

Study on Indian Women Writers- English Language**Shital Shivaji Giri**New High School & Secondary School,
Raghunath Nagar, Tq Gangapur**Abstract**

English Language was introduced in India during British rule. Indians learned this colonial language and some Indian writers started writing in English. The first book written by an Indian in English was by Sake Dean Mahomet titled "Travels of Dean Mahomet" published in 1793. From that date that date the trend of English writing remained continue and today note male but female writers have made their own field. Female writers made their contribution through great novels poetry and prose. The paper provides a brief introduction of the writings and is based on secondary sources.

Keywords: English Language, women Indian writers, contribution, prose and poetry

Introduction

English language has made prominent place in Indian societies and has become a dominant language. Though it is not official language in various areas but its influence could be observed from the education system of India. It has been used and still is used by official businessmen and writers. In Literature its role remained active from 18th century to 21st century. The past few years have witnessed a gigantic thriving of Indian writing in English in the global market. Indian writers have not only 'natives' the British language in terms of stylistic features, but also accumulated English in terms of Indianite context. Now India has emerged as a major literary nation. Female English writers too used the British Style and made their contribution in the literature. Some of the prominent female English writers are Amrita Kaur, Sarojini Naidu, Arundhati Roy, Anita Desai, Kiran Desai, Kamla Das etc. Their writings touch multidimensional themes and have been awarded at several times.

Research Methodology

This study is based on the secondary data. It is collected from websites, books, and related research papers.

Amrita Kour

Amrita Kour was born on 31st August, 1919 in Punjab, now in Pakistan. Her father was also a poet. Amrita joined the progressive writer's

movement and she also remained busy in social activities. She lived in relationship with Imroz a famous writer and artist. For many years she edited 'Nagmani' a monthly literary magazine in Punjabi. She wrote about hundred books of poetry, fiction, essays, biographies, autobiographies, Punjabi folk songs. Most of her literature reflect the terror of partition like Kushwant Singh she is known for partition literature. pinjar (The Skelton) is a famous novel, written in 1950, in this novel she creates her memorable character 'Puro'. This novel depicts the story of violence against women and massacre during partition on which an award winning film was made in 2003.

Sarojini Naidu

Sarojini Naidu was born on 13th February, 1879 in Hyderabad. Naidu was a keen reader and her outlook became very serious in nature. She contributed a lot in the freedom struggle of India. She served as the President of Indian National Congress in 1952. She toured the USA and Canada. In the World War II in 1939 she was arrested along with Gandhi and Nehru. She started her literary career at the age of 11 in 1890 when she wrote her first poem. She wrote a long poem "The Lady of the Lake consisting of 1300 lines in six days in 1892. In the same year she wrote a drama consisting of 2000 lines. Her first collection of poems "Golden Threshold" was published in 1905. It consists of forty lyrics on different subjects. The famous poems of this collection are 'Innovation to India' 'Lord Buddha Seated on Lotus'. Her second collection of poems titled "The Bird of Time" was published in

1912, in London. It contained forty-six lyrics with the theme of love. Her third collection of poems "The Broken Wing" was published in 1917 in London. It consists of sixty-one lyrics. Her other collections are The Sector Flute (1953) "The Feathers of Dawn" (1961) and "The Temple". She is called nightingale of India.

Arundhati Roy

Arundhati Roy is luminary among the contemporary writers. Her writings deal with the plight of downtrodden and suppression of woman in male dominated society. Her writing career touched stars with her novel "The God of Small Things" which was sold just like melons. She got worldwide fame through this novel as it deals with suppression of women. Roy surprised the world with her first non-fictional work "The End of Imagination" in which she speaks about the nuclear tests conducted by India in 1998 at Pokham. Roy criticized the government of India for conducting nuclear tests without the consent of people. She made it a national issue through her writing and takes it as a challenge. She had sympathy with the people who suffered a lot due to this project. Roy won Booker Prize for her fiction "The God of Small Things" and was also nominated for the Sahitya Academy Award for the collection of essay "The Algebra of Infinite Justice" in 2005.

Anita Desai

Anita Desai is an Indian novelist professor at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. She has been shortlisted for the Booker Prize for three times. She received a Sahitya Akademi Award in 1978 for her novel *Fire on the Mountain* and she also won the British Guardian Prize for her work *The Village by the Sea*. "Cry the Peacock" is her first novel which was published in 1963. She creates her character Maya through whom she describes the horror of partition. In an insane condition she kills her husband. Desai has made a place in contemporary writers. She is one of the powerful novelist and she is also a psychological novelist. She depicts reality through her writings and her travelling enriches her writings. Another female writer who has got a prominent place among the female writers is Sheshi Desh Pandi. She has written eight novels and six collections of short stories and four children books. Her famous novel "The Dark

Holds no Terror" portrays the life of a woman who becomes a victim of male dominance. In her next novel "Roots and Shadows" she presents a picture of a woman who refuses to accept traditional life. Desh Pandi becomes successful in applying stream-of-consciousness technique in her writings. Her writings deal with the crisis of woman. Desh Pandi won Sahitya Academy Award for her novel "The Long Silences."

Kiran Desai

Kiran Desai (born 3 September 1971) is an Indian author. Her novel *The Inheritance of Loss* won the 2006 Man Booker Prize and the National Book Critics Circle Fiction Award. In January 2015, *The Economic Times* listed her as one of 20 "most influential" global Indian women. Kiran Desai is the daughter of novelist Anita Desai. Kiran was born in Delhi, and then spent the early years of her life in Pune and Mumbai. She studied at Cathedral and John Cannon School. She left India at 14, and she and her mother lived in England for a year before moving to the United States. Kiran Desai's first novel, *Hullabaloo in the Guava Orchard*, was published in 1998 and received accolades from figures as Salman Rushdie. It won the Betty Trask Award, a prize given by the Society of Authors for best new novels by citizens of the Commonwealth of Nations under the age of 35. Her second book, *The Inheritance of Loss*, (2006) was widely praised by critics throughout Asia, Europe and the United States. It won the 2006 Man Booker Prize, as well as the 2006 National Book Critics Circle Fiction Award. Kiran Desai became the youngest-ever woman to win the Booker Prize at the age of 35 (this was later broken by Eleanor Catton in 2013). In August 2008, Desai was a guest on *Private Passions*, the biographical music discussion programme hosted by Michael Berkeley on BBC Radio 3. In May 2007 she was the featured author at the inaugural Asia House Festival of Cold Literature. Kiran Desai was awarded a 2013 Berlin Prize Fellowship at the American Academy in Berlin. Kiran Desai lives in New York City. She stated in 2017 that she had been working for over a decade on a new book "About Power- About a young Indian woman out in India and the world", which was slated to be out the following year. The novel has not been released; as

of 2021, Desai has published no books since her Booker Prize-winning second novel in 2006.

Kamala Surayya Das

Kamala Das (born Kamala; 31 March 1934–31 May 2009), popularly known by her one-time pen name Madhavikutty and married name Kamala Das, was an Indian poet in English as well as an author in Malayalam from Kerala, India. Her popularity in Kerala is based chiefly on her short stories and autobiography, while her oeuvre in English, written under the name Kamala Das, is noted for the poems and explicit autobiography. She was also a widely read columnist and wrote on diverse topics including women's issues, child care, politics among others etc. Her open and honest treatment of female sexuality, free from any sense of guilt, infused her writing with power and she got hope after freedom, but also marked her as an iconoclast in her generation. On 31 May 2009 aged 75, she died at a hospital in Pune. Kamala Das was born in Punnayurkulam, Ponnani taluk, Malabar District, British India (present-day Thrissur district, Kerala, India) on 31 March 1934, to V. M. Nair, a managing editor of the widely circulated Malayalam daily *Mathrubhumi*, and Nalapat Balamani Amma, a renowned Malayali poet. She spent her childhood between Calcutta, where her father was employed as a senior officer in the Walford Transport Company that sold Bentley and Rolls Royce automobiles, and the Nalapat ancestral home in Punnayurkulam. Like her mother Balamani Amma, Kamala Das also excelled in writing. Her love of poetry began at an early age through the influence of her great uncle, Nalapat Narayana Menon, a prominent writer. At the age of 15, she married bank officer Madhav Das, who encouraged her writing interests, and she started writing and publishing both in English and in Malayalam. Calcutta in the 1960s was a tumultuous time for the arts, and Kamala Das was one of the many voices that came up and started appearing in cult anthologies along with a generation of Indian English poets. English was the language she chose for all six of her published poetry collections.

She was noted for her many Malayalam short stories as well as many poems written in English. Das was also a syndicated columnist. She once claimed that "poetry does not sell in this

country [India]", but her forthright columns, which sounded off on everything from women's issues and child care to politics, were popular. Kamala Das' first book of poetry, *Summer in Calcutta* was a breath of fresh air in Indian English poetry. She wrote chiefly of love, its betrayal, and the consequent anguish. Ms Das abandoned the certainties offered by an archaic, and somewhat sterile, aestheticism for an independence of mind and body at a time when Indian poets were still governed by "19th-century diction, sentiment and romanticized love." Her second book of poetry, *The Descendants* was even more explicit, urging women to:

*Gift him what makes you woman, the scent of
Long hair, the musk of sweat between the breasts,
The warm shock of menstrual blood, and all your
Endless female hungers ..."* – *The Looking Glass*

This directness of her voice led to comparisons with Marguerite Duras and Sylvia Plath

At the age of 42, she published a daring autobiography, *My Story*; it was originally written in Malayalam (titled *Ente Katha*) and later she translated it into English. Later she admitted that much of the autobiography had fictional elements. "Some people told me that writing an autobiography like this, with absolute honesty, keeping nothing to oneself, is like doing a striptease. True, Maybe. I, will, firstly, strip myself of clothes and ornaments. Then I intend to peel off this light brown skin and shatter my bones. At last, I hope you will be able to see my homeless, orphan, intensely beautiful soul, deep within the bone, deep down under, beneath even the marrow, in a fourth dimension" An Introduction is very bold poem in which she expresses her true feelings about men.- Excerpts from the translation of her autobiography in Malayalam, *Ente Katha*

Kamala's "An Introduction" is an autobiographical poem written in the colloquial style. She presents her feelings and thoughts in a bold manner. She realizes her identity and understands that it is the need of every woman to raise a voice in this male-dominated society. The poet longs for love it is the result of her loneliness and frustration.

The poem "A Hot Noon in Malabar" is about climate, surrounding in a town in Malabar.

The people may be annoyed by the heat, dust and noise but she likes it. She longs for the hot noon in Malabar because she associates it with the wild men, wild thoughts and wild love. It is a torture for her to be away from Malabar.

Kamala Das is essentially known for her bold and frank expression. The prominent features of her poetry are an acute obsession with love and the use of confession. The main theme of her poetry is based upon freedom, love and protection. She wrote on a diverse range of topics, often disparate- from the story of a poor old servant, about the sexual disposition of upper-middle-class women living near a metropolitan city or in the middle of the ghetto. Some of her better-known stories include *Pakshiyude anam*, *Neypayasam*, *Thanuppu*, and *Chandana Marangal*. She wrote a few novels, out of which *Neermathalam Pootha Kalam*, which was received favorably by the reading public as well as the critics, stands out. She travelled extensively to read poetry to Germany's University of Duisburg-Essen, University of Bonn and University of Duisburg universities, Adelaide Writer's Festival, Frankfurt Book Fair, University of Kingston, Jamaica, Singapore, and South Bank Festival (London), Concordia University (Montreal, Canada), etc. Her works are available in French, Spanish, Russian, German and Japanese. Kamala Das was a confessional poet whose poems have often been considered at par with those of Anne Sexton and Robert Lowell. She has also held positions as Vice-chairperson in Kerala Sahitya Academy, Chairperson in Kerala Forestry Board, President of the Kerala Children's Film Society, editor of *Poet* magazine and Poetry editor of *Illustrated Weekly of India*. "*Dance of Eunuchs*" is a fine poem by Kamala Das. It has an autobiographical tone. The poet sympathizes with eunuchs. The eunuchs dance in the heat of the sun. Their costumes, makeup and their passion with which they dance suggest the female delicacy. Their outward appearance and joy is contrasted with their inward sadness. Actually there is no joy in their heart, they can't even dream of happiness. In the poem '*A Request*', the poetess Kamala Das realizes that her life is meaningless. She is alone and her colourless life is designed of crumbling patterns. Although occasionally seen as an attention-grabber

in her early years, she is now seen as one of the most formative influences on Indian English poetry. In 2009, *The Times* called her "the mother of modern English Indian poetry". Her last book titled *The Kept Woman and Other Stories*, featuring translation of her short stories, was published posthumously. Kamala Das is known for her controversial writings where she openly talks about the restriction imposed on women. She is known for her rebellious nature against the conventions.

Conclusion

Indian woman writers in English have made a great contribution in the world of literature. They excite with admirable aplomb as anthropologist, novelist, essayist, travel writers. They have excelled the global standards set by the post-colonial and postmodern writers. They are the mediators who reflect the core social and political problems. Their writings have excelled in the global literary field and their writings have achieved much academic attention.

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