



ENGLISH LANGUAGE: INFLUENCES THAT BROUGHT A PARADIGM SHIFT

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ABSTRACT

English, the Mother Tongue of the British, was initially spoken only in Britain and today, English has become the leading language used for international discourse in many regions and professional contexts. It is the third most spoken language in the world.

With the British act of colonization, English penetrated through Global Cultures and claimed its space as a World language. When two different cultures (Ex: British and India) are present at a place for certain reasonable time the assimilation takes place in the language or distortion takes place depending on the native language.

A significant portion of the English vocabulary comes from Roman, French, Italian, Portuguese, Greek, Spanish and Latin sources. It is world's most widely used language in newspaper publishing, book publishing etc. This paper is an attempt to understand the various influences on the English language over the years and yet how it marches ahead as the global language of the world.

KEY WORDS: *English, Native Language, Assimilation, Influences.*

INTRODUCTION

It is surveyed that English is the official language for 82 countries in the world. It can be said in other words that English is spoken all over the planet irrespective of races, religions, and cultures. It is rightly stated by Samuel Daniel that "English, the treasure of our tongue, has become the most widely spoken language in history of human kind, the linguistic wonder of the modern world" (Lederer, 2001). We observe mass-media, newspapers and magazines are printed in English language. Other than these, English has its own reputation in the field of hard core work like business dealings, international trade, international conferences, entertainment etc. English language became the mightiest instrument in verbal communication skills. It is rightly stated that "English has never rejected a word because of its race, creed, or national origin. English is unique in the number and variety of its borrowed words" (Lederer, 2001). English is a majestic language for its richness in vocabulary. It is also described in other words by Joseph Bellafaire "English language is the lagoon of nations because in it there are hundreds of miscellaneous words floating like ships from foreign poets freighted with messages for us".(Lederer, 2001).



ANALYSIS

A significant portion of the English vocabulary comes from Roman, French, Italian, Portuguese, Greek, Spanish, and Latin sources. Among all these languages French and Latin played a major role in English vocabulary making great changes in the language.

French origin words are mostly observed in technological, military and legal fields. Few words that are in common usage are Question, Prince, Duke, Decreased, Finish, and so on.

Latin origin words are mostly noticed in scientific, technical, medical, academic, and legal terminology. Few words that we recognize are Accommodation, Dislocate, Interrogate, Conclude, Agenda etc.

Here is the list of English words which have their origin in other languages:

- Alcohol (Arabic)
- Zebra (Bantu)
- Bungalow (Bengali)
- Typhoon (Cantonese)
- Skill (Danish)
- Boss (Dutch)
- Oasis (Egyptian)
- Kinder garden (German)
- Camel (Hebrew)
- Opera (Italian)
- Tycoon (Japanese)
- Kiwi (Maori)
- Ketchup (Malay)
- Bazaar (Persian)
- Sugar (Sanskrit)
- Tattoo (Tahitian)

In Indian languages too words relating to culture and tradition have mostly entered English language during the colonial period. Words from Persian origin can also be observed in this category.

INFLUENCES OF INDIAN LANGUAGES ON ENGLISH



India, according to a recent survey in 2018 consists of 19,500 languages as mother tongue in which 121 languages are most popularly used as common languages, and 270 mother tongues are identifiable. Most of the languages are regarded as “Unclassified”. In this way many dialects and languages can be observed in India. Apart from all these languages, English is the most commonly known language to Indians. English in India can be named as typical because of the way English is spoken in India. English bears a great influence by Indian languages in which new words are quickly assimilated.

LIST OF INFLUENCES FOR CHANGES IN ENGLISH USAGE

English language is being influenced by many languages, there are many influences that brought a wide change in English usage of our country India. India, contains many dialects and languages. As mentioned above this should be one of the noted point for change in English usage. C.D.Narasimhaiah in the introduction to “English its Contemporary Role in India” talks about English’s immense success in India because of its similarity to “Hinduism, the only analogy I can think of for this phenomenon of English is absorbent like the ocean, is all things to all men, and like Hinduism it is flexible, plastic and accommodative” (C.D. Narasimhaiah, 2001).

MOTHER TONGUE

Adapting mother tongue slang while speaking English effects the intonation and pronunciation. It is rightly explained by JyotiSanyal in his book Indilish “All Indian languages have an immensely flexible syntax so that we can keep changing without much harm to sense”(Sanyal, 2006). Now if we clearly observe the statement it is understood that we can change the order of the words for a particular sentence in two or three instances but if this is followed in English it doesn’t make sense in the statement. Here JyotiSanyal in his book Indilish also gives few examples.

Original sentence: main nay aajkuchnahinkhayaa. (I didn’t eat anything today).

Changed sentence: kuchnahinkhayaa main nay aaj. (Anything haven’t eaten I today).

This is how the native language is influencing the English language when people are habituated to this type of communication. This can be said as one phase of mother tongue influencing English. An article by Mrs.Sashi Sharma and Dr. Neeti Chawla in 2013 mentioned that at lower secondary and higher secondary level in government schools the language they are using is mother tongue (Hindi, Telugu etc.). This effects the students in communicating with others in English in future. This was the survey that was done in 2013 for a particular state. This might not be applicable for every state or school but there are schools that still follow this method thereby influencing the English language.

ENGLISH FOR EXAMINATION



English in its long run is seen as a subject than a language of expression. It is learned to crack examination, to get pass marks by most students and most institutions. This point is also mentioned in an article written by Anjali Mody on 3 September 2015. She stated that “All Indian children are forced into a school system designed for a tiny proportion of the population that has an intergenerational education advantage. She also stated that “Learning a language is about gaining a skill that’s necessary to gain an education. It is not an education in itself”. So English should not be seen as a subject in academics. It is the language of expression.

CONVENIENCE OF USE

Words that are convenient in usage are slowly used in sentences of English language which in long run become a word in English language. For example, the word JUNGLE is of Sanskrit origin. People started using this word while speaking in English, in course of time the word came into existence in English language.

The word BUNGALOW is from Bengali language and came into English language at the period of British Colonization eventually by using this word while speaking in sentences.

In this way we find many other words like Roti, Pajamas, etc. that came into the world of English just while using them in our daily life communication, this also comes under one of the influences in change of English usage.

CONCLUSION

English language due to its richness in vocabulary achieved fame and is noted as simple language among different languages. Although it is simple it is being influenced by other languages. Indian languages are one among them.

India, due to its numerous languages and dialects eventually started influencing English by changing its usage. Mother Tongue here is one of the reason for changes in English usage. Mother Tongue should not be influencing other languages because we can express more freely while speaking our Mother Tongue. Mother Tongue acts like a guide in learning other languages properly.

English is learnt as a subject, to get good results or to crack examination. Students should try to feel the essence of the language, if we understand the essence and beauty of the language we wish to use and communicate in that language. This helps in improving communication skills. Communication skills become mandatory to attend an interview or to procure jobs.

While speaking English few people use words of other languages in sentences. This becomes one of the most commonly noticed influences in change in usage of English. All these can be quickly overcome by just improving our communication skills. Though the center of gravity has changed for English as it moved from Britain to all parts of the world, and it has been diluted by flavors



of other language, it did not get destroyed but rose to become the Global language and 'Lingua-Franca'. Despite so many influences English is and will be an evergreen language to be learnt and enjoyed.

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