

THE JOURNEY OF INDIAN WORDS TO OXFORD ENGLISH DICTIONARY

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Abstract:

It would not be any wonder if the British Prime Minister is found saying, "Britain needs some jugaad to end the terrorists' dadagiri," as the Hindi words 'Jugaad' and 'dadagiri' are now a part of English vocabulary as recorded in the Oxford English Dictionary. Linguistically speaking, the four centuries of British connection has, no doubt, enriched the wide varieties of Indian languages through the borrowing of hundreds of English words. Even the semi-literate and illiterate Indian users now use many of the English words so naturally in their own typical Indian ways with awful pronunciations that their use of English even sounds like a real threat to the original English language. Not surprisingly, Indian languages have also left an indelible mark on the English language. The present trend of globalization and India's upward movement in the global power matrix has made the great Linguist David Crystal predict that in future we will all be using Hinglish. The recent addition of seventy words to the already existing nine hundred Indian words to the English vocabulary, identified as distinctive to Indian English, endorses his prediction. But, quite importantly, this also shows the invaluable contribution of former colonies in the shaping of English as a world language. The present paper tries to look into the criteria that decide an Indian word's inclusion in The Oxford English Dictionary)

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The process of entry of words of Indian origin into the English language dates to the beginning of 17th century. As the authors, Henry Yule and A.C. Burnell in the very opening lines of their 'Introductory Remarks' to their classic work *Hobson-Jobson: The Anglo-Indian Dictionary* (1886: xv) records:

Words of Indian origin have been insinuating themselves into English ever since the end of the reign of Elizabeth and the beginning of that of King James, when such terms as *calico*, *chintz*, and *gingham* had already effected a lodgment in English warehouse and shops, and were lying in wait for entrance into English literature.

For the Europeans, India has always been a fascinating land of mysteries and miracles. Their fascination for the people with their multicultural, multilingual existence has resulted in the inclusion of number Indian words in their languages. The English invaders came to India with a view to ruling and settling here permanently. With this psychological make-up, they started using Indian words to establish a sort of 'ruler-and-ruled' solidarity. Thus, by the year 1800 words like "*rajah, curry, Brahman, bungalow, coolie, pundit, juggernaut, jute, toddy, jungle, chaukidar, verandah*, etcetera had entered English ..." (Krishnaswamy and Krishnaswamy: 2006:169).

By way of citing one or two examples we may mention here that the word 'verandah' in word never occurred in English before the British invaded India. The concept of a 'verandah' never existed in England as it was not necessary to have one because of its cold climate. But in India every house needs a 'verandah' to beat the heat and to enjoy cool breeze. Likewise, the word 'jungle' enters the English language sometime in the 18th century via Hindi from Sanskrit 'jān-gala'. It was used by English colonizers in India to refer to a place which is 'rough and arid terrain'. Lists of such Indian words which have become parts of English vocabulary during British India are given below:

Bandana: The English dictionary, lent the word 'Bandana' from two Hindi words: 'bāndhnū,' means tie-dyeing, and 'bāndhnā, means to tie. In the 18th and 19th centuries bandanas were frequently known as *Bandannoesas*, which means bright colored handkerchiefs of silk and cotton.

Pyjama, denoting loose fitting sleeping clothes worn by early European settlers, the English word pyjama was taken from the Hindi word payajama. Coined from words “pay” means leg and “jama” means clothing, thus referring to a pair of comfortable, loose and lightweight trousers fitted with drawstring waistbands.

Chit: Chithas its origins late 18th century Anglo-Indian, from Hindi 'cīṭhī' means word for a letter or post. Cīṭhī were a way to practice critical reading, self-expressive writing and also exchange ideas with like-minded others in India. No wonder this common Hindi word was assimilated into the English language.

Juggernaut: Juggernaut means something that is very large and powerful force or thing that cannot be controlled. This word has its roots in the Holy Jagannath Rath (Chariot) Yatra a religious procession in Puri in Odisha where three giant chariots carry the idols of Lord Jagannath, Balabhra and Subhadra is dragged through the streets in an annual festival. The British also use it to refer to very large lorry.

Loot: The word derives from the Hindi word 'lut', meaning to plunder or steal, which until the 18th century was hardly used outside north India. The English word loot came to mean to ransack somebody, to steal from someone, or whatever is stolen by the act of looting.

Cashmere: The word Cashmere is an old spelling of Kashmir, the northernmost geographical region of the Indian subcontinent. Cashmere means the fabric spun from the fine silky wool of the cashmere goat.

Thug: In Hindi Thug means 'thag', meaning a thief or a cheat. It made its entry to the English language early in the 19th century. The thugs were organized gangs of thieves and conmen who would travel across India to loot people by befooling them.

Bangles: The word 'Bangle' introduction in English dates to the late 18th century, which is derived from Hindi word 'Bangri'. In English, it means a rigid ornament made from glass, metal, wood, or plastic ring ornaments worn on the wrist by Indian women.

Shampoo: The word shampoo is taken from the Hindi word Champo, means Head- massage. The term and concept was introduced by a Bengali trader, Sheikh Deen Mohammad, opened a shampooing bath in Brighton, England in 1814.

Punch: Punch is a Indian soothing drink made of paanch (five) ingredient- soda, sugar, lemon, water and spices. The drink was introduced to Britain by the employees of the East India Company in the early 17th century.

Cot: The English word 'Cot' derived from the Hindi words 'khat' and 'khatwa', which means 'Bed'. These 'khats' were traditionally made of jute and wood as Cot in Indian homes for people to relax in the open air.

Bungalow: Bungalow, first used in 17th century to describe houses constructed in the style of Bengal. It means the large mansion built for early British colonizers, the English term bungalow originally derives from the Hindi word 'bangla'.

Cushy: The word cushy originated from the Hindi term 'khushi' which means “Happiness'. It is entered the English language through British Army slang around the time of the First World War.

In a news article published in BBC Culture section on 22 June 2015, the writer Rahul Verma writes:

Ginger comes from Malayalam in Kerala, travels through Greek and Latin into Old French and Old English, and then the word and plant become a global commodity. In the 15th Century, it's introduced into the Caribbean and Africa and it grows, so the word, the plant and the spice spread across the world.

He notes that the expansion of worldwide trade through European conquests of the East Indies, the flow of Indian words into English gathered thrust. Many words came via Portuguese.

The Portuguese conquest of Goa dates back to the 16th Century, and mango, and

curry, both come to us via Portuguese mango began as 'mangai' in Malayalam and Tamil, entered Portuguese as 'manga' and then English with an 'o' ending. (Ibid.).

Bristol-based author Nikesh Shukla, London born, conveys his feeling in news article published in BBC Culture section on 22 June 2015 that:

India's significant contribution to everyday English reflects the symbiotic nature of Empire. "It was inevitable with colonialism that Britain would imbibe the local culture and it would have a lasting effect because colonialism flows two ways. Look at the things in British culture that have come from the Commonwealth that Britain calls its own like tea, and language is part of that too," he says. (ibid)

Nikesh Shukla recent novel explores social media and smart-phones, writes that:

Empire reshaped the English language in the same way as technology is now. "One way of looking at it is these Indian words disrupted the English language because they just didn't exist in English for example veranda. The climate's cold here so you wouldn't have a veranda, or pyjamas loose fitting cotton trousers, which again are perfect for a hot climate," he says.

"Today, words such as Wi-Fi, Internet, Google, Email and Selfie have become universal, there aren't other words for them, so they have infiltrated English and languages all over the world. Social media has also changed the way we talk, the meaning of a word such as 'like' has completely shifted, also 'following', or 'lol' the new disrupter of the English language is technology. Shukla's favourite Indian-English word Blighty shows how language is constantly evolving. "It's usually used by expat Brits referring to Britain and the homeland as in 'Good ol' Blighty' but it comes from the Urdu word for foreigner or European, 'vilayati'. So it's been subverted and used as a homage by the British and eventually has become part of the English language," he says.

India's influence on English language marks towards how language is dynamic, and highlights the importance of Europeans in the creation of the modern world.

"The four centuries that the English were present in India have left an indelible mark on the language. It is clear that the shared history between Britain and India has left behind a legacy of loanwords and other lexical innovations that have greatly enriched the English word stock. The seventy words newly added to the OED reflect not only the history of the country, but also the many and diverse cultural and linguistic influences which have shaped and changed the English language in India. (Ibid.)

The Online Oxford English Dictionary issues four updates a year i.e.in the months of March, June, September and December respectively. The latest list of inclusions, 70 new Indian words from Telugu, Urdu, Tamil, Hindi and Gujarati languages have been added to the dictionary. The September 2017 update adds to the 900 items already covered by the dictionary and identified as distinctive to Indian English. Here is the list of words included in English dictionary.

Words related to Action, State and Expression

Achcha: Achcha is an exclamatory word used to show that the speaker agrees with, accepts, understands, etc. something. Achcha is also used to express surprise & happiness.

Aiyo: Aiyo is an exclamatory word used to show that you are surprise or upset

Bada: In Hindi 'Bada' means big. It is a attributive word which means big or important.

Bas: Bas is an exclamatory word means stop or enough.

Chakka Jam: A Blocked road in Protest

Chup: Chup, as an exclamatory word used as a rude way of telling somebody to stop talking. Chup as an adjective means quiet or not talking very much.

Dadagiri: Bullying Behaviour. The act of using strength and power to frighten or hurt weaker people.

Jugaad: A flexible approach to problem-solving that uses limited resources in an innovative way.

Ek Dum: Completely; totally. This word originated from Hindi word '*ek*' means 'one' and Urdu word '*dam*' means 'breath'.

Funda: A fundamental principle that is the basis of something but that is not always easily noticed.

Jai: Jai an exclamatory word used to show that you support or admire a leader, a nation, etc., or that you are pleased that they have been successful. It is also an expression of worship to a god.

Ji: Used at the end of names and titles to show respect

Pukka: Originating from 17th century Hindi word '*pakka*' meaning 'cooked, ripe, substantial'. In English it means 'Genuine' or 'Sure'.

Timepass: The action or fact of passing the time, typically in an aimless or unproductive way.

Chhi-Chhi: An expression to express Disgust.

Surya namaskar: A type of yoga where bow under Sun

Namaskar: A traditional Indian greeting or gesture of respect, made by bringing the palms Together before the face or chest and bowing. Via Hindi from Sanskrit namaskāra, from *namas* 'bowing' + *kāra* 'action'

Words related to House and Place

Bhavan: A building used for a special purpose, such as meetings or concerts

Dhaba: A roadside food stall

Nivas: A place of residence; a house, block of flats, etc.

Qila: A fort or fortress

Haat: A market, especially one held on a regular basis in a rural area

Jhuggi: A slum dwelling typically made of mud and corrugated iron

Gully: An alley

Kund: A tank or small reservoir in which rainwater is collected for drinking

Nagar: A town, city, or suburb

Desh: A person's or a people's native land

Blighty: An informal term for Britain or England, used by soldiers of the First and Second World Wars. First used by soldiers in the Indian army; Anglo-Indian alteration of Urdu *bilāyatī*, *wilāyatī*.

Words related to Person and Personality

Abba: Father (often as a familiar form of address in Muslim families).

Anna: An elder brother (often used as a respectful title or form of address) used in South India

Bachcha: Originated from Urdu *baccā* means 'child'. A young person.

Badmash: A dishonest or unprincipled man

Bahu: Hindi word *bahū* means 'daughter-in-law, wife', originated from Sanskrit word *vadhū*, *vadhukā*.

Bapu: A father (often as a form of address).

Chacha: Uncle (often used as a respectful form of address to a man around the same age as one's father)

Chamcha: In Urdu *čamča* means large spoon or ladle. It has colloquial meaning in Hindi which means an obsequious person.

Chaudhuri: The headman of a region; a local chief.

Didi: An older sister or older female cousin (often as a proper name or form of address)

Devi: The supreme goddess, often identified with Parvati and Sakti. Another meaning used after the first name of a Hindu woman as a form of respect.

Mata: A mother (often used as a respectful form of address for a woman).

Nai: a barber

Sevak: A male servant or attendant, especially a male attendant in a temple responsible for performing or assisting with the daily rituals of worship. Another meaning is a man employed to advise and assist in matters of community welfare and development.

Sevika: A woman employed to advise and assist in matters of community welfare and development.

Yaar: A friendly form of address

Words related to Food

Bhelpuri: An Indian dish of puffed rice, onions, spices, and hot chutney.

Bhindi: Okra

Chana: Chickpeas, especially when roasted and prepared as a snack.

Chana Dal: In Indian cookery: chickpeas

Chutney: A spicy condiment of Indian origin, made of fruits or vegetables with vinegar, spices, And sugar. Originated in early 19th century: from Hindi word चाटनी.

Ghee: Clarified butter made from the milk of a buffalo or cow, used in South Asian cooking

Gosht: Red meat (beef, lamb, or mutton)

Gulab Jamun: An Indian sweet consisting of a ball of deep-fried paneer boiled in a sugar syrup. Origin Hindi words gulāb 'rose water' and jāmun 'kind of plum.'

Jamun- An Edible Berry

Jalebi: An Indian sweet made of a coil of batter fried and steeped in syrup.

Keema- Minced Meat

Masala: A mixture of ground spices used in Indian cooking. Another meaning: someone or something that comprises a varied mixture of elements

Mirch-Masala: A mixture of ground spices including chilli, used in Indian cooking. Another meaning is Elements providing interest or excitement.

Namkeen: A small salty or savoury snack or dish.

Papad: A poppadom

Puri: (in Indian cooking) a small, round piece of bread made of unleavened wheat flour, deep fried and served with meat or vegetables.

Roti: Bread, especially a flat round bread cooked on a griddle.

Vada: An Indian dish consisting of a ball made from ground pulses and deep-fried.

Chappal which means slipper footwear, once was the most trending word in 2018. Being a multilingual nation, Mother Indian Languages have lent words to Oxford English Dictionary. Indian origin words have given a flavor of linguistic diversity in English. In recent addition Oxford Living Dictionary, India's national language Hindi has given words like Bapu, Chup; Punjabi language has given: Jhuggi, Tappa: Urdu: Gosht, Abba; Tamil: Anna, Idli. Sanskrit and Persian, two ancient languages of Medieval India has also great impact on the development of English Dictionary.

The latest word to be added to the Oxford English dictionary, along 650 words, is 'Chuddies' that have been added to the quarterly list of additions announced on March 18, 2019. Oxford Dictionary describes 'Chuddies' as underpants, commonly used by British Asians). The main contributor to this addition was Goodness Gracious Me, the cult British television and radio comedy show.

Every year, hundreds of new English words and expressions emerge. Researchers of Oxford University Press keep track of new words and choose which ones to add to Oxford Dictionary. Oxford University Press has one of the largest and most wide-ranging language research programmes in the world. Their most important resources are the Oxford English Corpus and the Oxford Reading Programme. Oxford Dictionaries harnesses four ways to create the dictionary. The four approaches and processes are (i) Corpus, (ii) Reading Programme, (iii) User-generated content (iv) Appeals and submissions.

Corpus: A corpus is a collection of language data which OED use to track the contexts and uses of real life language use. Corpora include ten billion words in English, from specialist magazines to newspapers to social media.

User-generated content: some of OED dictionaries seek content directly from the language community; as a result we can see places to add content directly on some of OED language sites. **Reading Programme:** The Reading Programme collects short extracts drawn from a huge variety of writing in English, from many different spheres of writing, found by recruited readers. This Programme has been in existence, in some form, since 1857.

Appeals and submissions: The Oxford English Dictionary has always sought contributions from the public, and OED Appeals continues to ask for evidence of early uses of a word. Submissions and antedatings are often sent in by dictionary users.

Oxford team of lexicographers determine priorities for inclusion, looking at each word's evidence, and update or create definitions, translations, pronunciations, and etymologies.

The Corpus consists of entire documents, sourced largely from the World Wide Web, while the Reading Programme is an electronic collection of short extracts drawn from a huge variety of writing, from song lyrics and popular fiction to scientific journals. The team continually monitors the Corpus and the Reading Programme to track new words emerging in the language. They have evidence of a new term, like 'Selfie', being used in a variety of different sources, by many writers, it becomes applicable for a dictionary. For every new dictionary or online update, they assess all the recent words that have emerged, and select those that they feel to be the most significant or important, and those which they think are likely to stand the test of the time. It used to be the case that a new term had to be used over a period of three to four years, before OED could consider adding it to a print dictionary. In today's digital age, the situation has changed, and words like 'selfie' can achieve vast popularity with a large population in a shorter space of time. Oxford Dictionaries Team updates the Oxford Dictionary Online every three months. The selection of the new words involves monitoring the use of language so that the experts can identify and record the changes taking place. The team also accesses the vast databases of real-world language usage known as corpora, which includes more than 10 billion words from various sources such as magazines, newspapers and social media. After which the emerging words are tracked and patterns are analyzed. The analysis revolves around the idea that whether the words are becoming popular, and how they are used regionally.

Conclusion:

English has always been an integral part of Indian culture for centuries and is currently, the official language of the country. Danica Salazar, OED World English Editor said, "Lexical innovations in Indian English demonstrate how it is Indian speakers alter an adopted language in order to accommodate the traditions, values, and norms of their local culture. For instance, Indian speech manner features a complex system of relationship terms and terms of address, in which age, gender, status, and family relationships are marked by a highly specific vocabulary with no direct equivalents in English". This lexical gap is filled by borrowing such words from Indian languages. This new update has also taken the lingual diversity of India into consideration. Along with the most spoken language Hindi, other regional languages such as words from Bengali, Marathi, Punjabi, Tamil and Urdu have also been added. Another interesting fact about the colloquial words of India is that these words are also commonly used in other countries of the

Indian subcontinent such as in Bangladesh, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

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