

The end of the British Raj didn't signal the end of English in India.

Mohd Tahir Amin Khan

Research scholar CMJU

Email: mohdtahir9419@gmail.com

ABSTRACT

The end of the British Raj did not signal the end of English in India ; on the other hand, the language had by then very much seeped into the Indian creative psyche. By the time Prof. K.R.Sreenivasa Iyengar's comprehensive and detailed survey Indian Writing in English came out in 1962, there was no longer any necessity to debate the existence of a parallel literature in the English language arguably similar in more than one way to the various regional literatures. In the last four decades, the number of Indians writing in English has increased considerably so much so that a pressing need for creative appraisal and evaluation in terms of a pan-Indian aesthetic surfaced of necessity (Many conferences and Symposia like the one hosted by Prof. C.D.Narasimhaiah at Dhvanyaloka to develop a Common Indian Poetic for all Indian literatures have taken place in many parts of the country.) There has also been a similar rise in the percentage of readership as the huge number of publishers and distributors of books and periodicals in English that have emerged of late would reveal. The language has not died out in India but survived and prevailed in indigenous artistry.

KEY WORDS : indian writing, tradition, geography, internationalism.

In the context of Indians writing in English, as with many others in their regional languages as well, the process of coming to terms with tradition and the contemporary towards developing an indigenous sensibility has indeed been a large and complex historical process, which has evolved through a variety of phases. I have been able to discern four major phases in this trajectory, that are obvious and, for the main, largely accepted: the first phase is one of complete subservience and intellectual slavery, the second one of total defiance and a falling back on desperate nativity and national identity, the third a sort of internationalism and universalisation (*sadharanikarana*), and the last, almost concurrent with the third, one of creative integration. These are of course, generalized views and as such are not strict compartments; there are overlappings, anticipations, and retrospective movements as well. However, this way of mapping out the geography of Indian Writing in English, I believe, certainly has its advantages, especially when one approaches the terrain for the first time. In the history of this literature as with any other, there have also been phases of experimentation with content as well as form. For a language that has been implanted from a different locale and culture, and that which has been absorbed and assimilated by a once-colonized mind, writing in the English

language in India exhibits a dramatic and dynamic history. It has also generated a whole new tradition fully immersed

in indigenous values and culture. Writers of the stature of Gandhi and Nehru with their clear-cut prose, R.K. Narayan and Raja Rao with their sheer individualized imaginative recreations of characters, locale and territory, Kamala Das and Nissim Ezekiel with their poetic voices, as well as the new generations of postcolonials like Arundhati Roy who has been able to carve out a nativised idiom and language, have in their own individualized ways grappled with a living tradition while constantly renewing their tryst with modernity. In many ways too writers in the English language have concurrently struggled with their generative roots and inborn tensions similar to the ones confronted by their contemporaries writing in the regional languages. Perhaps, English language literature in India does have an edge

over the others in terms of its comparatively easy marketability and reach overseas. I shall deal with this issue later.

ABOUT AUTHOR

Mohd Tahir Amin Khan is a research scholar CMJU. He has done graduation from Govt. Degree College Rajouri affiliated to Jammu university. He has done LLB 3 year Professional from Dora Law College Jammu affiliated to Jammu university. He has done post graduation from CMJU. He has written number of books.

REFERENCES

- [1] Mukherjee, M. (2000). *The Perishable Empire: Essays on Indian Writing in English*. Oxford University Press, USA.
- [2] Golden, S. A. R. (2017). *Recent Research in Social Sciences & Humanities*. EduPedia Publications (P) Ltd.
- [3] Gandhi, M. (1948). *Autobiography: The story of my experiments with truth*. Courier Corporation.
- [4] Nehru, J. (2008). *Discovery of India*. Penguin UK.