



THE JOURNEY OF THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE FOR SUSTAINABLE GROWTH IN INDIA

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Abstract: This paper elucidates how the language of English traveled from England to India when Queen Elizabeth-I granted a Royal Charter on 30th December 1600, to 'The Governor and Company of Merchants of London, known as The East India Company', which paved the way to have trade with India.

With time the British traders started involving in the politics of India & acted as agents of British imperialism. To run the administration, of such a country of vast diversity where different religions, languages, dialects, and cultures co-exist, was not easy. The biggest problem the British faced was communication, where the British did not know Hindi, on the other hand, we Indians did not know English. Thus this communication issue led to create an educated class in India by introducing Western education in English medium to support the British for the smooth running of trade as well as administration to control India. The English language has become very essential in today's world. English is the language of international communication. Speaking in English means, living with the current pace of the world. Its need can be discerned in every administration, bureaucracy, education, science, technology, judiciary, trade, commerce & overall communication, which is a symbol of status for educated youth. The future of India lies in the hands of its youth. The youth of India can accomplish the mission of 'Atam Nirbhar Bharat' if they are well equipped with a round development program to stand in this competitive world where the English language can contribute to some extent. This article focuses on the positive influence of the English language on the sustainable growth of India since its introduction by the British.

Index Terms – communication, administration, agents, politics, paved.

1. INTRODUCTION

Language is one of the greatest elements that play a significant role in serving the purpose of sustainable development worldwide. "Sustainable development is a development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs." [WCED1987]

It mainly comprises the economic, environmental, & social areas. The United Nations World Summit [2005] calls for an equal degree of approach, planning, & implementation in all these domains. Here English language helps to develop human skills to reach out to such development at national and international levels. By

introducing various schemes our government is trying to develop different areas – education, sanitization, water, employment, housing, poverty, nutrition, medicines, child care, etc. to attain the goal of sustainable growth in India.

2. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Considering the objective, the study in hand evaluates different research papers and books. Qualitative and Descriptive research methods have been utilized to collect non-numerical data regarding the English language journey in India. The above-mentioned method includes gathering information in the form of texts, audio, videos, etc. to have an in-depth understanding of the impacts of the mentioned topic. The results achieved from this practice are descriptive which makes it easier to conclude from the information gathered. The information gathered from different sites, research papers, journals, books, etc is mentioned in the list of references.

3. HISTORICAL BACKGROUND –THE PURPOSE OF INTRODUCING ENGLISH IN INDIA

The English language was introduced in India in the 17th century when English people came to our country as traders. Gradually, the British established their trading posts in India which happened to be the first ever contact between English and the Indian languages. At the time of the British arrival in India, our education system was comprised of pathshalas, elementary schools, and madrasas. The education imparted in these places did not have a fixed syllabus. The British were not contented with political and economic control over India. They wanted to produce a class of educated Indians for their benefit, who could assist them in their administrative work. The Charter Act of 1813 was the first concrete step towards modern education. It made East India responsible for education in India with a provision of the amount of one lakh rupees to promote education in India. The decision to reform the Indian Education System created two groups - Orientalists and Anglicists. Orientalists (William Jones, Henry Thomas Colebrooke, and Nathaniel Brassey Halhed) argued in favor of the traditional education system whereas Anglicists (James Mill and Thomas Babington Macaulay along with Raja Ram Mohan Roy) supported the promotion of Western education in India through the medium of English. Lord Macaulay's Minute introduced by Lord Macaulay resolved the conflict in favor of the Anglicists by introducing the English language in India; The Christian Missionaries also insisted on the promotion of education in India through the English medium of instruction. Learning English became mandatory for Indians who aspired to acquire higher jobs and positions. Learning English was limited to some rich and influenced people of India who rose to power and position. Thus English language contributes to the colonial legacy.

4. IMPACT OF MACAULAY MINUTES

The British introduced educational reforms to create an educated class of Indians who would help them in day-to-day administrative functions. Lord Macaulay, brought English language & British education to India by submitting a memorandum on Feb,2,1835, known as Macaulay Minutes. Based on this memorandum, the English Education Act was introduced in 1835 to cater to higher education through the English medium.

The main points of Macaulay Minutes –

- 1 . To promote European literature & science among Indians & all governments. funds would be spent on English Education alone.
- 2 . No funds of government were to be spent on the printing of oriental works.
- 3 . The illustration of oriental learning to be used for the promotion of English education.
- 4 . To create an educated class to assist the British in their trade & administrative work.

Lord Macaulay wanted to create a class that was, "Indians in blood and color, but English in taste, in opinions, in morals and intellect.". It was also announced in 1844 that Indians who were educated in English medium would get government jobs. The desire to get government jobs led to English medium schools gaining prominence. This way the British were far-sighted to plan to rule over India with the support of Indians. Even after the British rule was over in the middle of the 20th century, the English language remained in use in India.

Macaulay's Minute- Merits:

- The English language played a significant role in India's freedom movement.
- Macaulay Minutes paved the way for the modern educational system.
- It presented a change from the traditional education system to a structured contemporary educational system.
- It opened a doorway to international literature which contributed to creating new literary genres & writing skills among Indians.

5. THE ROLE OF THE PRINTING PRESS AND ENGLISH NEWSPAPERS DURING COLONIAL INDIA

By the middle of the 19th century, the British had a firm control over India. Newspapers, journals, pamphlets in different languages, etc were printed in India. The first initiative to set up a printing press was taken by William Bolts in 1768 in Calcutta. But the first regular English newspaper, entitled 'The Bengal Gazette' or 'The Calcutta General Advertiser' was started by James Augustus Hickey in 1780, but its publication was ceased by The East India Company in 1782 for criticizing British policies. Then followed in quick succession, 'Indian Gazette', 'Calcutta Gazette', 'The Bengal Journal', 'The Oriental Magazine', 'The Calcutta Chronicle', 'Madras Gazette', 'The Indian Herald', 'Bombay Courier', etc. Gradually these newspapers, journals, and pamphlets became very important sources of mass communication throughout the country to achieve the common goal of freedom. Many Indian leaders like Ram Mohan Roy, Mahatma Gandhi, etc. used these newspapers to spread patriotism among the masses of India. Mahatma Gandhi himself started newspapers like- Indian Opinion, Young India, Nav Jeevan, and Harijan, Devendra Nath also started, 'Indian Mirror Newspaper', Hindustan Times by Madan Mohan Malviya. Leaders started sharing their views and ideas to support the Indian Struggle for Independence. Newspapers in the British period brought the Indian masses together to exchange their views, ideas, and strategies to achieve freedom. Therefore, common people used to read about the nationalist activities and different national Movements led by various freedom fighters across the country through newspapers by freedom fighters. Presently top 10 English newspapers are published in India- The Times Of India, Hindustan Times, Indian Express, The Statesman, The Telegraph, The Hindu, Deccan Chronicle, Free Press Journal, The Asian Age, Deccan Herald. Thus the journey of English newspapers began in the colonial period.

The newspaper is the most important part of our lives to know more about our country and the world. Reading English newspapers develops our English vocabulary, communication skills, writing skills, reading skills, etc. to update ourselves with current affairs, world events, politics, historical facts research, discoveries, etc.

6. VIEWS OF GREAT INDIAN PERSONALITIES ON THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE

Raja Ram Mohan Roy believed that English language education was superior to the traditional Indian education system. He started many schools to educate Indians in

western scientific education through the medium of English, In 1822, he founded a school based on English education, In 1825, he established Vedanta College where courses in both Indian learning and Western social and physical sciences were offered.

Dr. B.R. Ambedkar advocated for English to remain the medium of teaching in Indian colleges and universities at any cost on July 3, 1953. Dr. Ambedkar: "I think no other language in India including Hindi can be used instead of English in schools and colleges" was a comment he made during an interview at Aurangabad.

Rabindranath Tagore tried to combine elements of Western education with the best of Indian traditions of education.

Swami Vivekananda thinks that the mother tongue is the right medium for social or mass education, he prescribes the learning of English and Sanskrit also. He said that English is necessary for mastering Western science and technology. He was in favor of English to modernize Indian society.

English, as **Gandhi ji** felt, is not an easy language to learn for the masses who are more conversant and familiar with their mother- tongue. Mahatma Gandhi was of the strong opinion that the medium of teaching has to be in Indian languages, though superficially English language did find someplace in the communication process. Gandhiji approved the English language as a language of International commerce and diplomacy, he discerned

the fact that it has ‘usurped the dearest place in our hearts and dethroned our Mother Tongues’ (Young India, 1921)

Rajeev Ranjan, an Indian Educationist said, “English language is the pathway of global communication and global access for getting relevant knowledge.”(Rajeev)

7. PROVISION OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE IN THE CONSTITUTION OF INDIA

“Part XVII of the Constitution deals with the official language under which, Article 343 specifies that the official language of the Union shall be Hindi in Devanagari script along with the international form of the Indian numerals. But, notwithstanding this, English will continue to be used for all official purposes of the Union for fifteen years from the commencement of the Constitution that is till 25th January 1965. Further, the President has the power to authorize the use of the Hindi language in addition to the English language for the official purposes of the Union. Provided that the parliament may by law provide for the continuing use of the English language after fifteen years, which was added through an amendment in 1967, for the purposes specified by law. English and Hindi both languages continue to be used today, in combination with other (at the central level and in some states) official languages.”

8. IMPACT OF THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE ON INDIAN LITERATURE

Steadily English started gaining popularity in India and from the language of the classy and elites it started spreading to all sections of the society. English as a language has highly influenced **the literature of India**. The history of Indian Writing in English already started during the British Raj in India. Indian authors have influenced readers from all walks of life at national as well as international levels and will continue to do so. Indian English Literature has occupied a reputed place in world literature, rich in varieties of themes from freedom struggle to contemporary issues. Thus English language has had an enormous impact on the attitude of readers and writers in India.

Indian Author's Contributions To The World Of English Literature: From the British era till date

Toru Dutt [1856-1877], an Indian Bengali poet from British India, was the first Indian feminist to write in French and English. Her famous works –Sita, Our Casuarina Tree, A Sheaf Gleaned in French Fields, Ancient Ballads and Legends of Hindustan, etc. made her famous. She is a great source of inspiration for today’s writers.

Sarojini Naidu [1879-1949] was an Indian political activist, feminist and poet. who reflected her patriotic sentiments in her literary works and inspired many freedom fighters. She was graced with the title of “The Nightingale of India” by Mahatma Gandhi for her imagery & lyrical quality in her poetry.

Rabindranath Tagore [1861-1941], the most prolific Bengali poet of all time, became the first Asian to be bestowed with a Nobel Prize in 1913 for his ‘Gitanjali’. The Gardener, Fruit- Gathering, The Fugitive, Raja, The Home & the World, etc. Many of his Bengali works were translated into English.

Mulk Raj Anand [1905- 2004] He is one of the Pioneers of Anglo- Indian fiction works. His famous work – Untouchable, Coolie, Two leaves and a bud, The Village, The Big Heart, The Road, Morning Face, etc. The list of his works is endless.

R.K. Narayan [1906-2001] He is best known for his novels especially Swami and Friends, based on the fictitious town Malgudi., The English Teacher, The vendor of sweets, The Grandmother’s tales, The Guide, etc. He is undoubtedly the best Indian writer. He won the Sahitya Akademi Award [1960], Padam Bhushan [1964], and AC Benson Medal from the British Royal Society of Literature. He brought great name and fame to the country.

Ruskin Bond [1934], an Indian writer of British descent, is known for his signature simplistic, emotional & witty writing skills. He is the author of several bestselling short stories, novellas, essays, and collections exclusively for children. He won the prestigious John Llewellyn Rhys Prize for his first novel, The Room on the Roof. He is also graced with the Sahitya Academy Award [1992], Padam Shree [1999] & Padam Bhushan [2014] for his contribution to Children’s Literature. He is known for his famous works – The Room on the Roof, The Angry River, The Blue Umbrella, etc.

Sudha Murty[1951] is an author, a great educator, entrepreneur, and philanthropist. She authored - The Mother I Never Knew, The Bird with Golden Wings, How I taught my grandmother to read, Dollar Bahu, etc. She has been graced with Padam Shri [2006], Crossword Book Award [2018], Padam Bhushan,[2023] & many other prestigious awards for her remarkable contribution to the English literary world.

Chetan Bhagat, Anita Desai, Khushwat Singh, Arundhati Roy, Vikram Seth, Amitav Ghosh Anita Nair, & others. The soil of India is rich with great writers whose contribution to the literary world, cannot be ignored. Many other young Indian writers are coming forward with their literary works in English. This is the result of the great impact of English on Indians' minds & thoughts.

9. ENGLISH IN THE PRESENT EDUCATION SYSTEM

The number of English-medium school students in India increased from over 15 million in 2008–09 to 29 million by 2013–14.^[15] [Wikipedia]. This shows English medium schools are gaining popularity in rural as well as in urban areas of India. Our government has also introduced English in syllabi right from primary education. English is taught as a compulsory subject in all schools across India. Parents of young children, really want them to get the best education in English medium schools as they believe English can open multiple doors of career opportunities for them. The English language is important for higher studies as almost all books are available in English language only. Most of the pioneer publishing companies are publishing books in English. The terminology and vocabulary in any field like medicine, science, technology, space, etc. are available in the English language. All competitive exams for higher studies like IIT-JEE Mains, NEET AIIMS, INDIAN NAVY, etc. are in the English language in India.

10. ENGLISH IN THE PRESENT SCENARIO

English is the language, which is spoken and understood throughout India by educated people who want to grow and excel in their respective fields. India is already known worldwide for its diversity where different cultures, and religions. regional languages

and dialects co-exist together and the introduction of English in India has been proven a boon that opens the doors of the world to compete with the world in every field. The English language has left a great impression on Western culture in India which in turn shaped their living standard, their thinking, their clothing style and their overall outlook. Knowledge of English is regarded as a matter of prestige. English is currently the language of the internet. An estimated 565 million people use the internet every day and 52% of the world's most visited websites are displayed in English. From the young to the old, literate to illiterate, rich to poor, research scholars, scientists, geologists, medical practitioners and others benefit from the Internet. It is rightly said English is the language of international communication, the media and the internet. Indian aspirants who dream of going abroad for jobs or studies must also know English. Getting admission to foreign universities is tough for those who lack communication skills. Since English is a globally accepted language, students must have proficiency in verbal and written English to apply and get selected in their dream institute to achieve success in life.

The **EF English Proficiency Index (EF EPI)**, the product of EF Education First, is an international education company to ranks countries based on English language skills by conducting an online survey. It has some parameters to measure the level of English proficiency in the world..Eg.- 550 -600 stands for very high proficiency, 500-549 stands for moderate, and 499 downwards stands for low proficiency. India's position worldwide is 516 which comes under the category of moderate Proficiency.

India ranks 50 out of 100 countries in the 2021 EF English Proficiency Index published by EF Education First.

11. BENEFITS OF LEARNING THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE

- To develop communication skills.
- To widen the scope of employment in India and abroad.
- To explore the literary world of any country.

- To help increase cognitive ability.
- To build one's confidence.
- To increase career prospects
- To open the doors for further higher studies in foreign countries.
- To handle any software programs for different purposes.
- To represent India on an International platform.
- To strengthen writing skills.
- To travel abroad easily and confidently.

12. GLOBAL LANGUAGE

Today no country can retain existence without the cooperation of other countries. English has been given the status of official language by UNO Today the leaders of different countries meet and exchange their thoughts on various Platforms like UN, WHO, WTO, OECD, SAARC, etc. These International Platforms play an important role in forging a path towards better lives for all living existence globally by implementing various policies. The representatives of different countries communicate in English on these platforms. India cannot be isolated from the rest of the world if it wants to develop itself as a great power in the world. English is the only medium of communication on an international level. Although English is not the most spoken language in the world, it is the official language in 53 countries and is spoken as the first language by around 400 million people worldwide. It is also the most common second language in the world. According to the British Council, by 2020 about two million people in the world were found studying in English. English is the only language that brings people from different parts of the world closer to each other. The most popular media is in English. Facebook, WhatsApp, Computers, Internet are primarily in English. It is one of the world's business languages which is understood by many countries. Many research journals are presented in the same language.

13. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

English language gives us an open door to the world and helps to communicate with global citizens. At present English is an integral part of the Indian Education system. At present every educated person in India has a passion & zeal for the English language. As parents, they all want their children to get admitted to English medium schools to have fluency and command of the English language. As a result, India has undertaken the gigantic task of rapidly developing its economy and becoming a powerful country. This article is not at all against the importance of Hindi. Hindi is our national language. We respect Hindi just like we respect our mother. India is a land of diversity with diverse languages. Practically, a person can't learn every language of the country, So English serves as the bridge between people with different languages. Learning and speaking English, doesn't mean losing our identity and culture. We rather add one more language, one more additional culture, and thus one new identity to present our India to the world. It is not wrong to say that many Indian children find it difficult to read, write, and speak in English. The reason is simple, they don't get an English learning environment at home, so right from an early stage the habit of reading should be inculcated in a child to speak, learn, read, and write in English to compete with the world. Here English trained teachers and well-educated parents can help such children use easy and effective tools to develop an interest in them to learn English. The best methods to teach English are narrating short stories with pictures and images

, through audio & visual videos, children's movies, books, comics, short debates, etc. Now some online courses are also available to learn the English language. This article presents the common views about the journey of English and its contribution & importance in the present growth and progress of our country.

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