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# **Evolution of Indian English Prose: Trends and Intentions in Recent Novels**

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## Abstract

In this research, the dynamic landscape of the Indian English language is explored via the assessment of contemporary novels. The investigation also charts the direction that the language has taken in recent years. The purpose of this study is to investigate the numerous patterns that have been discovered in the narrative styles, linguistic choices, and thematic issues that may be found in Indian fiction. The purpose of this research is to detangle the intricate web of storytelling that exists within the modern Indian milieu by examining the underlying reasons and intentions of these literary works. This inquiry tries to give insights into the emerging forms of Indian English prose by way of an exhaustive analysis of a few selected works. The goal of this investigation is to shed light on the complex relationships between tradition and innovation, cultural identity, and the global influences that influence the narrative. By offering a lens through which to examine the wide variety of voices and points of view that can be found in contemporary Indian novels written in English, the findings of the research broaden our understanding of the evolution of Indian literature throughout recent history.

**Key Word:** Indian English Prose, Contemporary Novels, Evolution, Trends, Intentions, Narrative Styles, Linguistic Choices, Thematic Preoccupations

## Introduction

Over the past several years, the Indian English novel has been expanding and changing, which is a reflection of the nation's altering social, political, and cultural milieu. Due to the work of a new generation of writers who are experimenting with new issues and techniques, there has been a surge in the popularity of Indian novels written in English during the past twenty years. This is what has caused the surge in popularity. Themes such as gender, sexuality, urbanization, and globalization have been explored in contemporary Indian novels written in English. These books typically take place in India's quickly developing cities. In addition to their analysis of the opportunities and challenges that are given by India's rapid industrialization, these works are notable because they depict current Indian life in a manner that is both realistic and harsh.

"The Immortals of Meluha" by Amish Tripathi (Tripathi, 2014), "The White Tiger" by Aravind Adiga (Cristina Mendes, 2010), and "The Palace of Illusions" by Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni (Manivannan, 2008) are three of the most notable Indian English books that have been published in recent years. The picture of modern India in these novels has been praised for its insightfulness and creativity. As a result, they have



gained a tremendous amount of popularity not just in India but also in other countries.

The conclusion is that a new generation of authors is adopting fresh themes and writing styles that depict the altering political, social, and cultural context of India. This is one of the factors that has contributed to the sustained popularity of the Indian English novel in recent years. The readers of these novels are presented with a novel perspective on India and are provided with an awareness of the modern society that is rapidly developing in India.

### **Styles and Motives in Indian English Novels in Recent Era**

Over the past several years, the Indian English book has had a resurgence in popularity and has continued to develop and progress toward its current state. The novel styles and issues that are being explored by a new generation of writers in India reflect the changing political, social, and cultural context in the country. One significant trend that can be found in current Indian English literature is the utilization of magic realism, which is a literary style that combines elements of fantasy and reality. The use of this literary style allows the author to dive into the complexities of Indian civilization while also imbuing the narrative with a whimsical and ethereal character.

In modern Indian English novels, another tendency that has emerged is the focus placed on social and political topics. These themes include urbanization, globalization, and the cultural repercussions of industrialization, which are examples of such subjects. The works in this collection offer a representation of contemporary Indian life that is both realistic and severe. They delve into the advantages and disadvantages that come along with India's rapid modernization. The use of comedy and satire is a recurrent motif in modern Indian novels written in English. Authors like to employ humour in order to draw attention to the contradictions and complexities of contemporary Indian society. The ability to conduct a more critical and nuanced analysis of Indian life and culture is made possible as a result of this.

The most recent Indian English books stand out from other works because of the unique subjects, methodologies, and reasons that they explore. By employing a variety of literary techniques, including magic realism, humour and satire, as well as social and political critique, these novels offer a unique and insightful perspective on contemporary Indian life and culture (Giri, 2018).



## Review of literature

**Singh (2018)**, over the 21st century, the Indian novel has evolved into a medium that is both vibrant and expressive. A number of new authors have appeared during this period, exploring a range of novelistic trajectories. While new books by well-known authors such as Salman Rushdie, Amitav Ghosh, and Vikram Chandra demonstrate the grand postcolonial gestures that are typical of the Indian novel written in the late 20th century, there have also been a number of new authors who have debuted during this period. Among these authors are Kiran Desai, Aravind Adiga, Githa Hariharan, Samina Ali, Karan Mahajan, and Amitava Kumar, to name just a few. During the 1980s and 1990s, there was a broad trend away from ambitious literary fiction in the form of the "huge, baggy monster." This shift resulted in the release of numerous massive postcolonial novels. Instead, the most active and important writers in India are employing novelistic forms and literary styles that are tied to the changing social and political environment of India today. These writers are using these forms and styles to create their works. In addition, the objective of the younger generation of authors has been to investigate narrative frameworks that are significantly more limited in terms of regional and cultural categories rather than making an effort to depict the entirety of life in contemporary India. *Midnight's Children* (1981) by Salman Rushdie took its protagonist all over the Indian subcontinent and indexed a number of significant historical controversies.

On the other hand, Padma Viswanathan's *The Toss of a Lemon* (2008) effectively stays local to Tamil Nadu by focusing only on the caste and gender attitudes of a single Tamil Brahmin family. This was done in order to achieve the goal of broad representation. The terms "New Urban Realism," "Gender and Secular History," and "Globalizing India, Reinscribing the Past" are three broad categories that can be used to summarize the primary concerns and themes of Indian fiction in the twenty-first century. Despite the fact that this new literary movement does not have a single overarching goal or distinguishing literary style, these three categories can be used to summarize the main concerns and themes of Indian fiction.

**Rao (2019)**, There was a profound and understandable antipathy for the British occupation of the nation, which coexisted with an equally strong and confusing emotional attraction to the English language. This peculiar contradiction arose during the Indian struggle for independence from British control. Following the British exit from India, there was a concerted attempt to maintain English as the official language of the nation and as a unifying factor. This endeavour may be described as nearly savage. A reinvigorated desire to produce literary works in all Indian languages, including English, which some people thought to be an



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Indian language, was also sparked by the formation of a new nation. This desire occurred simultaneously with the emergence of a new nation. The number of Indian authors who write in English is remarkable despite the fact that English-speaking Indians represented a minority in the past and continue to do so now. This is due to the fact that those who had been writing in the language previous to the nation's independence now turned to write in it with "doubled vigour," as the phrase goes, and a great number of additional individuals joined them. Indian authors stand out among this group of English-language writers due to the quantity of their work as well as the quality of their writing. If we take into account the fact that there is no such thing as an old Indian tradition of novel writing, then the accomplishment of producing such a work will appear to us as being even more remarkable.

**Rahman et al. (2020)**, Shashi Tharoor's *The Great Indian Novel* is an example of a post-modern historiographic metafiction work that investigates the relationship between reality and fiction. To depict the political history of the twentieth century, this book also recreates individuals, events, and stories from the tale of the Mahabharata. With the help of this study, an attempt is made to demonstrate how Tharoor reconstructs the history of the twentieth century by utilizing the old Mahabharata classical epic. In addition to this, it investigates the continuing processes and the common link that exists between fiction and history by adopting a metafiction technique and self-reflexivity. In order to approach *The Great Indian Novel* as a postmodernist critique, Tharoor makes use of a metafiction method throughout the entirety of the book. This is the most suitable use of the technique. Through the reinterpretation of the Mahabharata story and the use of a variety of metafictional methods, Tharoor deftly mixes elements of truth and fiction. It is through the employment of the myth that the gap that exists between the past and the present is brought to light. In order to recount the old epic in a manner that is both realistic and sarcastic, Tharoor employs a contemporary ensemble of political characters. This allows him to critique recent Indian history and representation.

**Das & Sen (2021)**, It was the British government that was responsible for bringing the English language to India. Because of this, English may go extinct as a language in India. It blossomed into something more. There have been various phases in the history of Indian English literature, including IndoAnglian, Indian English, Indian writing in English, and, most recently, Indian English literature. These periods are referred to as the phases of history. Even though there is a wide variety of languages, ethnicities, and beliefs among the Indian community, Indian writing in the English language has been able to successfully capture and depict the multilingual and multicultural population of India. This research focused mostly on the



development of Indian novels written in English both during and after the country's independence. The fundamental objective of this research is to get an understanding of the origins and development of Indian English novels written in many languages in India. The methodologies that are utilized in accordance with qualitative research.

**Batra (2021)**, It is the purpose of this study to discover, in concrete words, the true identity of Indian English fiction (IEF). The majority of the studies that have been done on this subject have mostly concentrated on the linguistic and formalistic aspects of the issue. A great number of works that fall under the IEF genre also reflect Indian identity by showing apparent cultural traits such as relationships, attitudes, norms, conventions, traditions, obstacles, and so on, as well as sociopolitical themes. I contend that these two components constitute only a portion of the Indian identity that is portrayed. The concealed region at the base of the superstructure is the most important component since it is the one that the majority of authors have not given any consideration to because they are either ignorant or uninterested in the subject. This basis is reflected in the Indian worldview, as well as in Indian philosophy and values. Due to the fact that it makes use of a large number of books to show various concepts—both good and negative—while addressing Indianness, this study is unique and will most likely be valuable to future research.

**Madhvi & Sharma (2021)**, Novels are the only works of literature that are able to exhibit the maximum capacity of the human brain, give the most thorough comprehension of human nature, the happiest picture of its diversity, and the most lively expressions of wit and humour in the best possible language. Novels are the only works of literature that. This definition of a book was offered by Jane Austen, who did an excellent job of comprehending the significance and function that books have in the lives of an individual. In addition to being a kind of art, literature is also a mirror of society, as is common knowledge. Everyone has the potential to reach life beyond our own, which is vividly imagined through the study of it. It requires one to consider the basics of society as well as the ways in which individuals act within the bounds of society, which helps to present a person as an informed member of the community. The purpose of this page is to attempt to portray the narrative of the Indian English novel, which is a lovely story of changing traditions and customs as well as a changing India.

**Ashfaq (2018)**, Through an examination of the postcolonial fiction that emerged because of the acts of violence that were carried out in India during the anti-Sikh massacre of 1984, the destruction of the Babri Masjid in Ayodhya in 1992, and the explosion of violence in Gujarat in 2002, this essay investigates the ways



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in which literary representation influences communalism or religious minorities. The purpose of this article is to bring attention to the narrative tactics and strategies that fictional constructs use in order to explain and dispute the psychological, emotional, and physical components of the marginalization and exclusion of minorities in India. These fictions, which have arisen as a powerful and radical criticism, might be seen as resistance studies or counter-narratives. They investigate and analyze the politics of repression that underpin nationalist discourses, therefore weakening the secular foundations upon which these discourses are built.

**Chaudhury (2019)**, Feminism has had a huge impact on the composition of the book written in English and Indian. In spite of the fact that it came to India later than expected, it has subsequently emerged as a significant influence in Indian-English writing across the board. The feminist movement is the voice of the woman who has been silenced and oppressed. Feminism has been linked to a number of negative emotions, including anxiety, aversion, and boredom. The purpose of this section is to explain the concept of femininity, sometimes known as feminism, as it is expressed in the works of renowned Indian authors who write within the English language. The works that have been published in both Indian and English continue to present a picture that is consistent with the ever-changing socioeconomic realities. A substantial amount of importance may be attributed to the authors who emerged from the Indian-English literary scene. As the dawn of a new century approached, they provided Indian women with the opportunity to take an active role in the social life of their communities. By utilizing the book as a tool for social change, Indian-English authors, particularly women novelists, have established themselves as a distinctive genre. This is especially true of books written by women. Their unwavering commitment to women acts as a driving force for social and reformist initiatives.

**Roy (2020)**, When we talk about Indian English literature, we are referring to the body of work that has been produced by Indian authors whose native tongue is one of the many languages that are spoken in India. Additionally, it is connected to the artistic endeavours of people who are from the Indian diaspora. This type of writing is sometimes referred to as Indo-Anglian literature. As a literary genre, this development might be classified within the more general term of postcolonial literature. This article will focus on Indian books written in English that were released after 1980.





## Significance of Indian English Novels

The significance of Indian novels written in English lies in the fact that they provide a unique and invaluable perspective on Indian society and culture. An extensive and diversified body of work that dives into the complexities of Indian life and provides viewpoints on the political, social, and cultural atmosphere of the country is presented in these volumes. The complexity and diversity of Indian society and culture are shown in Indian English novels, which is why these books are so significantly essential. By means of colourful narratives and insightful ideas, these books present a multifaceted and nuanced depiction of Indian life. As a result, they capture the attention of readers and bring India to the forefront of world politics. The significance of Indian novels written in English lies in the fact that they provide a critical study of contemporary issues that are relevant to India. These issues include urbanization, globalization, and the cultural repercussions of modernity. According to Singh (2012), these works offer a representation of modern Indian life that is both realistic and harsh. They do this by diving into the advantages and disadvantages that come along with India's rapid modernization. To summarize, Indian novels written in English are significant because they offer a diverse selection of works that provide a critical analysis of contemporary issues that are impacting India, provide a unique and priceless insight into Indian society and culture, and investigate the complexities of Indian life. In addition to capturing the attention of readers all over the world, they have contributed to the elevation of India's prominence on the worldwide stage.

## Conclusion

In conclusion, a detailed examination of the Indian English prose that is used in current novels reveals a dynamic and diverse fabric that is marked by conscious decisions and a variety of stylistic tendencies. The authors have experimented with new linguistic paths and thematic preoccupations in their narrative styles, which exemplify the dynamic connection that exists between innovation and tradition. This research throws light on the intricate ways in which contemporary Indian writers navigate their cultural identities while also embracing and reacting to influences from the outside world. The purpose of this research is to develop a more comprehensive understanding of the dynamic area of Indian literature by way of a targeted assessment of certain novels. The findings have brought to light the wide variety of voices and perspectives that can be found in Indian literature written in English. They also demonstrate how the art of storytelling is always evolving to accommodate the complex intersections of tradition, modernity, and global connectedness. In addition, the analysis of Indian English prose in modern works sheds insight into the deliberate choices





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made by the authors, in addition to illuminating the breadth of literary expression. The connection between tradition and innovation is a theme that appears frequently in literature. This interaction presents a literary environment that is both open to contemporary influences and deeply rooted in the history of culture.



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