

Indian Society's Reaction to English Novels

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ABSTRACT

The written word provides a significant window into the lives of humans, allowing for relationships to be made via the expression of common feelings and desires. In the same way that it has the power to uncover the fundamental characteristics of society via critical reflection, it also plays a key role in the creation of societal norms and values. Literature's influence on contemporary society is incontestable; it serves as a medium through which individuals may express themselves and provides a mirror through which we can gain a deeper understanding of the world in which we live. It depicts humanity and promotes mutual understanding by offering a variety of points of view. Literature maintains the crucial discourse within society, so establishing talks that bridge the gap between individualism and collective understanding. This is particularly important in an era that is characterized by a growing alienation from direct human connection. Throughout this article, the dual function that literature plays in shaping and reflecting societal structures is investigated, with a particular focus on the literature's enduring significance in the development of empathy and collective awareness.

Key Words: Literature & Impact Factor with Reaction

Introduction

The majority of books that were produced during the time of colonialism were created to extol the heroic conquests of Europeans. As time went on, throughout the twentieth century, a few of them did, in fact, demonstrate the more negative aspects of colonial occupation. It was not until the 19th century that the book became well-known in India. There were a lot of Indian writers who attempted to translate English literature, but in the end, they found that they did not love doing so. It was in poetry that great epics were penned. A society's ideals, both positive and negative, are reflected in its literature. By reflecting the negative ideals, it compels us to make amends and find solutions to the problems. As a mirror of the positive values that are prevalent in society, it inspires us to model ourselves after them. A picture of what people believe, say, and do in society is often presented in literature, and this is done as a kind of reflection. The newer generations are profoundly influenced by literature, and it would be beneficial for them to get an understanding of the mistakes that their predecessors made and the ways in which they may correct those mistakes.

The development of political systems and the formation of civilizations were both influenced by literature. Therefore, bearing all of this in mind, we need to take action to ensure that young children are required to read works of literature since they are the future of our nation. The Significance of Authors Writing in English Across the whole Earth, the language that is spoken the most often is English. There are over 400 million people who are able to communicate with it, in addition to its cherished position as the most prestigious first language in the whole world. The beginning that is being discussed is not the honorable nature of the English language or the global expansion of the English language; rather, the current inquiries are the reason why it is being considered that it can further centralize the writing of the English language of decent story readers who continue to develop empathy for a wide variety of people across a variety of societies and eras. For Indian writers who write in English, the road has been a long one, starting with their modest beginnings in the middle of the nineteenth century and continuing up to the current day, when they have achieved worldwide acclaim. Up until this point, the club is doing quite well. Some of the writers who have been longlisted for the Booker Award and other award winners, like Anita Desai, Rohinton Mistry, Mohsin Hamid, Mohammed Hanif, Neel Mukherjee, Indra Sinha, Jeet

Thayil, Mirza Waheed, and Kamila Shamsie, amongst others, are destined to achieve even greater success in the future. All eyes are on their next products and services.

Historical Context

Colonial Era: Introduction and Adaptation

In India, the earliest works of English literature were written when the country was under the dominion of the British colonial government. When English education was originally introduced, persons like Thomas Babington Macaulay were intended to be responsible for the creation of a class of Anglicized Indians who were capable of assisting in administrative obligations. This class was expected to be established via the introduction of English education. The introduction of English novels into the school curriculum afforded Indian readers the opportunity to get acquainted with the literary traditions and philosophical viewpoints of the Western world.

Post-Colonial Transition

Following the nation's attainment of independence, the purpose of English books transformed. From the very beginning of their writing careers, Indian authors began to communicate their experiences, struggles, and aspirations via the medium of English as a literary medium. Authors such as R.K. Narayan, Mulk Raj Anand, and Raja Rao were among the pioneers of the Indian English novel, which incorporated the mixing of Western narrative techniques with Indian topics. Raja Rao was perhaps the most influential of these authors. The works of these people had a significant impact on the construction of post-colonial identity and consciousness since they provided a voice to persons who had been colonized and played a critical role in the process.

Influence on Indian Literary Culture

Bridging Cultures

Novels published in English have succeeded in bridging the gap between Eastern and Western literary traditions. This has been accomplished via the use of novels. Authors from India who write in English often include elements of the native narrative style, topics, and characters in their works. This leads to the development of a hybrid literary style that is

attractive to audiences from India as well as audiences from other nations at the same time. This interaction between different cultures has resulted in the expansion of the Indian literary canon, which has grown more diverse and inclusive as a consequence of this interaction.

Literary Innovation and Experimentation

Because of their exposure to English literature, Indian writers have been inspired to experiment with new literary approaches and originality. This has been a consequence of their interest in English literature. As a consequence of the narrative styles, subject variety, and character development that can be found in Western literature, Indian writers have been inspired to explore new genres and methods of telling stories. This has, in turn, driven them to explore new ways of telling stories. Literary styles such as Indian magical realism, post-modernism, and diasporic literature are only a few examples of the many literary styles that have arisen as a direct consequence of this occurrence.

Sociocultural Impact

Shaping Modern Indian Thought

There is a significant degree of influence that novels written in English have had on the concepts and philosophy that are prevalent in modern India. Indian readers have been motivated to participate in self-reflection and critical thinking as a result of the themes of individualism, self-exploration, and existentialism that can be found in Western literature. These themes have struck a chord with Indian readers. Not only has this served to contribute to the development of a society that is more progressive, but it has also helped to produce a more open-minded society.

Addressing Social Issues

Indian authors have published a substantial number of works in English that have addressed fundamental societal issues such as discrimination based on caste, inequality between the sexes, and poverty. Indian authors have written these books. A number of books, like "The God of Small Things" by Arundhati Roy and "The White Tiger" by Aravind Adiga, have been responsible for bringing these issues to the attention of people all around the world. In addition to this, these works have contributed to the development of a global discourse and have fostered societal reform.

Global Integration

India has been able to more easily integrate itself into the global literary community as a result of the widespread popularity of Indian novels written in English. The writings of Indian authors have been translated into a number of other languages, and they have received significant honors from foreign organizations. Indian literature has been raised as a result of this global recognition, which has also helped to a wider understanding and respect of Indian culture all over the world.

Literature Review

Research on a certain topic from the past is summarized in a literature review. Reading scholarly articles, books, and other resources relevant to a given area of study is essential for any literature review. The review should begin with an inventory, description, summary, objective evaluation, and clarification of the prior study. In addition to helping you define the scope of your research, it should provide a theoretical foundation for your study. The literature review acknowledges the efforts of previous researchers, which shows the reader that you have thought about this topic thoroughly. It is assumed that when an author cites previous work in a field, they have really read, evaluated, and integrated that work into their work. According to Mr. LK Advani's analysis of the relevant literature, This was no ordinary tragedy. On both sides of the hastily drawn partition lines in India, riots broke out during the partition, killing almost one million people. This number included Muslims, Sikhs, and Hindus. The British activity of defining the boundaries was marked by haste and indiscriminacy. However, it also led to the biggest human migration in history. More than 10 million people were compelled to leave their homes and seek refuge abroad in only six months...Even before the division, there was trouble. The inhumane manner in which it was executed, however, made it much worse, and the terrible memories it evoked will haunt them for a very long time.

A crisis of values and a marked increase in disillusionment occurred during this time, Khushwant Singh. Everything he had ever believed in crumbled before his eyes. He continues by saying, "The ideals that I had loved my whole life were broken," describing the internal struggle and pain he is going through. The goodness that people innately possess was something I believed in when I was younger. Regardless, the horrific slaughter that followed

India's division was unparalleled in recorded history. I used to think that Indians were peaceful, nonviolent people who cared more about spiritual matters than material possessions because that was my perception when I was younger. After what happened in the autumn of 1947, I could no longer maintain this position. Over the years, I evolved into a bitter middle-aged man who yearned for an outlet for his inner misery. We settled on me trying my hand at writing.

It would appear that the human condition is comprised of two incompatible parts: literature and politics. The general public often perceives politics as being both irrelevant and repulsive. Thomas Mann admits in *Kultur und Politik* that "being apolitical is nothing less than being simply antidemocratic" (56), a fact that, unfortunately, many people face. He concedes "...that what is political and social is an indivisible part of what is human and enters into the one problem of humanism, into which our intellect must include it. That in this problem, a dangerous hiatus destructive of culture may manifest itself if we ignore the political, social elements inherent to it."The "shoulders" of AnkimIt may have been easier for these female writers to portray the new issues and developments that have happened in Indian literature. This is because a language that has been globalized serves as the medium via which Indian literature is transmitted. The new fiction is largely written by people of the Indian diaspora, as was the case before. Because they reside in the West and speak English practically as a first language, they have been fully exposed to important modern literary movements like Post-Modernism and different storytelling techniques like magic realism. This directly impacts their capacity to offer fresh viewpoints on literature. The most prosperous among them, nevertheless, have significant ties to India even now, which helps them keep in touch with parts of both the West and India. A large number of authors began to focus their writings on the plight of people from lower castes. Several of the writings highlighted the problems that come from a marriage between two people of different castes. People from lower castes have achieved literary greatness; one such person is the Keralan Potheri Kunjambu. Numerous communities were granted a voice in literature through books.

Impact & Reaction in Society to English Novels

A person may learn about Earth's past from the people who came before them through literature, which allows them to travel across time. As a result, we may learn more about different cultures and appreciate them more fully. We learn about the past by the various

ways that it has been documented whether in written form or through the act of speaking. Indian English writing flourished in the 1930s, thanks in large part to writers like Raja Rao, R. K. Narayan, and Mulk Raj Anand. On top of that, there are connections to the works of some Indian diaspora members who went on to write in English. Indo-English literature is the common name for it in the literary community.

"One Night@Call Center," Chetan Bhagat's second novel, follows a group of contact center employees as they experience a miraculous encounter with God. Everyone from Shyam and Priyanka to Vrom and Esha and Radhika and Military Uncle are all seen as coworkers while they're at a contact center. The protagonists in this novel undergo a remarkable transformation as they listen to a divine summons in the middle of the night. One of the distinguishing features of this book is how the characters use this mobility to reflect on their lives. Why Writers in English Are Crucial English is the most widely spoken language in the world. It has a communication range of more than 400 million people, besides the fact that French is often considered the most esteemed first language on the planet. The ethical character of the English language and its worldwide spread are not the starting points here; rather, the present questions are the driving forces behind its continued consideration as a tool for fostering the development of decent story readers with empathy for diverse human experiences across different periods and societies.

Mulk Raj Anand dove headfirst into the freedom struggle while peddling the Anglo-Indian book, all the while trying to shed light on the inhumanity of Indian poverty and social injustice. Anand shows how the Hindu caste system works in *Untouchable* and how it would disappear if everyone had equal rights. A superb and comprehensive depiction of the Indian war for liberty under the leadership of Gandhi, *Kanthapura* was written in the 1930s by Raja Rao, widely regarded as one of the most interesting modern Indian authors writing in English. Later works by Rao provide credence to the theory that he was a political novelist, as most Indian writers (apart from Narayan) were outspokenly political (and nationalist) before WWII. As a nation, India was undergoing a period of rediscovery and striving for self-realization in the epic novel *Kanthapura*.

In *Kanthapura*, the peasants and Gandhi's "satyagraha" are on opposite sides of the struggle. The tyrannical British government, environment, and history all play a role in their fight. Shortly after finishing his first book, Raja Rao moved on to publish works with even loftier

Indian themes (Rao 163). R. K. Narayan did not participate in politics. However, he did write about Indian people and placed them in a mythical land called "Malgudi." The characters and their reactions to the nationalist movements in real-life India are the subject of his fictional works like *Waiting for the Mahatma*.

Whatever their situation may be living in our country, overseas, or bouncing between the two Indian English authors write about the nation and society for the benefit of a double audience. They write about society and the country so that everyone can benefit. While we were a colony, our people read much British literature; now, our writers are well-known all over the world. In several works, the main characters journey to different nations while the tale is going on, not only in India. This does double duty: it establishes our national identity and clarifies it for those from other nations.

Fiction writers in the decades after 1980 solidified what was an early attempt to write the "nation" in *Kanthapura*. *Kanthapura* was the site of this effort. Our literary heroes, from Salman Rushdie to Kiran Desai, have gone a great way in helping us define ourselves as a nation. The Man Booker Prize helped foster national identities in literature throughout the world by recognizing works by a variety of writers, such as Arundhati Roy, Kiran Desai, Arvind Adiga, and Salman Rushdie. Many contemporary writers have provided straightforward definitions of the terms "nation" and "national," such as Amitav Ghosh, Vikram Seth, Vikram Chandra, Anita Desai, and Amit Chaudhuri.

It would be foolish to ignore the correlation between society and art, as art is fundamentally a social phenomenon. There are three main reasons why art is important: first, because artists are social beings whose experiences shape their work. Second, because art always serves as a bridge between artists and society at large. Third, art influences people; it either reinforces or undermines their ideas, goals, and values. Lastly, art is a social force with emotional and ideological weight, which can shake or move people. When a true work of art deeply moves a person, they are never the same.

Ambedkar was the first major Dalit leader of the modern era, and his teachings inspired Dalit authors in Maharashtra and elsewhere to begin tearing down the foundations of Indian ideology. Following in the footsteps of the Marathi poet Namdev Dhasal, who also scorched the foundations of Caste Society in his scathing poetry, these poets have not only challenged

the same society to rebirth but also punished it. Freshly, the autobiographical genre was given new life by incorporating Dalit sensibilities into several languages. The respectable society was shocked by even the most basic description of their existence.

Conclusion

Since the beginning of time, when humans began to modify and utilize language as a means of communication, literature has been an essential component of society. The reader is transported from their world into the world of the author via the medium of literature. When you read a work of literature that resonates with you on a personal level, it gives you the impression that you are not alone and that someone else has gone through what you are going through. Reading literature may also help readers develop empathy and theory of mind, which is the ability to understand the thoughts and feelings of other people. This is accomplished by enabling readers to put themselves in the shoes of fictitious characters. In addition, literature, when seen from a realist point of view, contributes to the process of social transformation by illuminating the realities of society. When you think about it, it forces individuals to think outside of their typical box. Literature has the power to bring together individuals from a variety of diverse cultures, backgrounds, and ways of life.

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