

PROBLEMS OF CREATIVE WRITING IN ENGLISH IN INDIA

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Abstract:

English language in India is the result of the colonial encounter of British in India. Since then, English in India has been used to serve different purposes. Apart from other purposes, Indian intellectuals have been studying English language for over a century and a half. However, during present times the initial status of English has been completely changed as the language has entered into the new and complex fabric of Indian culture and ethos. However, there are certain problems of creative writing in English in India.

Key words: *Writing, Creative writing, English, English in India.*

The arrival of English Language in India goes back to the 19th century; the first three decades of 19th century are known as the decades of arrival of English language in India; which, strengthened during later years. The Minutes on Education by Macaulay in 1835 established strong background for establishment of English in India. Macaulay dreamt and believed in complete Anglicization of India and equated the process of Anglicization with civilization. Macaulay's dream of mental and intellectual Anglicization resulted in a new national, political and cultural consciousness among people. The process encouraged the quest for the true meaning of the Indian experience of history in reaction to the West. It is all accepted fact that the East-West encounter left permanent impression on Indian Cultural and linguistic history. The contact of Indian people with English language led to writing of creative literature too apart from its status as the language of official use. The language for the purpose of education and which earned the livelihood by securing a government job transformed to the Indian intelligentsia and men (also women) of letters who had sufficient mastery over the language to think differently. They tried their hand at poetry, prose and fiction. It was a unique combination: The Indian litterateurs describing their environs and social milieu in a strange language that belonged to a faraway land. Since then Indian writers have come all the way and excelled themselves at global level; however, it should be accepted that Indian writers, as Raja Rao states, *Indian cannot write like British and they should not... ..English is language of Intellectual make up not emotional make up.* (Preface to *Kantapura*) Meenakshi Mukherjee also brings forth the fact of English in India at the twice born language. Thus, Indians face problems in the process of creative writing in English.

Creative writing normally refers to the production of texts which have an aesthetic rather than a purely informative, instrumental or pragmatic purpose. English in India is not a Mother language; it is learn and acquired labouriously from different sources that is SLRW sources. Thus, English language in India marks certain peculiarities related to influence of Mother tongue. Second language status of English is a burden for the students of English medium students in India. Thus, some of the marked problems in creative writing in English in India may be located as follows:

1. Suitability and Adaptability of English as medium for the Indian writers is the problem of writing in English. English as an International language prompts authors to write in English; however, it is believe that Indian consciousness may be better expressed only through Indian languages. The draft written by Indian author lacks emotional and intellectual life and there is absence of mutual nourishment between writer and society.

2. The population in India is multicultural and multilingual; different ethnic groups use different dialects; English is not used by most of Indians, it leads to the argument that who is the target group and reader of the creative writing written in English in India; Indian masses who do not understand English properly or foreign readers who do not share cultural connotation with India.
3. The early creative writing in English marks certain drawback related to the practice of translating *Verbatim*. It carries regional vocabulary leading to machine translation distorting complete meaning of original term. Ellis Vunderwood charges Indian English with the term as *Baboo English*. (*Indian Writers and Indian Characters*.)
4. Most of the authors wrote in English; they have been popular in the West; however, they have been charged frequently for creating and projecting distorted image of India abroad.
5. Indian writers in English face problems of giving artistic expression to the effect of economic changes and industrialization on the community, the class structure, etc. However, this problem has been overcome by the recent authors from India. Early Indian and even late Indian writers just projected poverty, social evils in India creating poor image of the nation.
6. The characterization of Indian writers in English suffer mostly from the flaw that the characters are stereotype rather than round which is too conventional.
7. Indian authors have always been charged for their bias for imitation of foreign models rather than creative attempts.

Recent developments in the various fields have led to emerging new societies as there is large migration and displacement which has created new vocabulary and technological expectations. However, Dilip Chitre's statement 'if you are writing in English, you are paraya (outsider)' enjoys limited status in India as the number of masses using English is gradually increasing.

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