

The Impact of Globalization and English Language Teaching in India

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Abstract— As early as 1904, the Oxford Geographer Halford, Captain J. Machinder was arguing that developments in communication and transport and the vanishing of the frontier, dictated the necessity and advantage of viewing the world as a single, integrated system. As Stephen has written of Mackinder's thesis, the idea that the world was now "A single organism that will respond as a whole to power shifts anywhere on the globe" was controversial, but not a typical of "A number of observations made at that time". In the Arena of political economy, Karl Marx had already speculated tentatively has the implications of the extension of the world market, increasing development of productive forces and individuals, universalisation of the "Civilizing". Tendency and incipient crises are geographical saturation point was reached. The elision of Marxism, Nationalism and imperialism are the views expressed by Michael Hardt and Antonio Negri in their book "Empire"(2008), falling on the heels of a decade of globalisation theory, defend a proposition that today seems, quite indefensible the age of imperialism, (they suggest; has ended and in place of imperialism we now have an age of empire. Nevertheless, the 'Englishes' show how the interface between the language of the centre, of the Empire, can contribute towards building a new language, a new Creole which could be Raja Rao's Indian English, George lamming's Caribbean English or JM Coetzee's African English. Is not the evolving of such languages and the rich repertoire of literature they have produced proofs of the fact that without sacrificing one's native identity and indigenous traditions, one can mould the language of the other, enriching it to vibrate with one's own native ethos and sensitivity.

Indexed Terms- English Language Teaching, Communication, Globalisation, Identity, Orientalism, Colonialism, Cultural Exchange, Third World Englishes.

I. INTRODUCTION

In its turn the word 'Commonwealth' also reminds us unabashedly of our subjugation - it reduces us to the status of a small part of a very large entity. A mind, which accepts this term is incapable of resisting colonialism.

However, some of our great leaders educated in English used the language to argue for the freedom of the country, the self-reliance of the country. For examples of this are: Vivekananda's address in Chicago, Gandhi and Nehrus writing. They used English language to subvert the Empire and assert the Indian identity. In fact, the idea of the 'nation' has always been an important focal point for the convergence of anti-colonial forces. It was this anti-colonial feeling which was responsible for our intense nationalism which now refuses to accept the 'given' history of India written by Eurocentric historiographers, both Western and Indian. And we have evolved such a language in our own Indian English, which we should have no hesitation in accepting, and doing business in, with the world.

Colonialism is a historical fact, which we cannot wish away. According to Edward said 'By 1914... Europe held a grand total of roughly 85 percent of the earth as colonies, protectorates, dependencies, dominions and Commonwealths". According to Jan Nederveen Pieterse and Bhikhu Parekh "European Colonialism had inherent limitations because white rulers were perceived culturally and racially as different and therefore lacked the accessibility of predecessors. Barely 5% of the colonized people ever cared to learn their masters' language and even fewer came into close contact with them." (The Decolonization of Imagination Delhi: OUP. 1997.p.2) Of course the Marxist thinking on this problem that it makes a distinction between pre-capitalist, Pre-industrial expansion of empires and the post-industrial, post-capitalist modern colonialism.

In this whole devious game of power the Orientalists had their own agenda to fulfill. Their 're-discovery' of the eastern knowledge systems, religion and philosophy drives home the message that the East was suffering from a cultural and intellectual amnesia and

only the West with its sense of mission could re-discover the great Indian tradition.

The above-mentioned way of representing the East as the 'other of West is the subject of Edward Said's Orientalism (1978). With the publications of Orientalism began a new way of looking at colonial strategies and the politics behind the representation of the orient to the world. Said shows how the orient was represented in western texts and how the essentialistic knowledge of the East - i.e., the orient is such and such - helped Europe to consolidate and justify its exercise of power over the orient.

Socrates advocate the idea of Universal citizenship. Long ago when he said " I am a citizen of the world". So, irrespective of his nationality, creed, or language, a man becomes a citizen of the world by being able to interact with different peoples of the world through English.

Since Globalization addresses universal connectivity. English by virtue of being spoken by one forth of world's population with same degree of competence has proved to be the link it has become a primary language of communication across the continents there by effectively carrying out the process of globalization dispelling the notion of Rudyard kipling that " East is east, West is west and never the twain shall meet" In the words of Aristotle./ what is true for all times and ages and the particular, What is true of the men, events, customs, culture and manners of an age.

The onset of the Twenty first century is marked by rapid globalization, privatization and Industrial revolution. It has also witnessed super fast development in information and communication technology. It is plain and common global reach and range in contemporary world for a variety of purpose like education, business, entertainment and cultural exchange. In the present, political and economic conditions across the globe, where globalization has become the mantra for all major economies. English language has become the crucial means of communication for the promotion of employment and creation of wealth. It is recognized by all academics that the future of the country depends upon creating a generation of different professionals who will man the

key positions in the emerging corporate culture. The introduction of liberalization, privatizations, globalization enhanced the competence in a different professional knowledge is concerned. In addition to that there is a popular demand for English in catering to multiples needs - commercial , academic and career interest. Past from English being a power channel for social upgradation.

Major factors responsible for expansion of English : There are 3 factors contribute to the spread of English are :

- 1) English usage in Science, Technology & Commerce.
- 2) The ability of English to incorporate from other languages.
- 3) The acceptability of various English or dialects and the literature in post colonial world.

The first one is highly influenced, by the process globalization. The revolution is redefining the world, ignoring geography and borders. Computer -mediated communication is closing the gap between spoken and written English. It encourages more informal conversation in language and tolerance for diversity and individual style has resulted and replaced. In a way the internet, multimedia, international television and other electronic devices are forming a tradition of linguistics in the content of global culture in general.

Language originates from culture and there is always something about the intimate relationship among language, thought in identity generating strong emotions. In the age of Information Technology this strong bond is expressed in written and spoken form as well as in the print and electronic media through the tradition of globalization of English which satisfies the dictum, "Think globally and act locally".

Our younger generations, infact, need knowledge through a precise linguistic medium which should also reflect the ingredients of their culture. In multicultural countries identities such as nation, language, race & sex are culture specific despite their similarities. Gates believes that multiculturalism is concerned with representations, not of difference as such, but cultural identities, while guiding however declares that the critic, the writer and the audience all are rooted in their biographies and historical circumstances. Art is

neither anonymous nor universal. It springs from the particular of gender as well as class, race, age and cultural experience.

Globalization affected world societies in different domains of life- Social, Political and economic and has unleashed forces and brought about significant changes in the communication dynamics the world over. In terms of languages, | especially English, it means that continental, national, regional as well as, more globalised forms of English are emerging are being used and are gaining validity and acceptance, where are an R.P are American standard held away, so much so that forms of English in different parts of the world have attained a legitimacy are only reserved for British of American forms of English. Seen negatively it might appear to be a bid to 'take over' and appropriate English language, but seen positively, it can be described as being a kind of Globalization of English and its adoption and adaptation by other parts of the globe, that them other English are used and accepted widely even in the so-called English - speaking world and the fact that the centre of gravity of English is likely to shift to South Asia & 3rd world countries, is an indication of greater linguistic tolerances, accommodation and the availability of several options to learners, speakers and users of English where as previously they had to operated under the tyranny of a given standard.

The increasing perception of English as the language of prestige, power and opportunity has created an incremental, social, parental and learning urge to learn and use English.

Penny Cook opines "If insurgent knowledge can emerge through English, they may have an effect a broader than if they had been voiced in other language insurgent knowledge emerging from a particular contest now have the possibility of achieving international reach ... I believe that the spread of English, If dealt with critically, may offer chances for cultural renewal and exchange around the world.

At first, while it is alright to create discourses about inequalities and social injustices, it should be conceded that the presence or the dominance of English is not the exclusive or even the chief cause there oft secondly, it is grateful that several South

Asian and 3rd world countries have a older tradition of teaching, learning and using English for which English is the single most important international language. If one takes an instrumental, functional view language and consider for a moment the instrumental uses of English and the functional load it can carry in today's rapidly globalizing context. Thirdly, we have to critically examine the presence of English in regional, national and international 'contents and learn to use the English presence for a meaning and gainful accessing of modern knowledge and technologies, for negotiating space allocation with our own language in a global context and for participating in the opportunities thrown up by the globalized trade, commerce and information highways.

As Prof. Ish Kumar says , "As a link with the West, English is bound to retain and important place. We cannot afford to be isolated even if it is possible. No country can live an isolated life these days. We need political economical and cultural link with the rest of the world. We have had strong political and economic connections with English. We owe a great debt to the English Language and have taught it for more than a century and half now. We shall, therefore, have to depend on English, for international business and politics and mainly on English for contact with Western thought and culture."

Colonialism is an off-shoot of a politico - economic force called 'imperialism'. It is but natural that when others come to a rule a country, they bring along with them their kind of superstructure - law-courts, system of education, system of administration etc. In order to impose this superstructure on the natives they have to interact with the natives. This interaction has to be reciprocal. The culture, the language, the mindset, the worldview of the ruler gradually changes by coming into contract with the natives. And so is the case with the natives whose culture gets the shades and colours of the ruler's culture - a process known as 'hybridization'. Thus, in the Indian context, over a period of two hundred years the imperial English language acquired shades and nuances, which are overtly and covertly Indian.

One of the most complex problem facing the post-colonial writers is whether to use the language of the colonizer or to write in one's own language. Thinkers

are divided on this issue Whereas writers like Chinua Achebe think that English language will be able to carry the weight of his African experiences, there are writers like Nguigi Wa Thiongo who prefer to write in their own language. There are still those like R.K. Narayan who argue that the English that evoked over the years in India is a creolized version of British English which could be treated as an Indian language in which we should not have any 'hesitation in expressing our thoughts. In fact Ijaz Ahmad points out "The reason why the English language should be taught is that it has simply become, for better or worse, one of the Indian languages, even the key professional language and certainly the main language of communication between the schooled sections of the different linguistic regions" (p.282 In Theory: Classes: National Literatures, 1994 OUP, New Delhi). In fact, Chinua Achebe too talks about the 'creative hybridity of African writers who moulded English to their experience rather than the other way round". Writing in one's own tongue does not mean one is writing in an anti-colonial vein. A writer may be writing in the native tongue but might be following European models, example of this are Chandu Menon's Indulekha or Michael Madhusudan Dutt's Bengali Sonnets. One could be writing in one's own English and be anti-colonial like George Lamming, the Caribbean writer.

Colonialism not only brings about changes in physical territories but also has a debilitating effect on human identity. In fact the process of 'Wording' is also a fall-out colonialism and capitalism which are intractably linked. Jameson talks about the first world(The capitalist countries). The second world (the socialist countries) and the third world (countries which were colonies and share a unique experience, the experience of being colonies).

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