

## The Sovereignty of English Translation in Indian Literature: An Analysis of Factors and Impact

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### ABSTRACT

English is a global language that helps you reach a global audience. Many Indian writers gain popularity worldwide with the help of the English translation of their work. Some books became more popular after they were translated into English, such as Geetanjali Shree's *Tomb of Sand*, which sold 35000 copies in Hindi, 50,000 in English translation in India, and 30,000 in Britain and won the International Booker Prize. Indian literature in English helps the world to learn more about our culture and traditions. My study aims to analyse the factors and impact of the sovereignty of English translations in Indian literature. This study used a questionnaire as a method to obtain data and found that there are many reasons, one of which is a lack of reading habits.

**Keywords:** *Global, Translation, Language, Analysis, Literature, Culture, Traditions*

The paper explores the complex interactions between language, culture, and identity. This subject is of utmost importance because it explores the complex web of variables and the significant influence that English translations have had on India's literary landscape. The process of translating works from several Indian languages into English acts as a potent conduit, bridging the gap between Indian literature's use of English translation has become a fascinating and diverse topic that local literary traditions and the international stage in a nation known for its linguistic diversity and rich literary past. This analysis aims to investigate the different historical, sociopolitical, and cultural elements that have influenced the dominance of English translation in Indian literature. Additionally, it aims to shed light on the tremendous effects of this phenomenon on the preservation and alteration of cultural narratives, identities, and views inside the intricate fabric of Indian society as well as on the global diffusion of Indian literature. We will begin our investigation by examining the complex relationships between translation, literature, and cultural development in the vivid mosaic that is Indian literature.

### ***Factors of Sovereignty of English Translations***

The subject of the dominance of English translation in Indian literature is intricate and encompasses many causes and effects. India's historical, cultural, and linguistic diversity—where a variety of languages and literary traditions coexist—gives rise to this dilemma. Here, I'll analyse the elements that affect the dominance of English translation in Indian literature

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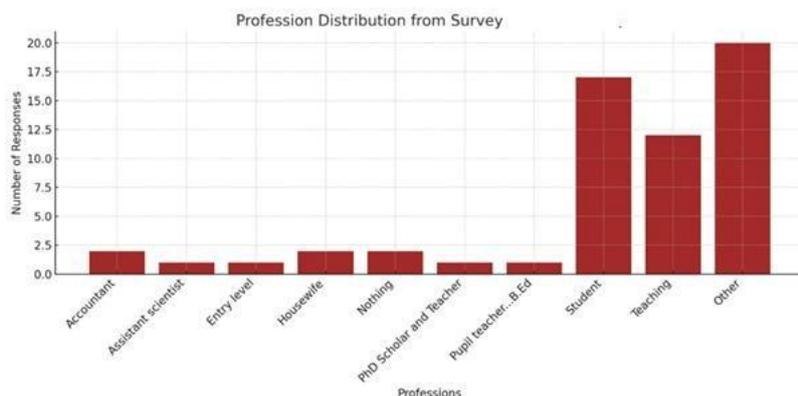
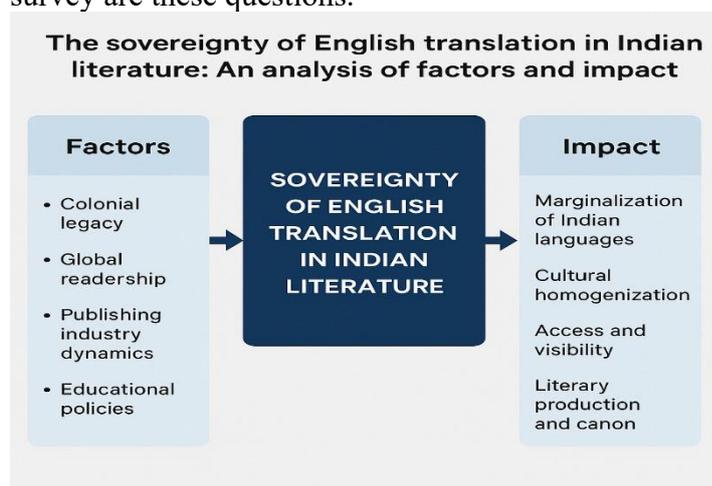
and talk about the results. Colonial history is the major factor in the dominance of English translations. India's linguistic environment was dramatically altered by British colonialism. Its enduring dominance in Indian literature is due to its historical ties to English. English-language literature has traditionally been linked to status and progress. To increase their visibility and legitimacy in the literary community, many Indian authors seek to write in English. For global reach and a global audience, English translation plays an important role as it is a lingua franca. As the unifying language of the world, English gives Indian authors and their translated works access to a larger worldwide readership. English translations aid intercultural communication by making Indian opinions, customs, and stories available to people who are not Indian, therefore encouraging a better understanding of Indian culture. The visibility and influence of Indian literature may increase as a result of this worldwide reach. English is a global language that helps you reach a global audience. Many Indian writers gain popularity worldwide with the help of the English translation of their work. Some books became more popular after they were translated into English, such as Geetanjali Shree's *Tomb of Sand*, which sold 35,000 copies in Hindi, 50,000 in English translation in India, and 30,000 in Britain and won the International Booker Prize. Indian linguistic diversity is also the reason for English translations. The fact that there are numerous distinct languages and dialects spoken in India contributes to the need for English translations because it enables authors to reach a wider Indian audience. Literary works can frequently reach a wider domestic audience since English frequently crosses the gap between various languages. Due to linguistic quirks, idiomatic slang, and cultural settings, translating literature between Indian languages can be challenging. In these translations, English occasionally acts as a neutral translator. Compared to regional languages, English offers access to various literary materials, scholarly publications, and publishing opportunities. Lack of reading is one of the major reasons that English translation is dominant. Only a small part of the population reads novels; there are many reasons why only a few people read. Modern life may be demanding with so many people juggling jobs, family obligations, and several other commitments. It can be difficult for some people to devote the necessary amount of time to reading a novel. The popularity of cell phones, social networking, and online entertainment has increased many people's screen time. The immersive storytelling experiences offered by a variety of entertainment mediums, including movies, TV series, video games, and internet streaming services, compete with novels for leisure time. The time people may otherwise spend reading books can be competed with by these technological distractions. Not everyone likes to read books. For enjoyment and entertainment, some people favor non-fiction, short tales, magazines, or other media. A person's choice of reading material is greatly influenced by their personal preferences. Reading novels can be discouraged by limited access to books, particularly in areas with inadequate libraries or bookstores. Though books can be expensive, economic reasons may also be relevant. A person's perspective toward reading novels might be influenced by the way literature is taught in schools. Someone may be less likely to read books for leisure if they've had a bad experience with literary classes. Some people believe that reading novels, particularly classics or literary fiction, is intimidating or too tough. They might be deterred from taking up a book by this impression. The reading habits of a person might also be influenced by their family and peers. A person may be less likely to acquire a reading habit if they are raised in an environment that does not appreciate or encourage reading.

### ***Impacts of English Translation on Indian Literature***

There are historical, cultural, and sociopolitical considerations [which give English translation] supremacy in Indian literature. However, its effects are both positive and negative because they encourage cultural representation, cross-cultural communication, and provide a

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global recognition at the same time that its language variety and authenticity are problems. The achievement of a dynamic Indian literary ecology is essential to finding a good balance between the advantages and disadvantages of English translations. And while I thoroughly support linguistic diversity, translating regional language stories into English will help to preserve and bring to light the cultural history as well as reach a wider audience. Indian literature that is translated into English has increased its readership greatly. English translations of these literary works make them available to a larger audience that might not be adept in Indian languages. In addition to the readership of the Indian diaspora, these larger readers are a people of diverse cultural backgrounds who wish to learn more about the totality of the variety of Indian stories, civilizations and opinions. The multilingual culture of the nation is often represented by Indian writers whose literary style is the combination of English and regional languages. The predominance of the English translations may hinder the emergence and growth of the local languages. Perhaps, indigenous languages as a medium of communication may be threatened by people preferring writing in English. They open up for a literary exchange of ideas and narrative strategies between Indian authors and the international literary traditions. In order to support by study, I did a survey of 60 people that had different fields, and that like to read novels or books. In applying the online survey, I have collected data for this. Only those are included in these data who were interested in reading books. I listed down questions regarding this study and seek to find out their opinion. Through this survey, I would get to meet many new people, see new things, new things from their point of view from which I can see the problems. To make it a good and strong survey I have asked people of different fields and different age groups to have people of various opinions. There are 42 females and 18 males among the 60. What I have asked in my online survey are these questions.



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### Analysis

For the study, different age groups were approached. The author divided the age into four groups. And we can see that most people are from the 20-25 age group. Also, I have taken data from different professions like teachers, professors, doctors, accountants, and engineers, but the majority belong to students and teachers. Through the survey, we get to know that people like to read, but because of certain hurdles, they don't have time to read. According to students, they like to read books and novels, but they are already busy with their syllabus they can't give their time to reading. The majority believe that writers prefer to write in English, even though they first publish in the Hindi language, but they also publish their English translations so that their work can reach to worldwide audience, and some believe that it is the result of the historical colonial legacy. It is also believed that our Indian literature became recognised on the international literary scene and many believe that global literature feels challenged by Indian literature, ex, Geetanjali Shree's Tomb of Sand, which sold 30,000 copies in Britain and won the International Booker Prize. With the help of translation, it improves understanding between cultures. My survey also suggests that to encourage and elevate Indian literature written in regional languages, people should take steps and talk and write more in their regional language.



### CONCLUSION

The information emphasises how important English is to Indian writing, as well as in terms of its historical influence and its current appeal. There are worries regarding the influence of English translations on regional languages, even though they are universally acknowledged and valued. According to this data, lack of reading, Indian linguistic diversity, colonial history, and global reach are the main factors of the domination of English translation. Despite the dominance of English translation, Indian regional languages have their roots firmly established in India. Through this research, we get to know some different reasons for choosing English translations over regional languages. People suggest that English translations help them improve their English communication and vocabulary. Some people pick English translation to help them become more fluent in the language, rather than just out of curiosity.

With the help of the survey, we can conclude that the English translation of Indian literature not only helps to create an understanding between different cultures but also helps to gain popularity on a global level. The popularity of English translation does not ensure that regional languages are not good, but it shows the positive side that our regional Indian literature is so great that it wants its English translation to reach a worldwide audience.

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### **Conflict of Interest**

The author(s) declared no conflict of interest.

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