



---

## PORTRAYING SOCIO LINGUISTIC ASPECTS OF IDIAN WRITERS IN LITERATURE

**Mayank Kumar**

Research Scholar Monad University Hapur U.P

**Dr. Ajit Kumar**

Associate Professor, Monad University Hapur U.P

### **ABTRACT**

*The sociolinguistic approach is a vital tool for studying how social factors, such as cultural norms, expectations, and the surrounding environment, affect language use. This area of research has only recently emerged because, for the sake of theoretical progress, linguistics departments have "ignored" the relationship between language and society. It's a vital resource for understanding fictional discourse, and it helps with understanding everyday talks between people of different speech groups as well. With this technique, the researcher may go into the canon of English literature and explore Indian English fiction in particular. Linguistic analysis of Indian writers' English-language writings reveals the strategies they use to set themselves apart and make their writing unique. The percentage of Indian ingredients in each varies widely. They make a point to use the culturally significant, non-translatable things. Some individuals are quite conventional and only seldom employ Indian dictions to set themselves apart, while others constantly do so to highlight their unique voice.*

**Keywords:** - Sociolinguistic, Social, Language, Book, India.

## **I. INTRODUCTION**

The Puranas, the Upanishads, the Mahabharata, the Ramayana, and other ancient books like the Bhagavad Gita and the Ramayana provide the bedrock upon which India stands. As one of the world's oldest and most consistent cultures, India has a long history of producing works that fit the traditional definition of art. Novelists with philosophical awareness like Raja Rao and Mulk Raj Anand have long fascinated Indian and international critics. The development of Indo-English literature has many writers to thank. But the 'big two,' writers Raja Rao and Mulk Raj Anand, strove to give the era its own unique flavor. The focus of this research is to apply sociolinguistic ideas to a close reading of a selection of works by Raja Rao and Mulk Raj Anand. The sociolinguistic approach is a powerful method for investigating the influence of social factors, such as cultural norms, expectations, and environment, on linguistic behavior and vice versa. The link between language and culture is studied. Since linguistic studies had 'ignored' the link between language and society in favor of theoretical breakthroughs, the field of sociolinguistics emerged in the final quarter of the 20th century (Trudgill, 1995). It's a tool that helps us make sense of fictional discourse as well as the everyday conversations of different language groups. This method opens up the study of not just the great works of English literature but also of Indian English fiction. Sociolinguists argue that one's linguistic habits might provide light on one's social standing. Culture and worldview are reflected in a society's language. Language helps us to develop the vast array of pieces that make up our civilisation, and this shows in how a society takes in, processes, assesses, and communicates that knowledge. Ideas and concepts in every culture are transmitted via its language. The syntax of a language also reflects the culture in which its speakers are immersed, not only its vocabulary.

## **II. SOCIOLINGUISTICS AND THE SOCIOLOGY OF LANGUAGE**

When compared to the sociology of language, which examines society through the lens of language, sociolinguistics focuses on the former. Sociolinguistics and the sociology of language focus on distinct things. According to Hudson, there are key differences between sociolinguistics and the sociology of language. The sociology of language is "the study of society in relation to

language," whereas sociolinguistics is "the study of language in society." Both disciplines have their own unique foci.

To learn more about a language, sociolinguists investigate its social background; linguists, meanwhile, investigate how people really use language to learn more about their culture. Similar to how sociologists tend to disregard linguistic findings, sociolinguists avoid making sweeping generalizations about the social world. Certainly, sociolinguistics and the sociology of language vary, but the primary distinction lies in the two fields' respective foci. It all comes down to the investigator's background, interests, and abilities in linguistic and social structure analysis. The study of how language influences social structures is known as "the sociology of language."

The vocabulary shifts from one context to another. The language spoken by the people changes as the circumstances do. The way we use language now has repercussions for our culture. This new variety of language, such as the language of SMS and MMS, has an impact on the younger generation because of its widespread usage in the present setting.

### **III. LANGUAGE VARIATION**

The term "language variation" refers to the fact that there are distinct linguistic practices within a given speech group. It's obvious that even within the same group, there will be variations in how a given language is spoken. For a long time, most linguists ignored this variation, seeing it as nothing more than a bunch of pedantic technicalities that came in the way of writing clear explanations. However, the context has shifted.

The sociolinguists, spearheaded by American linguist William Labov in the 1960s, ushered in a new era in the study of language by making variation its primary focus. It is generally understood that variety is not some minor aspect of language but rather an integral feature of everyday communication. To begin, there are substantial links between variance and demographics like socioeconomic status and sex. Studies in sociolinguistics increasingly focus on the ways in which language is differentiated by socioeconomic status. The characters in Mulk Raj Anand's novels all hail from various socioeconomic strata. The way they speak reflects differences in socioeconomic status, occupational status, and marital status.

#### **IV. SOCIOLINGUISTICS AND RELATED DISCIPLINES**

Researchers from many fields, including anthropologists, psychologists, educators, language planners, etc., have an interest in the study of language in society with linguists and sociolinguists. Some psychologists are interested in how language structure could influence social and psychological behavior, for instance, while anthropologists have studied family networks. Numerous teachers work on curriculum for new languages, refine existing ones, and instruct students in the mainstream language. A construction like "Shut up" will be analyzed differently by linguists and sociolinguists. It's an imperative statement; therefore linguists tell us we may omit the subject. A sociolinguist, on the other hand, might define it as an imperative statement and explain its social norms for use.

#### **V. LITERATURE AND SOCIOLINGUISTICS**

Since literature reflects our society and its members, it may be considered a social good. When Matthew Arnold says that literature is a critique of life, he's not kidding. Literature investigates the social structure of its time since it is, like other creative forms, a social product.

To grasp the significance of language in social contexts, it is necessary to examine the webs of interaction in which words are used. One alternative for characterizing the connections between people who share a language is to use the concept of a social network.

The degree of closeness or dispersion in a network is determined by the nature of its connections. One may argue that a workplace or factory, where everyone knows each other and works closely together, is a close-knit community. Details of human behavior, such as those seen during natural language interactions such as face-to-face conversation, might be of interest to sociolinguists. It's also applicable to more extensive studies of fictitious characters' language habits. Thus, there is a substantial link between sociolinguistics and the study of literature.

It is important to analyze the connection between literature and Sociolinguistics since authors have been using different dialects and speech variants of English from the middle and late Victorian periods. As we've seen, Sociolinguistics investigates linguistic diversity and looks for contextualized explanations of language use trends.

## **VI. INDIAN NOVEL IN ENGLISH AND SOCIOLINGUISTICS**

There are several reasons why the English-language growth of Indian novels is fascinating and compelling. At one point in India's history, only members of the so-called "upper caste" had access to higher education. Learning English was a pipe dream for them. Back then, knowing or using English was not mandatory. After Macaulay's Minutes was released, English began to gain widespread usage.

It is generally agreed that Henry Derozio created the Indian English novel. Then Tagore appeared on the literary scene with his spiritual writing. Gandhi also made important contributions to the development of written English in India. The Story of My Experiment with Truth, his autobiography, made him famous. The voyage of the Indian English novel started with the works of Mulk Raj Anand, Raja Rao, and R. K. Narayan. In his book Coolie, Mulk Raj Anand portrays the chasm between India's upper and lower classes. All the faceless people that make up our massive population are given flesh and blood in R. K. Narayan's made-up town of Malgudi, where they play out the absurdities and quirks of real life. Raja Rao's book Kanthapura is an account of the liberation fight in India that adheres to Gandhian ideals. The setting of the narrative is a little town in southern India. In the story, one encounters people who are motivated by patriotism. Many different idiomatic forms of English are used by characters in Indian books written in the language.

## **VII. CONTRIBUTION OF INDIAN WRITERS IN THE LITERATURE**

Indo-Anglian literature refers to the writings in English that have been influenced by Indian authors. There is little to no fundamental difference between Indian literature and the Indo-English literature. It is a contemporary fact of that glory which, beginning with the Vedas, has spread its mellow light, now with greater and now with lesser brilliance, under the inevitable vicissitudes of time and history, ever increasingly upto the time of Tagore, Iqbal, and AurobindoGhosh, and bids fair to expand with our own, as well as humanity's expanding future.

The educated young of India, who are fluent in English yet want to maintain their cultural identity, recognize that India's history and customs are unique. Even within India's upper class, some writers felt compelled to provide westerners an accurate representation of India via the

medium of fiction. To describe this body of work, the term "Indo-Anglian" Literature was coined. Dr. S. Sen makes a crucial distinction between Indo-Anglian and Anglo-Indian literature when he says that the former represents "the Indian effort in English language," while the latter refers to the writings of Englishmen in English about India and Indian culture. They made an effort to explain India to the Western world. However, Indian culture is typically portrayed in a more idealized rather than realistic light. They paint an image in their works of India as a place of kings and gods, jugglers and snake charmers. In contrast, the positive and accurate portrayal of India seen in Indo-Anglian literature.

According to regional accounts, Indians were penning verse in the English language even before Macaulay's Minute on English Education in India was published. However, astonishingly, the book has surpassed poetry in both quality and quantity despite a slow start. Fictions written in English that represent Indian society have garnered more attention from readers. Social ills, ancient rituals, superstitions, and the economic hardship of peasants all played a major role in everyday Indian life back then. Novels in English were written by Indian authors based on these topics. These books showed rural life in India, praised the wonderful attributes of Indian women, and shed light on societal problems. Samres CH. Sanyal makes a valid point in the introduction to his collection of essays, *Indianness in Major Indo-English Novels*: Indo-Anglian fiction is as intriguing a document as it is a literary experience, and therefore can barely be understood without understanding of the history of the way English is used in India. But the greater allure of Indian literature in English is in the documenting of Indian life in all its socio-cultural dimensions, as well as the phenomena of literary innovation in a language other than the surrounding native tongue. The stereotype that Indian authors who write in English are unoriginal and uninspired is unfounded. Its meteoric rise to fame and growing influence on the literary world are no longer a curiosity but a proven fact. Indian has a respectable speaking voice. The globe becomes familiar with only one brush with nature, but a nation's soul may be heard through its literature.

## CONCLUSION

In conclusion, portraying sociolinguistic aspects of Indian writers in literature adds depth, richness, and authenticity to their narratives. By incorporating the diverse linguistic landscape of India, writers can capture the nuances of different social groups, regions, and cultures within the

country. This portrayal not only reflects the reality of Indian society but also highlights the intricate relationship between language and identity.

Indian literature, with its vast linguistic diversity encompassing languages such as Hindi, Bengali, Tamil, Telugu, Urdu, and many others, offers a treasure trove of linguistic variations. By skillfully integrating these variations into their writing, Indian authors bring to life the unique voices, cadences, and expressions of their characters. Through the use of dialects, registers, and code-switching, writers can accurately depict the social, cultural, and historical backgrounds of their characters, making them relatable and compelling.

Moreover, portraying sociolinguistic aspects in literature helps challenge stereotypes and break down barriers. It gives voice to marginalized communities, highlighting their struggles, aspirations, and contributions to society. By representing a wide range of linguistic communities, Indian writers contribute to a more inclusive literary landscape, fostering cross-cultural understanding and empathy among readers.

#### **REFERENCES: -**

- [1] Crystal, David (2008) A Dictionary of Linguistics and Phonetics. UK: Blackwell Publisher.
- [2] Gandhi, the Mahatma, 2002 [1927], An Autobiography or the Story of my Experiments with Truth, Navajivan Publishing House, Ahmedabad.
- [3] Iyengar, S.K.R. 2001 [1962], Indian Writing in English, Sterling, New Delhi.
- [4] Jain, J. 2006, Beyond Postcolonialism. Dreams and Realities of a Nation, Rawat, Jaipur.
- [5] Jesenska, Petra (2010), Essentials of Sociolinguistics. Universitas Ostrivensis Facultas Philasophica, Ostrava (p.12)
- [6] Khan, Farhana. Mulk Raj Anand: A Critical Spectrum. Jaipur: Shree Niwas Publications, 2005