

English Enjoys The Status Of Sanskrit - Embodiment Of Indian Language

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Abstract

The ancient Indian epics like Ramayana scripted by Valmiki, Mahabharata described by Sage Vyasa, scholarly dramas inscribed by Mahakavi Kalidasa – a few are Abhignana Sakuntalam, b) Raghuvamsam c) Meghasandesam d) Kumara Sambhavam and many other writers like Bhavabhooti, Bharavi and all their verses (kavyas) written in Sanskrit which is the language of angels, the language of Vedas, Upanishads and other epics. Indians – popularly known as Hindus used to speak only in Sanskrit as some historians recorded in their research works, until the invasion of Muslims and later Britishers. India is a multi-cultured, multi-religious country in a big volume of several languages structured from the mother language Sanskrit. When this ancient language Sanskrit was replaced with English in Indian schools, regional languages flourished and slowly Sanskrit was relegated to utter neglect. It is lugubrious to say that today, almost ninety percent of Indians are not aware of the importance of Sanskrit as they cannot speak a sentence in the mother language of India. Some Indian social philanthropists, epigraphists and freedom fighters also supported implementation of English education in place of Sanskrit during British rule upon the recommendations made by T.B. Macaulay in his minutes in 1835. Today, English has become the International language and all communications between and among the nations are being done only in English. Even today, Sanskrit is the language in number of families in India. Famous Historians like P.N. Buck, Kota Venkatachalam had stated that Sanskrit was the world language once upon a time. How many scholars today know this truth of obliteration of Sanskrit? It is unfortunate that Indians are not aware of scrumptious Sanskrit. This is all because of British rule in India which replaced Sanskrit with English phase-wise. Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, the architect of Indian Constitution suggested that Sanskrit must be made as official language of India. It is sad that Indian Constituent Assembly opposed his proposal.

Keywords: Ancient Researches, Ancient Classics, Macaulay Minutes, Unifying Language

Introduction

Recently a Central Minister of top rank in BJP Government has expressed his opinion very resolutely that the most and widely spoken language of India is Hindi that should be made as national language. It appears that the entire northern part of India is in agreement with his expression of opinion, but Southern states did not come forward to approve of it. There was agitation in the Southern part of the country when this proposal of making Hindi as national language some decades ago. Again this movement has come to surface. Present generation is not aware what India historically was in respect of lingua-franca. It was Sanskrit that ruled the nation much before India was conquered by the Muslims and later occupied by British. It was claimed that the historians apparently did not expose the truth about the Indian diaspora as they were influenced by the politicians of their period. Also, the present day text books did not contain the lessons on Arthasastra of Kautilya which is vividly the root for today's financial, administrative, and political inclusion. The factual situation was that everybody used to use Sanskrit only as a conversing language. All kavyas during pre-historic days were written in Sanskrit only by the great authors like Kalidasa, Bhavabhooti, Adi Sankaracharya of Kaladi and many more. It is said "Kavyeshu Natakam Ramyam, Ramyeshu Natakam Sakuntalam (Sakuntalam is the greatest drama among all other dramas). Aviation Science (Vaimanika sastra), different war missiles and weapons were used to attack enemies in multiple directions as can be evidenced in Indian great epics like Ramayana and Mahabharata. Such powerful armoury

such as Brahmastra, Pasupatastra, Narayanasastra, Nagastra, Agneyasastra, Varunastra, etc., were never a failure when they were fired. It is stated that such warfare weapons, missiles are not yet made in that precision and cannot be made in near future by today's developed nations. The therapeutic effect in cow urine only take Hindutva voices farther from acceptable academic knowledge. Yet they stick to these positions and bitterly claim a western or liberal conspiracy to put them down. Therefore, history remains a root cause for all future events. Rulers should know it first. Politics without History has no root and History without Politics has no fruit. The proper teaching of Mother Tongue is the foundation of all education and without the capacity to speak effectively and to read and write correctly and lucidly, no one can develop precision of thought or clarity of ideas.

Ancient Researches

Superficial technology was brought to lime light by the ancient sages (rishis). The meaning of 'Rishi' is 'Visionary'. Sage Sushruta conducted varieties of surgeries by inventing several surgical instruments. His one of the finest and sharp instruments split the single hair layer vertically into two parts. Sage Kasypa discovered atom of the atom which cannot be further made another piece of atom. He is later popularly called as 'Kanadudu', about 2600 years ago. Indian Vedic scholars visualised the movements, sounds, velocities of all planetary and galaxy system. The distance from Earth to Sun was clearly stated in 'Hanuman Chalisa' chanted by Tulasidas. This distance was confirmed by NASA of United States. Many Vedic revelations (secrets) of cosmology are now being accepted after several experiments and thorough study scientifically and technologically by the advanced nations. So to say – there is nothing that is not hidden in Indian Vedic scriptures. Everything that had been invented or discovered and disclosed in Hindu treasures (Vedas) was the efficient and effective result of eminent ancient researchers. This undying, unblemished, evergreen Sanskrit is being taught in German Universities and is nixed in India.

Hu Shi – Vice Chancellor of Peking University (China) says, "India has culturally dominated and controlled more than two thousand years without sending a single soldier across the border."

- Historical relation is greater than boundaries of a country
- Cultural relation is greater than History of a country.
- Righteousness (dharma) is greater than Cultural relation.
- Spiritual relation is much greater than Righteousness.
- Spiritualism is the quintessence of Vedas.

The above features of this spiritualism have made India as 'Universal Guru' which our Prime Minister Sri Narendra Modi is spreading throughout the world during his visits and speeches. His practising of Yoga is a part of instilling Spiritualism and spreading Indian stateliness by presenting Bhagavad Gita to world leaders.

Ancient Classics

It must be pointed out here that only the classics – ancient Greek and Latin literatures, Theology and Mathematics were taught as subjects at Oxford and Cambridge – the two renowned universities in England. Oxford and Cambridge did not allow the subject English to be taught

till the end of the 19th century. It is interesting to note at this stage that only in 1828 English was first offered as a subject of study in England, even then it was not offered at the two prestigious universities namely Oxford and Cambridge. Macaulay's Minutes of 1835 laid the foundation of English education and the study of English literature in Indian universities at Bombay, Calcutta and Madras in 1857, even before the study of English literature was introduced at Oxford or Cambridge. These three Indian Universities namely Bombay, Calcutta and Madras were started in 1857, the year of commencement of freedom movement - popularly known as 'Sepoy Mutiny'.

Sanskrit as Indian Language

The wide spread Indian Union is the treasure house of various regional languages. Yet Sanskrit language is eulogised as Pauranic, Scientific, Vedic and Devanagari and it is honoured and glorified as National Language once upon a time and also it is the mother of all Indian vernacular tongues. During the British rule in India, their officer T.B. Macaulay in his minutes in 1835 recommended English education in Indian schools in place of Sanskrit to convert Indians as the English knowing clerks and servants. Unfortunately this proposal was supported by the then freedom fighters, scholars like Raja Ram Mohan Roy. Had they opposed this move, Sanskrit would have again been blossomed in India. Today, English has become the world language. The highly developed nations like France, Germany, Russia, and Japan are imparting primarily their own national language in all their educational institutions. The mother tongue of all Indian languages – Sanskrit education should again be taught compulsorily in all Indian educational institutions. State and Central governments should initiate steps in this direction so that at least after some time, Sanskrit will regain its pride, purpose and importance. (Written in a Telugu daily by Dr. N.S.R. Murthy on 26-10-2019 – Translated into English)

Effect of Macaulay Minutes

Macaulay stigmatized Indians. His despicable humiliation did all that lay in his power to suppress Indians, their thoughts and energy by making them learn everything through the medium of English. Macaulay says, "The effect of English education on the Hindus is prodigious. No Hindu who has received an English education ever remains sincerely attached to his religion." The Macaulay Minutes had plummeted the very fabric of Indian culture by replacing Sanskrit with that of English. Had he placed in his minutes to continue Sanskrit compulsorily apart from English in Indian schools, the effulgent Sanskrit language would have flourished, and India would have been a highly developed country long ago by way of epistemological study of Vedas in Sanskrit which all 'mantra' 'tantra', 'yantra' knowledge is fully and vividly enshrined. Macaulay's militant Anglicism, his derogatory remarks on Indian literature and culture, had won the appreciation of British authorities. His utopianism won the English language and got entrenched in the Indian sub-continent. Macaulay's poignant mission was accomplished. He has very successfully created a class of 'trishankos', who are rootless, cultureless and valueless, their minds are colonized and they still continue to privilege the western tradition and western literature as though Indian literature holds low value. Charles Trevelyan, the brother-in-law of Macaulay did not approve of Kalidasa's 'Sakuntala' for study in Indian schools and colleges since the more popular forms of oriental literatures are marked with greatest immorality and impurity. Even today the departments of English in Indian universities think that Hamlet and Othello are greater than Indian classics, because they do not

know the Indian tradition or literature. The teacher of English in India may successfully reproduce what Aristotle said about the tragic hero and the tragic element and about Elizabethan tragedies and modern tragedies in British and American literature; and certainly they cannot look for a tragic hero in the Ramayana (like Ravana), in the Mahabharata (like Karna) or any other character in the epics. Those who know English are ignorant of 'vernacular' literatures and those who are 'pundits' in the native literature cannot express their ideas in English. The 'great divide' or 'communication gap' created during the colonial period is yet to be bridged and the dialogue has not yet started, the 'colonial divide' has greater and deeper impact than partition of the sub-continent. It was even scholars like Raja Ram Mohan Roy played into the hands of the British the demand for Western knowledge was conveniently turned to the demand for English as the medium of instruction. It is the dissemination of western morals, cultural values and a pretext for withdrawing funds from supporting the Indian system in favour of English. Ram Mohan Roy in his famous letter (1823) to Lord Amherst on western education did not approve of a Sanskrit school. He said – the establishment of a new Sanskrit school in Calcutta evinces the laudable desire of the Government to improve the natives of India by education, a blessing for which they must ever be grateful and every well-wisher of the human race must be desirous that the efforts made to promote it should be guided by the most enlightened principles so that the stream of intelligence may flow into the most useful channels. Again no essential benefit can be derived by the student of 'Meemamsa' from knowing what is it that makes the killer of a goat sinless on pronouncing certain hymns of the Vedas. Ram Mohan Roy was a little too harsh in criticizing the Sanskrit system of education and his criticism was directed against the orthodox Hindu Pundits and their conservatism and not against the treasure of the Sanskrit language. Mayhew, in *The Education of India* (1927) shifted the responsibility of the mischief done by Macaulay on to the shoulders of Ram Mohan Roy and projected him as an earlier edition of Macaulay. Anyway, Ram Mohan Roy, a scholar, well versed in Sanskrit, Arabic and Persian, was used by the rulers of British in Anglicizing urban India as part of the colonial politics.

Alexander Duff, the Scottish missionary, who ran the General Assembly Institution in Calcutta (1830-1843) and other missionaries criticized the 'godless' colleges of the Government for imparting secular education in English. Duff argued 'The ample teaching of our improved European literature, Philosophy and Science, we know, would shatter the huge fabric of popular Hinduism and crumble it into fragments'. (Parliament papers 1852-53).

Macaulay's letter to British to Government



English as a unifying language

English brought about uniformity, hand in hand; the English language also promotes unity within the ranks of the educated class. English language produced the binding value of a common medium of intercourse. The growth of English press also assisted the growth of unity of thought among the members of the widely scattered education class. English had a universal reach ‘Union is Strength’. English language had become the lingua-franca of India and the educated class appreciated the unifying value of the English language. In India there are number of newspapers in English namely, Times of India, The Hindu, Indian Express, Deccan Chronicle etc., which are widely read by Indians who are well versed in writing, reading, speaking comparatively better than any other country. C. Rajagopalachari, the last Governor General of India and a freedom fighter and translator of Mahabharata and Ramayana in English expressed his panegyric view on English as a great gift of Goddess Saraswati to India and it was a blessing that Indians were privileged to accept it. English became international language. Though it remains a dyslexia to some countries which demurred to learn English. It spread throughout the globe in varieties of babel accents such as – American English - European English – African English – Asian English, etc. English is no longer the language of British alone. Creative writing in English has emerged by poets, scholars and writers in various forms. English was born at a time when our foreign rulers just arrived in the country and unable to learn the language of the people, unacquainted with their manners and customs, wanted number of English knowing clerks to carry out the everyday work of Government in their own tongue (English).

Mahatma Gandhi quoted in October 1931 “India today is much more literate than it was before a fifty or a hundred years ago. It is clearly evident that there were more Vedic scholars who used to speak, write and read Sanskrit until the invasion of Muslims and later British rule in India. It was also said that Sanskrit became a representation of the Brahmin civilization which Prakrits developed into several languages of the common people – Hindi, Gujarati, Punjabi, Malayalam, Telugu, Oriya, etc. Sanskrit is the language of angels and hence it is called as Devanagari.

Conclusion

As there is sufficient and adequate evidence shown by the historians of yore like P.N.Busk and Kota Venkatachalam that Sanskrit was the language of the world and especially the mother of all Indian languages. In place of Hindi or any other language, Sanskrit should be made as National Language and in all educational institutions; it should be made mandatory to learn. The entire Science and Technology that is developed to dizzy heights by the highly developed nations was made known in all four Indian Vedas such as Rig Veda, Yajurveda, Samaveda and Atharvana Veda and all Management theories are embedded in Bhagavadgita and Upanishads in one form or the other, especially in the form of Mantra (hymns) which are converted as Yantra (machines) and political administration as Tantra (Tactics), Denial of learning Sanskrit can be measured as dishonoring of the mother. The ruling elites must bear it in mind to resurrect and rejuvenate Sanskrit language, which is nectar (Amrita) filled and angels’ language. Considering the dire necessity of unifying India, the once upon a time common communicative language Sanskrit should be brought into usage by all people of the country through implementation of Sanskrit in all Indian educational institutions from elementary standard onwards. This aesthetic language renaissance will certainly and unquestionably lead to unification and avoid any kind of abreaction on the issue of National language and making it as official language also.

The ruling elites have to initiate action in this direction. This subject matter is unending to describe more elaborately. But the limitation compels to shorten this most vital issue on the eternal glory ubiquitous and efficacious of Sanskrit. Thus, in India Sanskrit was replaced with English which enjoys the status of Sanskrit - Embodiment of Indian Language.

References

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