

## English Colonialism and Imperialism in India

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### Abstract

This paper traces the dominance of the English language in India, which was under the direct influence of British empires. India was the most powerful state and was colonized so far by the British Empire. Its imprints can be seen still now, especially the language imperialism. English was encouraged for the purpose of business and trade earlier, than it became the superior language of India. Later on it became the way to escape from the social class system and was mostly learnt by the upper class. This study answers the questions: Does the English language be praised or condemned? How have Indians responded to the English language? What efforts were made by British missionaries to incorporate the English language in the universities and colleges of India? In order to estimate the extensive impacts of colonialism, a distinction needs to be made between the direct and indirect impacts and instrumentation. The article also presents the characteristics of language imperialism following the same blueprint as industrialist economic supremacy.

**Keywords:** British, India, Colonialism, Imperialism

### Introduction

In the past decades Britain was considered to be the master in industry. This alarming benefit permitted this petite, island nation to have an uneven amount of strength at their power. Britain did not exercise her dominance to enslave the world. But she used her economic and political power around the globe. Promoting capitalism, introducing well-equipped institutions, making obligatory the rule of law, and investing in communications, Britain lifted many colonies and made them advanced according to the way the world is moving. The expansion of British empires at the end of the 15th century has been a remarkable history. At the start of the 20th century, a lot of areas of Africa and Asia were colonies of British Empires.

The involvement of British on the Indian subcontinent started in the early seventeenth century through the profitable business of the East India Company. The British Empire in the Indian subcontinent lasted nearly 200 years.

After ruling in India, the British people thought to westernize India all the way through trade and industry and political restructuring. The British people desired to improve the poor conditions of Indians and they take it as a duty to reform them. English people brought projects to improve India economically and communicatively. The British administration also took the responsibility to improve the moral conditions through educating them in the well-developed organizations. It was commonly said that English people want "Indian in blood and color but English in taste and opinion."

British people brought revolution in the lives of Indians. The sudden rise in the twentieth century was the proof of the positive role of British Empire. No one can deny the facts of Indians' improvement politically and economically.

Following are some of the interests of British Empire for which they came to India and later on which changed into language imperialism:

### The East India Company

English people came to India in order to do trade, at first they were not supposed to invade India. Initially they were searching for valuable spices from East India. There are two phases of British involvement in India, firstly they were trading in the half of the century and secondly they invaded the rich part of India and implemented their political power on them. By the time British ruled over every part of India and showed their supremacy over them via appointing military. India became the main point for the trade. They had earned much from the East India Company; about twenty to thirty ships were sent yearly and were worth up to £2 million. The company was running very high; twenty-four directors were selected for the company's operation by the shareholders. There were worldwide demands for the cotton cloth in huge quantities. Other cheap washable, lightweight fabrics were also demanded.

### **Country Political affairs**

On Indian economy, the East India Company's business was built. The agricultural raw materials like sugar, the indigo dye or opium were offered for export by Indians. In the first half of the century Indian business seemed to be recognized on a constant and beneficial basis. Because of the rise of the company so many conflicts arise in the states. French and British become rivals by the 1740s.

### **A new Domain in the India**

The conflict that arises between the British and French were ended with the supremacy of British in 1763 in the most significant areas of India. The British missionaries were led by Robert Clive. The East India Company's governor soon made the governor of province. Afterwards British Empire ruled the India. A large number of armies were prepared to protect the company's matters and to resist internal forces which were against British Empire. The company's employees were made part of the administration of the new British regimes.

### **Company Organization**

Initially the much of the administrative work was done by Indians. Government announces the tax. Cultivators who were intermediaries were supposed to give one third of the produce of land to the state. British judges were handling all the matters of the courts which were based on Hindu and Muslim laws. British judges were not applying their laws on Indians. By the time the attitudes were changing. India was suffering from deep rooted sufferings and backwardness. That backwardness should be improved by the foreign policies. Many suggestions were made for the betterment of the Indian state. The ignorance and fallacies considered to be removed and was given responsibility to the missionaries.

Both the national government and the directors of the company maintained that further territorial expansion must be cramped. This was the rarely hope. By the end of the century a series of irregular wars were started which would take English authority over the next fifty years.

The Persian was one of the other languages used in the Indian government and education system. Persian was also one of the Lingua Franca of Indian state. Lingua franca was one of the significant pace for the "Anglicizing the state". Indian education was restructured with the British rules and ways of teaching were also modified. The English subject was implemented to the Indian secondary schools and universities. The one of the motive of implementing English in the Indian education was to provide better education to the elite class. This system was also made for helping British people in trade and business.

The Roman Domain deceased with immensely practice all over Europe. Spanish, Portuguese, French, and English has enduring control on other kingdoms and some of the dialects as Dutch, German, and Italian were departed because of their pale governmental and armed supremacy.

Language played a very important role in any of the state. As it is the only source of communication. English has a great role in the education and business because of the English colonies in many of the states. As English has colonized many countries like Japan, India, these countries has included English in their education systems. English is treated as second language of these countries because of the English colonies. The main influence of English is because of its position of being global language. As in the Indian state English language is learned because it is the way to escape from class system. Another factor is that it is considered as a high-status language, whosoever will speak English language will be considered as a better educated person compared to those who don't speak English.

The one who were speaking English were given good jobs with handsome salaries, so that was also a reason for learning English in India. English was also considered as 'language of elite class.' The chief aspect which displays English as the most prestigious is the dominancy of British Empire in past decades and at present America's role from the late 19<sup>th</sup> century.

The English language was imposed to the Indian state, because of the getting help from Indians in commerce and trade. British rulers decide to include English as one of the important language in the India's education, government and policies. India's other main languages were totally ignored.

At first, English language was one of the imposed languages to colonies by the colonizers but later on it became the need of these peoples. Such practices were made in order to enlighten Indian people and to bring improvements in the state.

The main slogan was to make Indian people improved and civilized as English peoples were. They wanted to make Indians like British people in terms of taste and opinion. No doubt, it could happen through the language. They wanted make Indians as the obedient slaves of their English masters.

The English people made two types of rules, for two types of class systems, one for educated elite class and other rule for unschooled commonalities. The British missionaries were allotted an assignment for teaching the Indian people. The colonized part of British Empire was supervised by the missionaries in terms of education.

Another reason was the World Bank; the foremost source for funding's to getting higher studies. It was also funding the post-colonial states.

### **English Imperialism: its approaches and attitudes**

In India, there were two types of approaches in making English as dominant language of India. One is obligation of English language; everyone has to learn English because it was one of the official languages of Indian state. The other was their own choice of learning English, because it was the language through which Indian can escape from class systems. It was the language which was given importance in education and offices. The colonizers imposed their language to the colonies, so it was one of the reasons for learning English. The languages of Indian states were neglected. The people were learning English because they wanted to be like upper classes. Other reason for learning English was that people wanted to get better jobs and better opportunities for higher studies. From that time, people who were good at speaking English were considered as the decent people.

English has recognition of one of the international language. It is the language where we can find so much literature of English and translated work of Greeks and other languages of ancient times. It is now considered as one of the language of education and trade. The international trade markets, dealers and businessman are dealing in this language, because of its status of Lingua Franca. The America's impact can be seen in the globalization of English language at present time. America's music, film industry and companies have a major role in rapid spread of English language. So America at present time and British at past has influence in globalization of English language.

We can find English all over the place, from commercials to social broadcasting and internet to e-mailing; it makes 'English as language of all'. Mostly it is learned as the second language by many countries.

### **Conclusion**

English language is considered as one of the lingua franca around the globe. Through this language much of the communication took place. It is considered as one of the common language because of its status in past and at present. Its impacts can be seen in India even today. The British people went to India for the purpose of trade and business at first not to settle down. The India was ruled by British for a long time, almost 200 years. So their impacts can be found in India even today. The shift comes to the language imperialism soon after East India Company. At first the language was taught by British missionaries to Indians was for the purpose of business. So through British missionaries it was imperialism, "the language imperialism". English was included in the Indian colleges and universities. It was learned because it was considered one of the ways to get out of class system. The masses wanted to learn to get better job opportunities, and chances to study abroad. Through imposition and free choice, English has its remarkable footprints in India even today. Whoever was learning English was considered as noble person because it was language of noble peoples. However English people thought that they are very enlightened one and very generous to civilize and reform Indians. During Great Britain's ruling India has many developments such as new road and rail network, railways, ports and others. The British government has positive impacts on India; its business has developed globally and it has also professional teachers for teaching English. English government enhanced the economy, modern technologies, transportation, education, and way of living to the Indian people. It has negative impacts as well, like the wars between Britain and India, loss of previous Indian industries, loss of money, racism, dependency on British people, and their own varieties were neglected by the British Empire.

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