



## INDIANISM AND INDIAN TERMS IN THE MODERN ENGLISH WORLD

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### ABSTRACT

English is a dominant language in India. It is an international language which is spoken by at least 650 million people. It is more widely spoken and written than any other language, even Latin, Greek, and Chinese, has ever been. Though there are many languages in India, people like to use English because it is official, job oriented and worldwide language. As Indians use more new words from various languages, Indian terms in the modern world are entered in authentic dictionaries such as Oxford and Cambridge. The paper deals with Indianism, Indian Hinglish and Indian Tenglish words in English world.

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### INTRODUCTION

Just a few centuries ago, English was spoken by elite sections and rich people in India. Today there are more non-native speakers than native users of English all over the world. English is nowadays official language in over 60 countries. At the time Indian independence, English was the language which was for only administration. India, after becoming independent in 1947, was left with a colonial language, in this case English, as the language of government. Kachru (1986: 111) rightly says that "English functions in the Indian socio-cultural context to perform roles relevant and appropriate to the social, educational and administrative network of India." Since it is international language, in the present days, there are many different types of Englishes around the world. As the language is flexible, it is changed by the speaker according to the relaxed. The culture of local language surely interfere the target language in many aspects such as pronunciation, vocabulary and grammar. We can see American English, England English, Europe English, African English and Indian English. These are called diasporic varieties. May be they are called dialectical varieties.

Indian speakers of English are primarily bi or multilingual Indians. They use English as a second language. Their first language is local language. Hindi is the national language of India. Although Hindi is used in many parts of the country, it is limited to certain places and so English occupies its place. People who use Hindi also like English to speak because it is comfortable language in speaking and in writing. Spolsky (1978: 43) says that "In the neighborhood domain English is the most preferred option when people's languages differ. Thus, the usefulness of Hindi as a lingua franca seems to be regionally limited." But English cannot be spoken in rural areas. In urban India, it is very common to see that many young men and women use English

with their mother tongue. The problem is that they sometimes mix local language with English. English in India exports a vast amount of Indian culture and thought to the rest of the world. Day after day, Indian English changes its face with number of colors. Indians like mixing other languages with English when they will not get expressions in the target language.

There are many typical Indian English expressions. They are commonly used by Indians who speak English as a second language. Non-Indians who do not know the words cannot understand the meanings intended by the users. They are, indeed, emerged from the local language schools and colleges. Some of the teachers and most of the learners are hardly using English in government institutions. When they come out side of the schools and colleges, all the English teachers and lecturers too communicate in their mother tongue so that they are encouraging the people to use Indian English or Hinglish or Tenglish. Indian English is not only spoken by Indian speaker, but also written in Indian literature. Great Indian writers such as Salman Rushdie and Amitav Ghosh used a number of Indian terms in their works. There are many reasons for why they use Indian words. May be, there are no exact words in English for some Indian words. They use translations of certain characteristic expressions and idioms. They impose the native speech rhythms on the English language spoken by the Indian characters in Indian novels.

#### **Indian Words:**

**Aloo:** It is a plant tuber eaten as a starchy vegetable, particularly in the Americas and Europe. It is a potato. The word 'Aloo' was taken from Urdu.

**Ashram** means hermitage. It was taken from Sanskrit.

**Auto rickshaw:** It means a three wheeler like a taxi which is being used to take the passengers from one place to one.

**Avatar** is a Hindi word. It means the manifestation in human or animal form of a god, especially Vishnu.

**Bangle:** A rigid bracelet or anklet, especially one with no clasp. An ornament is that hangs from a bracelet or necklace.

**Bazaar** means a market consisting of a street lined with shops and stalls. It may be a fair in Indian context. It was taken from Hindi.

**Bio-data:** It is used instead of using Curriculum vitae and academic vitae.

**Black money:** It means unaccounted for and untaxed cash generated by dealings in a black economy, black market or organized crime.

**Bungalow** means a one storied house. It derives from the Hindi word Bangla. In India, west Bengal people use this word.

**Cheetah** is a one long legged big cat from Africa. It is the fastest land animal on the earth.

**Chutney** is a thick and pickled paste made from some vegetables and salt. It was entered in English.

**Cinema:** The actual meaning of the word cinema is a place where we films / movies are screened. It is popularly used in India.

**Cot** is a word means a portable bed or Childers's bed. It derives from the Hindi word *Khat*. It is used in the southern parts also as *Khat*.

**Collie:** It is an Indian term which means porters, especially at railway and bus stations in India. Though it is outdated and old, it is used in India.

**Dhoti** means pancha, mardani or veshti. It is a traditional men's garment worn in India. It is a rectangular piece of unstitched cloth.

**Ginger** means a hot, fragrant spice made from the rhizome of plant, which may chopped for cooking preserved in syrup.

**Godown** means a warehouse. It is a popular term in Eastern Asia and India.

**Gurka** means a watchman or security guard. It was taken from Hindi.

**Guru** is, indeed, a Hindu or Sikh spiritual guide, guru entered English. It is a Sanskrit, means venerable.

**Homely girl:** The term homely girl is used to refer to a girl who is traditional-looking, simple and humble. It is an opposed term of Western-costumed. Some of the feminists argue that male chauvinists brought this term to tell the world that wife should be submissive.

**House wife:** A married woman, whose main occupation is caring for her family, managing household affairs, and doing housework.

**Jayaho:** It is recently entered into the Oxford dictionary which means 'win'. It is more popular and used in Oscar Award winning Indian movie 'Slum Dog Millionaire'

**Jungle** means an area of dense vegetation and hostile environment. It actually derives from the Hindi word *jangal* meaning a forest.

**Khaki:** It was taken from Urdu and Persian language. It means dusty or dust colored dress.

**Kumkum:** It is also called as Kumkuma. It is a powder used for social and religious marking in India. It is an Indian term which means a red round mark worn as a decoration on the forehead by some Hindu women and girls.

**Light tea/ light coffee:** There is no proper meaning in British context. In India "light tea and light coffee" is not a strong tea.

**Maharajah** means great king. It was taken from Hindi.

**Miss/ Mrs/ Mr/ Ms:** Miss means a young unmarried woman. Mrs means old married women. Mr means a man, of course one can say that dear sir or Mr. It is a short form of master. Ms means that when one does not know whether he is writing to a man or a woman. It is a short form of mistress.

**Palanquin** is called as Palankeen also which means a covered litter carried on poles on the shoulders of two or four men, formerly used in Eastern Asia.

**Professor/Dr:** A **professor** is a scholarly teacher. The word derives from Latin as a 'person who professes' being usually an expert in arts or sciences, a teacher of the highest rank. Doctor is an honorary title that can be conferred on anyone having completed his PhD or doctorate.

**Pundit:** It means a learned person. A learned scholar is perhaps from Dravidian origin.

**Purdah** means a curtain. Muslim women usually wear it when they go out. The word was taken from Urdu.

**Pyjamas** or **Pajamas** mean a set of loose fitting clothes, consists of a jacket and trousers. It derives from the Hindi word Payjama means leg (pay) and clothing (jama).

**Ragging:** In Indian English, the word 'ragging' means harassment of new students by seniors in universities or educational institutions. In British English, the word rag means a series of amusing events and activities organized by college students once a year to collect money for charity.

**Sari** is a garment consisting of a length of cotton or silk ornately run around the body. It is worn by women in India. It has six yards of material, with 1.5 yards hanging from one shoulder down to the ground.

**Sati:** The former Hindu practice of a widow immolating herself on her husband's funeral pyre. The word was taken from Sanskrit which means faithful wife. It was banned in India in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century when the British ruled over India.

**Shampoo** means a soapy liquid for washing the hair or carpets. It also derives from the Hindi word *Champo*. It means squeeze or knead.

**Thali:** It means a mangala sutra, a holy thread that a Hindu groom ties around the bride's neck. Indian women who have thalies around their necks are identified married women.

**Veranda** means a sheltered gallery or terrace attached to a house or some other building. It was taken from Hindi with the same meaning.

**'Yoga'** was originally a Sanskrit word means yoking or union. It refers to a system of Hindu philosophy concerned with achieving reunion with the divine.

**Zamindar** is a Hindi word. It means a rich man with large land holdings. Of course they are not existed in the contemporary era.

## CONCLUSION

Indian English plays a vital role in the world English. Though it is used in India and some of the parts of the world, it will become prominent language in future. There are more thousands of Indian words that were taken in English dictionaries. There is no doubt that there will be an Indian English dictionary in future days. It is no bad because there are many varieties of Englishes. It is a wonderful thing that if Indian English will dominates the British English. The days will come within a few years.

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