



## Impact of Ancient Literature on Modern Literature

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Each individual and thing is made very specific or unique by God in this world. Each one has to perform diverse roles or activities during the whole drama of life. In that short life drama, it is very improper to consider one person's performance the best or the worst. Each individual has his own place or position in the world. Like this each thing and event has its own place or position in the world. None is inferior to the other. It is said,

“Every star is great in its own orbit.”

This shows the superiority or excellence of everyone and everything in each field. Nothing or no one is inferior or lower. We cannot judge any people or thing by evaluating only their one aspect. It's about the matter of different skills or talents everybody possesses. All are well in this God made world and have been put very cleverly and wisely by our Almighty God at its proper place. But, it's our ignorance that we are not conceiving the world's things or person in a proper way.

The rhythmic accumulation of different voices is known as language. Language is the system of sounds and words used by human beings to express their thoughts, feelings, ideas, opinions, beliefs and information. Language is, was and will be the prime requirement of human race.

The word literature has come from the word 'language'. Language is used in all the branches of knowledge. The Mesopotamian, Persian, Greek, Chinese, Egyptian and Indus valley civilizations are the most ancient civilizations of the world. The people of these civilizations took help of symbols, drawings etc. to express their thoughts at the initial stage. Consequently the scripts were invented. These scripts have contributed to the development of languages. Later, language was used for the expression of thoughts and consequently, literature began to be created. There are different languages spoken in different species and countries, so different species and countries have their own literature.

Wherever there are people there will be a literature. A literature is the record of human experience and people have always been impelled to write down their impressions of life. They do so in diaries and letters, in pamphlets and books, and in essays, poems, plays and fiction. In this respect Indian literature is like any other, though it displays many characteristics that are similar and many that are dissimilar to the literary tradition of other nations.

Literature can be called the language of the land from which it emerges. In this sense different literature, whether it is Indian or American or German or Russian etc. all reflect the culture, convention, ideals and abundance of the people of that country.

At present, I would like to discuss on the impact of ancient literature on modern literature. We can't say like this, it is possible through the recent age of globalization because literature itself is global from the very ancient times. I want to discuss or talk here only about the richest ancient Indian

literature which influenced the world's as well as the modern literature in each and every field like religion, morals, customs, rules, philosophy, mathematics, science, drama, astronomy, astrology, vastushastra etc. The main aim of literature is to bring the peace for the people of the world. It is not harmful to us.

From Ancient time, Indian literature is known for its diversity and uniqueness. The scholars divide this into vedic and classical literature. Besides this, some folk literature were also popular. Various types of literature in different languages came into existence and developed during a long span of time in history. These literatures influenced one another and especially the modern literature in the world.

From the ancient time, dramatic writing and stage are very popular. Natyashastra of Bharatmuni is very famous in this art. This art holds a capacity to entertain all. People of all age group can enjoy it greatly. It holds a mirror to life and the world. It is enriched with knowledge and enjoyment. In Sanskrit literature, we have renowned dramatists like Bhasha, dandi, bhavbhuti and the foremost in this field is kalidas. German poet Goethe was so much impressed by reading kalidas's the best dramatic piece 'Abhignan Shakuntalam' that he put it on his head and danced with joy. Kalidas is known all over the world. His many works are matches for poetic style in the world even today.

The language of Aryans belonged to Indo-European category. The great Sanskrit grammarian Panini has given it scientific shape. Today it is recognized as a suitable language for the computer.

The most ancient books of Indian literature are the Rigveda, Yajurveda, Samveda and Atharvaveda. Even the Upanishadic literature gives us a vivid description and analysis of the beginning of the universe, the mysterious of life and death, materialistic and spiritual world etc. The Vedanta literature is also very interesting.

'The Ramayana' and 'The Mahabharata' are the two greatest Indian epics. The Mahabharata is the world's largest epic, consisting of one lakh verses. The Bhagwad-Gita, a part of Mahabharata, expounds the deep philosophical principles. It conveys the message of achieving 'Moksha' or salvation through 'Gyana', 'Karma' and 'Bhakti'. Henry David Thoreau, An American mahatma was also impressed by the Bhagwad Gita and having read it, he thought of man's soul as being part of the Oversoul.

There are the Puranas, scriptures and smruti granthas also. These scriptures dealt with science and philosophy. For e. g. Kautilya's 'Arthashastra' is a book of management as well as a book on various topics which is also very useful and important for today's management and economy. The subjects of these and other works were political events, romances, allegories, comedies and philosophical questions. All the matters contain in all these subjects are also very useful today. The most famous collections are 'The Panchatantra', 'The Hitopadesha' and 'The Katha-saritsagar', which have been translated into many languages of the world. The stories are very useful for teaching morals to the children of different age groups of today because their characters teach many lessons of life like self-reliance, self-obedience, sacrifice, brotherhood, unity, co-operation and discipline. They were also possessing good qualities and virtues. All the characters were spotless. So number of stories and examples are included in modern literature as well as in educational syllabus not only in India but also in the world. They will be very useful to the modern generation.

India has been often criticized by the westerners as a nation obsessed by religion and philosophy but ancient India has made immense contribution in the field of every kind of literature. Modern research has proved beyond doubt and the western critics too have agreed that India has made outstanding contribution to the world heritage in the fields of literature, mathematics, chemistry, medicine, astronomy, astrology and vastushastra. Today, the western nations have made notable progress in various fields but it must be acknowledged that the foundation for their development lies in India's contribution to various fields.

Charak and Shushrut pioneered the Indian medical science through their books 'Charak Samhita' and 'Shushrut Samhita'. Hindu herbal science is enriched with minerals and medicines from plants and animals. The Europeans gained much knowledge from these mentioned above.

Astronomy and Astrology are very famous subjects for today's world. Aryabhatta, Brahmagupta and Varahmihir were the great astronomer and astrologer of the ancient times. Varahmihir's 'Brihad samhita' is a treasure house of information regarding effects of planets on man's future, his characteristics, various classes of animals, the time of marriage, ponds, wells, gardens, good omens for sowing and harvesting.

It is remarkable to learn that Indians were open to receive knowledge. Vastushastra is an inseparable part of astrology. India's vastushastra is being recognized, dignified and appraised even by the developed nations of the world. I am very much proud of Indian ancient vastushastra. Various information like selection of place, various shapes, structure, planning, interior planning, temple, dining-room, bed-room, location of daily activities etc. are discussed in verses. All this knowledge is available in the invaluable volumes.

We are now eager to acquire this knowledge when the same ancient Indian knowledge is adopted by the foreigners. It was explained with religious perspective in East but now a days it has become worldwide.

Looking at Hemingway's works from a feministic perspective, I highlight that Hemingway depicts his women not as bitches but as better beings as they fight out their existential battle in a more powerful way. Analyzing specifically the character of Catherine Barkley in 'A Farewell to Arms', I assert that the charisma to live for oneself is the root cause of the emergence of females as strong individuals.

An American Mahatma Thoreau's essay on 'Civil Disobedience' had a great influence on our Mahatma Gandhi, by which he won civil rights for the Indians in south Africa and later achieved Political independence for India. Martin Luther King, Jr. An American civil rights leader who was influenced both by Thoreau's and Gandhi's methods, was to lead a non-violent movement to win civil rights for the American Negro. Ruskin's 'Unto the Last' also impressed Gandhiji very much.

The greatest American writer Andrew Taylor was fond of reading literature books. He read many books like 'the Iliad', 'histories', 'Bible', 'Kuran', 'Kamsutra', 'first folio', 'A dictionary of the English language' etc. All these books pleased his heart and eyes very much. He got new ideas and thoughts from reading these books. He found that all these books brought new change and revolution in all the countries of the world. He proved that literature can bring new change or outlook speedily. He also says that we, the people are indebted to the literature.

In past many rulers tried their best to unite many states or kingdoms for world unity but they do not do so. Today because of the impact of ancient literature on modern literature it is possible to unite them for world unity. People have to stop their misunderstanding. People are only interested in world peace, world unity and world welfare. Only the literature can do all these possible in near future.

Though English is an international language, it is not spoken all over the world. Many countries have their own language, customs and traditions. English language has not affected all the countries. English is necessary but not for all. English literature is rich in science and technology but not in all the subjects. There are crores of people who are not speaking English but they and their countries have made much progress even today. New ideas and thoughts of modern literature should be accepted because, after all, their roots lies in the ancient literature or also we say like that they all are derived from the ancient literature.

The world of tomorrow also will be sure influenced by our Indian culture and literature. They will sure borrow or steal from our Indian culture and literature. Indian culture and literature have nothing to do with the world literature because ours is the best and pure literature of all. As an example Sanskrit is taught in German university. Sanskrit and Hindi are taught in Europe and America also. The great scholar Aryabhata contributed much to the field of Mathematics. He is acknowledged as 'the father of mathematics'. India's discovery of zero and decimal system brought about a revolutionary change in world's mathematics. Bhaskaracharya has written 'Lilawati Ganit' as well as other books on Arithmetic, Astrology and Algebra too.

These show that through the impact of ancient literature, the future of modern Indian literature will be brighter tomorrow than today. But it is regretfully said that inspite of much influence of our literature on the world literature also, we have less value of our literature.

We are heading towards the 21<sup>st</sup> century, the age of science and technology. We must take and give the knowledge of it so that we have some new ideas and thoughts which may use in many ways. We can see and hear the lecture of some experts of foreign universities and also communicate with them at a time through internet or laptop because of modern inventions. This is not a small or useless achievements today.

Literature is the art of playing, on the minds of others. Every literature has both bright and black sides but we must always see the bright side of it. If we also follow the bright side of our ancient literature, I am sure, our modern literature will improve more and more and we have many changes in our daily life style. Good ideas are not always complex.

At present time, the practice of literary translation is becoming a more and more important tool to enhance understanding between different literatures that readers are traditionally not familiar with, have become more familiar. For e.g. Bengali literature or Gujarati literature or Hindi literature is not well-known in other region but it is slowly becoming better-known because of translation or through feature film—like on Rabindranath Tagore's 'Nastanida'—film 'Charulata' in Bengoli, Girish Karnad's Tamil play 'Agni-Mattu-Male' translated into Hindi film 'Agnivarsha', Paresh kamdar's 'Khargosh' etc. I believe that this trend of translation in the age of globalization contributes to learning and understanding not only foreign literature but also any kind of literature. Translation brings literature closer.

Today people's lifestyle and living standards are very much different than ancient time. They live very fast life. They have no enough time for reading. They believe only in getting money by hook or crook. Many people in the world live in poverty and also in downtrodden condition. There is not enough resources for them to get education. The danger of terrorism is spread everywhere. The system of joint family is totally scattered. In all these complicated circumstances, literature works hard to remain or to maintain its position as before.

In the present age, many things of the rich literature in different languages have vanished but similarly some new languages and literature have developed and flourished under the impact of ancient literature. There are many famous Indian English writers like, Rabindranath Tagore, Gandhiji, Anita Desai, Arundhati Roy, Salman Rushdie, Dr. A.P.J.Abdul Kalam etc. who are very much influenced and inspired by the ancient literature so their works are also very famous and popular in all over the world.

Today, it is obvious that, the agendas or manifestations of globalization are vanishing of the native languages, literature and cultural values, at the same time, devaluating them. But literature is the most important tool in understanding one's collaborates, competitors and adversaries and developing coping ability to meet the challenges of a world influx. Literature mainly deals with improvements of human resources, it is through literature that a nation transmits its heritage, recreates its culture, strengthens its economy and conserves its values. It is the means of individual excellence.

This paper is, infect, trying to focus on influences, impact, impositions of ancient literature on modern literature and I have no doubt that, if carried forward with patience and persistence, it will transform the life of our people, rich and poor alike and lift the shackles of humiliation from which we all suffer as a result of the mounting burden of foreign debt and influence. Some factors believe that the value and power of language of English is very powerful than all modern Indian languages. But on the contrary, literature does not believe in such partition of language. And if it is continued to do so like people, literature, which is created for world peace and for world unity in diversity, divided into many pieces and it is the most dangerous and harmful for the future of the world.

At last, I trust it will be enough.