent of their native tongue in the way they speak English. Indian English has produced a number of dialects that are distinct from the General/Standard Indian English that educators have worked to construct and institutionalise, and a person's sociolinguistic background can be distinguished from the dialect they use. These dialects are impacted by the various languages spoken alongside English in different parts of the country. The phonology of dialects can vary significantly to the point where two people speaking two different dialects may find each other's accents incomprehensible. (Delbio p.497-498)

Varieties of English

The English language is spoken all over the world. It is spoken by around 1.5 billion or 2 billion people worldwide. Since the English language has a long history in India, it is no wonder that many variations of the language have emerged. There are numerous dialects of English spoken around the world. British English, which is spoken in the United Kingdom, is the oldest variation of English. Another popular English variant is American English. Indian English is another important variant of English language.

British English:

British English is the standard dialect of English used in the United Kingdom. It is a standard English dialect that is spoken and written with the British linguistic style. Many countries around the world, such as South Africa, Cyprus, and others, adhere to it because of the impact of colonization.

American English:

The set of variations of the English language native to the United States is known as American English, which is often known as United States English or U.S. English. English is the most widely used language in the United States, and is the de facto common language in government, commerce, and education in the vast majority of cases. American English has become the most dominant variety of English across the world since the twentieth century. Indian English: Indian English is a mix of British and American English with Indian flavours, with its own syntax, vocabulary, and other features spoken with Indian diaspora throughout India.

Indian English Accent

In the accent of Indian English, the melody of a person's speech, the location of emphasis within words, and the placement of stress within sentences may differ from both British and American English. Furthermore, speakers with Indian accents produce some consonant sounds differently. For instance, in "th" sounds (e.g. "then"), Indian accented speakers tend to hold their breath, making the "th" heard as "t" or a "d." And the sounds "v" and "w" are frequently interchanged, making "vine" sound like "wine". Furthermore, some speakers curve their lips back to generate sounds like "t," "d," and "l," giving these sounds a different quality than in American or British English. There are also various changes in the way vowel sounds are produced by speakers with Indian accents. (Grishechko p.3-5)

In Indian English, the letter "r" is articulated with heavy stress at the conclusion of the word, whereas in British English, it is not. As a result of this minor shift in the language's phonological feature, the pronunciation has changed, and the audibility has improved, attracting a large number of people and a country to British English. Indian English refers to English speech or writing that reflects India's languages and culture. One of

the earliest regional variants of English is Indian English. It is a collection of English dialects spoken in India and by Indians living abroad. The Indian government communicates in English as well as Hindi, which is mandated by the Constitution. English is the official language of seven states and five union territories, with another seven states and one union territory using it as a second language. Unless a state governor or legislature requires the use of a regional language, or the president has given authorization for the use of regional languages in courts, English is the single official language of the Indian judiciary. The Supreme Court of India and all of India's high courts are required to use English, as declared by the Indian Constitution. Due to special presidential sanction, Hindi is used in courts in Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, and Rajasthan, as allowed by the Constitution.

Indian English, in general, has fewer differences in vowel sounds than consonants, especially. When spoken by native speakers of languages such as Hindi, with the vowel phoneme system sharing certain parallels with that of English. Some North Indians, often have a non-rhotic accent. For example:

Flower is pronounced /flaʊ.ə/.

Never is pronounced /nevə/

Water is pronounced /wɔ:tə/ etc.

While the South Indians, have a rhotic accent, in which the /ə/ sound is pronounced /a/, and

The alveolar tap [ɾ] is pronounced /r/, for example:

Water is pronounced as /wɔ:tar/.

Never is pronounced as /nevar/.

Unlike Received Pronunciation (RP), Indian English speakers cannot clearly distinguish between /ɒ/ sound and /ɔ:/ sound, for example in the word 'cot' and 'caught'. The trap–bath split of Received Pronunciation affects terms like staff, and last (/sta:f/ and /la:st/ correspondingly) in the majority of Indians. In Indian English, the trap–bath split is common, but it varies widely. This divide does not exist among many younger Indians who read and listen to American English. In Indian English, the voiceless plosives /p/, /t/, and /k/ are never aspirated, but they are aspirated in word-initial or stressed syllables in Received Pronunciation, General American, and most other English accents. In Indian English, "pin" is pronounced [pɪn], although in most other dialects it is pronounced [p^hɪn]. The same trouble is with, voiceless postalveolar affricate /tʃ/. Instead of aspirated plosives, fricatives like "f" and "th" are used. The Indian English's alveolar closure /d/ and /t/ are frequently used as retroflexed [d], [t], notably in India's south regions. There are two separate sets of coronal plosives in Indian languages: one dental and the other retroflex. The usage of retroflex consonants is a typical element of Indian English, and native speakers of Indian languages prefer to pronounce the English alveolar plosives as more retroflex than dental. All the English's alveolar plosives are transcribed as their retroflex counterparts in Hindi's Devanagari script.

In Hindi, retroflexes are generally pronounced as apical post-alveolar plosives, with a propensity to descend to the alveolar region in some cases. As a result, most Hindi speakers are unable to discern between their own apical post-alveolar plosives and English alveolar plosives. True retroflex plosives exist in languages like Tamil, where the tongue is curled upwards and rearward at the roof of the mouth during articulation. Also, the /s/ before the alveolar /t/ to allophonically transform to [ʃ] (/stɒp/ → /ʃtɒp/) in areas of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. Indian speakers occasionally interchange /s/ and /z/, especially when plurals are created, unlike speakers of other varieties of English, who use:

[s] for making plurals of words ending in a voiceless consonant,

[z] for words ending in a voiced consonant or vowel, and

[ɪz] is used words ending in a fricative consonant.

Indian English spelling practises often follow the British way, for example, using litre, travelling, practise (as a verb), etc. Rather than the American style.

Conclusion:

In India's linguistically diverse contexts, English is frequently used as a bridging language amongst individuals of various dialects. Many educated Indians speak English as their first language. Thus, in the current setting, English play a critical or important role in bringing people from various regional languages together for a deeper interchange of India's social, educational, and administrative networks.

There are many emerged varieties of English accent and dialect throughout the world. The common three dialects of English are British English, American English and Indian English. Indian English has its origin in India and is the widely recognized language in the world. Indian English is distinct from British English in many ways as it has its own distinct grammatical rules. As India is a large country, almost every part of India has a distinct English accent which makes it more apparent. It has become the place which encompasses a variety of English accents. The English accent spoken in North India, gets influenced by their mother-tongues or regional languages. Likewise, the English accent spoken in South India, has extensive influence of their mother-tongues or regional languages.

This creates a difference in the English accent of both the states and also other parts of the country. Indian English also has a "network of variations" originating from the country's extremely complicated linguistic situations. This network includes both regional and occupational English dialects. Malayali English, Maharashtrian English, Bengali English, Telugu English, Hindi English, and Punjabi English are some of the more well-known dialects. The overall aim of language is to ease the communication process and to convey complete message with its correct meaning from an individual to another individual or group. If this purpose of language takes place completely, then the variation of accent between two individuals or others does not matter and does not make any difference. The variation of accent makes a difference when a person goes abroad for any purpose, there, they face issues due to their variation in accent from the ones who are the native speakers of that. Country. Indian English is an acquired language with some variations from British English. It is a way of communicating with each other for Indians. Indians understand Indian English, so the variation of accent doesn't make a difference in their complete transfer of message or information or communication.

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