

Growing Indian Literature in English

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ABSTRACT: *Literature represents a language or a people: culture and tradition. Indian literature in English (IEL) has been witnessed an impressive expansion in the more than six decades of its existence. Literature is used to describe written or spoken material. It is used to describe anything from creative writing to more technical or scientific works, but the term is most commonly used to refer to works of the creative imagination, including works of poetry, drama, fiction and nonfiction. In Indian English literature it introduces us to new world of experiences at the same time we are enjoying the comedies and the tragedies of poems, stories, and plays; and we may even grow and evolve through our literary journey with books.*

I. INTRODUCTION

Indian English Literature (IEL) refers to the body of work by writers in India who write in the English language and whose native or co-native language could be one of the numerous languages of India. It is frequently referred to as Indo-Anglian literature. (Indo-Anglian is a specific term in the sole context of writing that should not be confused with the term Anglo-Indian).

*Literature, in its broadest sense, is any writing work; etymologically the terms derived from Latin *litteratura/litteratura* “writing formed with letters”, although some definitions include spoken or sung texts.*

According to Simon and Delyse Ryan, What is Literature means?

*“The quest to discover a definition
‘Literature’ is a road that is much
Travelled, though the point of arrival,
If ever reached, is seldom satisfactory.
Most attempted definitions are broad
and vague, and they inevitably
change over time. In fact, the only
thing that is certain about defining
literature is that the definition will
change. Concepts of what is literature
changes over time as well.”*

Literature is a major art form through which people can exhibit their culture. Generally prior to 1800, literature in the European English languages meant any writing or book knowledge. In the modern western sense, it means an imaginative writing; indeed it can be said to be language decontextualized, a speech act or textual event that elicits certain kinds of attention. It is product of conventions and vehicle of ideology.

II. INDIAN LITERATURE IN ENGLISH

Indian English literature has a relatively history, it is only one a centuries old. The first book written by an Indian in English was by Sake Dean Mahomet, titled travels of Dean Mahomet; Mahomet travels narrative was published in 1793 in England. In its early stage, it was influenced by the western art form of the novel. Early Indian writers used English unadulterated by Indian words to convey an experience which was essentially Indian. Indian literature had a gradual growth like an Bankim Chandra Chattipadhyaya (1838-1894) wrote “Rajmohan’s Wife” and published it in the year 1864 which was the first Indian novel written in English. Ram Nath kak (1917-1933), a Kashmiri veterinarian wrote his autobiography *Autumn Leaves*, which is one of the most vivid portraits of life in 20th century Kashmir and has become a sort of a classic.

When we take a look on the History of English Literature in India, which seems to be started with the advent of east India Company. Indian English Literature precisely conforming to its gradual evolution had all begun in the summers of 1608 when emperor Jahangir, in the courts of Mughals, had welcomed captain William Hawkins, Commander of British Naval expedition hector, in a gallant manner. Though was under the British rule, still, English was adopted by the Indians as a language of understanding and awareness, education and

literary expression with an important means of communication amongst various people of dissimilar regions. Indian literature quite understandably spurs attention from every quarter of the country, making the genre admired in its own right. Creative writing in English is looked at as an integral part of the literary traditions in the Indian perspective of fine arts. In early times of British rule, the novelistic writing, indeed the Indian English dramas and Indian English poetry, had tremendously arrested attention of the native masses. Every possible regional author was dedicated in their intelligence to deliver in the British mother tongue, highly erudite and learned as they were even in such periods. The man that comes to surface more than once in all the genres of Indian English Literature is Rabindernath Tagore, who possibly was an unending ocean of knowledge and intellectual. He wrote in Bengali and English and was responsible for the translation of his own work into English.

Indian English Literature has supported by the intellectuals of India as they all worked for the betterment and flourishing of English literature in India. Raja Rao (1908-2006), Indian philosopher and writer authored *Kanthapura* and *The Serpent and the Rope* which are Indian in terms of its storytelling qualities. Ruskin Bond, winner of Sahitya academy award and the author of many novels including *The Room on the Roof*, *Flight of Peageons* etc. Dhan Gopal Mukherji was the first Indian author to win a literary award in the united states . Nirad C.Chaudhary,a writer of nonfiction, is best known for his the autobiography of an unknown Indian where he relates his life experience and experiences and influences. P.Lal,a poet, translator, publisher and essayist, founded a press in the 1950s for the Indian English writing, writers workshop. Another R.K.Narayan is a writer who contributed over many decades and who continued to write till his death. He was discovered by Graham Greene in the sense that the latter helped in find a publisher in England. Other notable poets in English include Derozio,Michael Madhusudan Dutt,Toru Dutt,Romesh Chander Dutt,Sri Aurobindo, Sarojini Naidu etc.

The beginning of 21th century ha brought in a lot of hopes and inspirations on a global pesestal.with this century has come technological advancement in all spheres of learning;along side this is the miracle called the internet-the world at our finger tips.

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