

English Literature Education in India, Past and Present, With Reference to the Japanese Experience

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Looking at Contemporary English Literature in India

As multilingual nation, contemporary India has variety of writing literature. Some of them, Bengali, Urdu, Malayalam and so on, are famous in their vast literary tradition. Though Indian government consider their native languages important in post-independent era and Hindi, as official language, has made its presence felt more, English has been used as common, educational, and literary language as ever. English users can access to economic and cultural market in the world. In some reason English literature looks still active in India. Traditionally English literature is for high-educated people and the works are sometimes transcendental, sometimes accusing unfairness, and usually realistic. Fictions for entertainment of course has been written, and from 1990s English literature market seems abruptly expansion. As far as it is in fact remarkably diverse. After 2000 or post-Chetan Bhagat, fictions for young generation are so popular and change the English literary market in India.

Our project, “Contemporary Indian literature in English: In the social transformation and globalization of India”, is interested in the diversified of English literature in Indian society and the phenomena of the commercial literature. We think that the matter is connect to the history of English in India. In spite of discussing the matter directly in this association, we would to look out over the concept of English through discourse of education in British, India and Japan. It is that we propose here English literature is what shift in some political, historical discourse.

For General Introduction of thinking English Literature Education in India and Japan

Looking at the experience of English study in India, we will reconsider the discipline of “English” in Japan. The two countries have in common the way in which they adopted the idea of English Literature as a major component of general education However, in other way according to historical conditions. Whereas in Japan English has never been a true literary language, in India, English became a major language in literature, necessitating a redefinition of English Literature. As Gauri Viswanathan said in *Masks of Conquest* (1990), it is true to say that English Literature has adapted to the British educational system, and indeed English itself has metamorphosed.

With talks about English in British Educational system and Shakespeare in Post-World War Japan, Dr. Munish Tamang, from Delhi University, lecture about the history of English in India and literature programs of Delhi University as a sample. In early 19th century English is introduced to India in trial-and-error method and some think this condition made ‘English’ as curriculum and authorize ‘English Literature’. After decades of post-independent, from 1990s Delhi University started reconsideration of syllabus of English and which texts are in or out. These days some Indian English Literature are in the reading text and as a matter of course some canonical works should be out. As a result, English literature has a specific and multi-phased in English program in Delhi University.

English is resourceful figure in active works, educational system and discourse. Now how we could see English as general, borderless, and transborder literature, but also as response the voices of local.

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