



Research Paper

## Indian Writing in English – An Overview

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**ABSTRACT:** India has a diverse and rich cultural tapestry and thus accounts for multiplicity of voices of expression. Writing in English exhibits a dramatic and dynamic history. Literature in India is similar to the literature of any other country but yet it is exceptional and a literature of nowhere. The language of India has survived and prevailed with indigenous artistry. It initially reflected the colonial hangover of England and has evolved with the influence of traditional Indian literature and British literary tradition. Indian Writing has indigenous diversity of paradox and prevails in its own identity.

**KEYWORDS:** Indian, tradition, regional, culture, colonization, expression, nationalism, globalization, transnational

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### I. INTRODUCTION

Indian literary phenomenon is evolving with a very significant contribution to the cultural, social and literary aspects of our country. The early Indian writings were oral and later compositions dates back from the canonical sacred writings such as Vedas, Upanishads, Epics and Puranas which were the re-productions from Sanskrit literature. These works displayed ancient Indian background. Much of traditional Indian literature derived its form from Sanskrit, Pali and the dialects of Sanskrit. Medieval writings, in different regional languages like Bengali, Marathi and Kannada, were designed for regional beliefs. There were writings based on lives of saints, religious poems, bakthi hymns, ballads and folk songs as well as dramas. Later Indian writers have struggled with the colonial influence, their generative roots and inborn tensions of the regional languages. But English is handled with such skill and dexterity by Indian writers. Indian Writing has evolved through a complex historical process, the process of coming to terms with the contemporary tradition and developing an indigenous sensibility. *The Travels of Dean Mohamed*, a travel account, written by Sake Dean Mohamed in 1793 may be considered as the first work by an Indian in English. Indian literature had different phases of experimentation with its content and form. During Pre-Independence period Indian writers have expressed their thoughts in various regional languages so that they can connect to the people. Many Indian journals and magazines showcased and promoted the literary attempts of Indian writers. Indian writers have endeavoured to preserve and promote vernacular languages, literary expressions and Indian linguistic tradition. The oppressive burden of the English language compelled the Indian psyche to seek total identity.

### II. SPIRIT OF INDEPENDENCE

During the nineteenth century, the history of Indian writing began with Henry Louis Vivian Derozio who set precedence for patriotic poetry and Michael Madhusudan Dutt, a dynamic writer voicing for women. The early twentieth century has witnessed a literary renaissance. Early pioneers like Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay, the famous novelist and Rabindranath Tagore, a polymath and Nobel laureate wrote extensively in their regional languages to employ the cultural nuances of their region and to connect to their audience. Many writers wrote in various genres reflecting the spirit of independence movements.

The works of Mahatma Gandhi and Subramania Bharati insisted on the nationalistic identifications. Swami Vivekananda and Sri Aurobindo became the greatest representatives of expressing the consciousness of Indian life and culture. The creative writers of the formative period wrote in a more elite language continuing the great English language tradition. Then English language became a weapon of decolonisation that it stimulated literary creations in many Indian Languages. In post -independence period writers like R.K. Narayan , Mulk Raj Anand , Sarojini Naidu, the Nightingale of India, and Raja Rao with their expertise reflected the

linguistic and cultural diversity with their diverse genres and recreation of characters. These writers played a momentous role in preserving and promoting the vernacular languages, bringing up the cultural, social and political setting of the nation. The works of writers like Nissim Ezekiel, A.K. Ramanujan and Dom Moraes have carved a niche for their literary endeavours. Women writers like Kamala Das and Anita Desai expressed feministic perspectives. Thus the turn of the century saw Indian literary Renaissance and gave sufficient impetus to a surge of creative activities.

### **III. GLOBAL CONCERNS**

Some writers who are proficient in regional languages and English navigated through regional and global contexts. The post – independence phase was one rather of exuberance and irony than any soul – searching for individual values and National ethos. Salman Rushdie and Arundhati Roy have propelled Indian literature onto the global stage. Further, Jhumpa Lahiri and Vikram Seth have contributed towards the Indian Diaspora. Contemporary writers like Aravind Adiga and Amitav Ghosh explored diverse themes such as globalization and environmental concerns. There is a profound influence of mythology and folklore on Indian writing. Indian writers have used the ancient narratives to reinforce the cultural identity and to express moral and ethical dimensions. Mythology, folktales and oral traditions have been used as timeless guides to assert ethical values. Writers used magical elements along with realistic settings that led to the birth of the genre Magical Realism. Modern Indian Writing in English has become a representative of the multi-faceted dimensions of modern life and continues to serve as a critical apparatus to sharpen human sensibility.

### **IV. CONCLUSION**

Today, Indian Writing in English is engaged in bridging the cultural gaps, transcending cultural binaries and borders, broadening the accessibility and creating interconnectedness. The transnational literary works and movements enhance global understanding, connecting the past with present with its evolving nature.

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