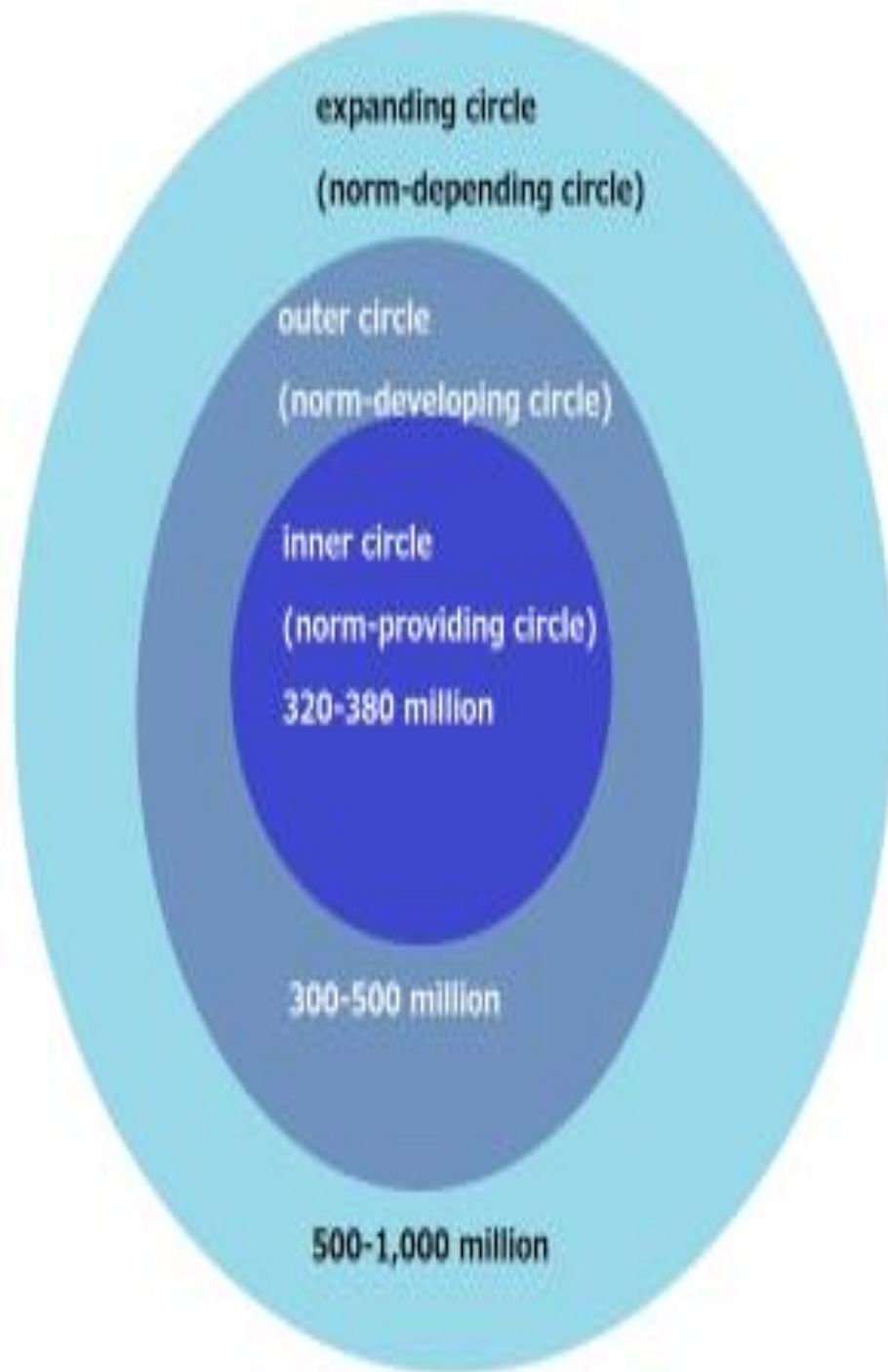
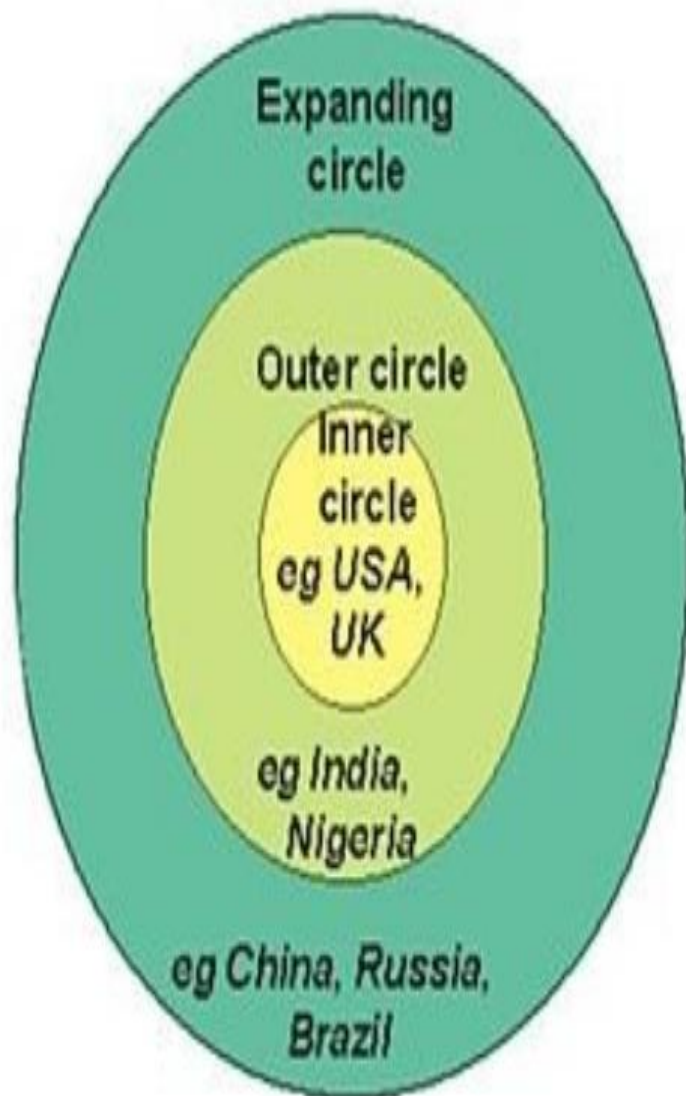


INDIAN ENGLISH

The Outer and Expanding Circle
(IndE)

Kachru's Three Circles of English



English in the Indian Subcontinent Origins and History

- ▣ The English language as used in India.
- ▣ The term is widely used but is a subject of controversy.
- ▣ The kinds of English used in India are too varied, both socially and geographically
- ▣ the length of time that English has been in India, its importance, and its range
- ▣ An estimated 30m people (4% of the population) regularly use English, making India the third largest English-speaking country in the world
- ▣ English is the associate official language of India
- ▣ The official language of eight Union territories the Andaman and Nicobar Islands; Arunachal Pradesh; Chandigarh; Dadra and Nagar Haveli; Delhi; Lakshadwip; Mizoram; and Pondicherry
- ▣ It is one of the languages of the three language formula proposed in the 1960s for educational purposes: state language, Hindi, and English

*English and Hindi are the link languages in a complex multilingual society, in which English is both a library language and a literary language. The National Academy of Letters Sahitya Akademi recognizes Indian English literature as a national literature

*The first speaker of English to visit India may have been an ambassador of Alfred the Great visiting St. Thomas (884 AD)

*In 1600, English traders established the East India Company, and in 1614 James VI wrote to the Emperor Jehangir

*The use of English dates from the trading 'factories' started by the Company: Surat (1612), Madras (1639-40), Bombay (1674), Calcutta (1690)

*Missionaries were important in the diffusion of English in the 18c: schools such as St Mary's Charity Schools were started in Madras (1715), Bombay (1719), and Calcutta (1720-31)

*By the 1830s, an influential group of Indians was impressed with Western thought and culture, and its scientific advances, and wished to encourage the learning of English as a means through which Indians could gain a knowledge of such things.

The Hindu social reformer Raja Rammohan Roy (1772-1833)

*Language preference struggle (Anglicist vs Nativist)

Thomas B. Macaulay, a member of the Supreme Council of India, settled the question in favour of English in an official Minute (1835)

“We must at present do our best to form a class who may be interpreters between us and the millions whom we govern, --a class of persons Indian in blood and colour, but English in tastes, in opinions, in morals and in intellect. To that class we may leave it to refine the vernacular dialects of the country, to enrich those dialects with terms of science borrowed from the Western nomenclature, and to render them by degrees fit vehicles for conveying knowledge to the great mass of the population.”

▣ *In 1857, the first three western-style universities were established at Bombay, Calcutta, and Madras.*

▣ *Allahabad and Punjab (the latter now in Lahore, Pakistan) were added by the end of the 19c*

▣ *By 1928, English was accepted as the language of the élite*

▣ *IndE is essentially a contact language, convergence with Indian languages and socio-cultural patterns have resulted in many processes of Indianization*

- ▣ There are three major variables for IndE: proficiency in terms of acquisition; regional or mother tongue; and ethnic background
- ▣ Educated IndE (the acrolect) to pidginized varieties (basilects) known by such names as Boxwalla(h) English, Butler English, Bearer English or kitchen English, and Babu English
- ▣ The regional and mother-tongue varieties Bengali English, Gujarati English, Tamil English, etc
- ▣ Indo-Aryan English, Dravidian English
- ▣ In this sense, there are as many Indian Englishes as there are languages in India
- ▣ Anglo-Indian English, is distinctive, because it emerged among the offspring of British servicemen and lower-caste Indian women

- ▣ Five notable phonetic and phonological features of Indian English are as follows: (1) **Lack of aspiration** in the word-initial position: Words such as pin and Kanpur (name of city) are pronounced as pin and kanpur; not as p^hin and k^hanpur, respectively;
- ▣ (2) **Retroflexion**. Alveolar consonants: /t/, and /d/ are replaced by their corresponding Retroflex consonants (Ṭ, Ḍ). Therefore, alveolar /t/ and /d/ in the name of the months such as October, September and December are pronounced as OcṬober, SepṬember, and DecemṬer;
- ▣ (3) **Lack of Interdentals**: Words such as thanks and that are pronounced with corresponding voiceless and voiced alveolar stops, respectively;
- ▣ (4) Some **Fricatives are replaced by bilabials** (fail is pronounced as phail);
- ▣ (5) **Pronunciation**: Indian English pronunciation is a relatively close approximation to the written form.
- ▣ **IndE is rhotic**, /r/ being pronounced in all positions
- ▣ It tends to be **syllable-timed**, weak vowels being pronounced as full vowels in such words as photography and student

- ▣ In such words as **old, low** the vowel is generally /o/
- ▣ Among northern (Indo-Aryan) speakers, **consonant clusters** such as /sk, sl, sp/ do not occur in initial position, but have an epenthetic vowel, as in 'iskool' for school in the Punjab and 'sakool' in Kashmir
- ▣ The distinction between /v/ and /w/ is generally neutralized to /w/: 'wine' for both wine and vine
- ▣ Among southern (Dravidian) speakers, non-low initial vowels are preceded by the glides /j/ (as in 'yell, yem, yen' for the names of the letters (l, m, n))
- ▣ **Education/ egg**
- ▣ Bengalis using /b/ for /v/, making bowel and vowel homophones; Gujaratis using /dʒ/ for /z/, so that zed and zero become 'jed' and 'jero'

▣ A large number of IndE speakers, sometimes referred to as speakers of General Indian English (GIE), have a 17-vowel system (11 monophthongs and 6 diphthongs): /i:/ as in bead, /i/ as in this, /e:/ as in game, /e/ as in send, /æ/ as in mat, /a:/ as in charge, /ʌ/ as in shot, /o:/ as in no, /u/ as in book, /u:/ as in tool, and /ə/ as in bus; /ai/ as in five, /oi/ as in boy, /au/ as in cow, /iə/ as in here, /eə/ as in there, and /uə/ as in poor.

▣ Indian English is a 'Syllable-timed' language

- ☐ Grammar:
- ☐ (1) Interrogative constructions without subject/auxiliary inversion: *What you would like to buy?*
- ☐ (2) One used rather than the indefinite article: *He gave me one book.*
- ☐ (3) Stative verbs given progressive forms: *Lila is having two books; You must be knowing my cousin-brother Mohan*
- ☐ (4) Reduplication used for emphasis and to indicate a distributive meaning: *I bought some small small things; Why you don't give them one one piece of cake?*
- ☐ (5) Yes and no as question tags: *He is coming, yes?; She was helping you, no?*
- ☐ (6) Isn't it? as a generalized question tag: *They are coming tomorrow, isn't it?*
- ☐ (7) Reflexive pronouns and only used for emphasis: *it was God's order itself* It was God's own order, *They live like that only* That is how they live
- ☐ (9) Present perfect rather than simple past: *I have bought the book yesterday.*

▣ Vocabulary: loans

- ▣ (1) Words from Portuguese (almirah, ayah, caste, peon) and from local languages through Portuguese (bamboo, betel, coir, copra, curry, mango)
- ▣ (2) Words from indigenous languages, such as Hindi and Bengali. Some are earlier and more Anglicized in their spelling: anna, bungalow, cheetah, chit/chitty, dacoit, dak bungalow, jodhpurs, juggernaut, pukka, pundit, rupee, sahib,
- ▣ Some are later and less orthographically Anglicized: achcha all right (used in agreement and often repeated: Achcha achcha, I will go), basmati a kind of rice, chapatti a flat, pancake-like piece of unleavened bread, crore a unit of 10m or 100 lakhs (crores of rupees), goonda a ruffian, petty criminal, jawan a soldier in the present-day Indian Army, lakh a unit of 100,000 (lakhs of rupees), lathi a lead-weighted stick carried by policemen, masala spices, paisa a coin, 1/100th of a rupee, panchayat a village council, samo(o)sa an envelope of fried dough filled with vegetables or meat, Sri/Shri/Shree Mr, Srimati/Shrimati/Shreemati Mrs.
- (3) Words from Arabic and Persian through north Indian languages, used especially during the British Raj: dewan chief minister of a princely state, durbar court of a prince or governor, mogul a Muslim prince (and in the general language an important person, as in movie mogul), sepoy a soldier in the British Indian Army, shroff a banker, money-changer, vakeel/vakil a lawyer, zamindar a landlord

- ▣ (4) Words taken directly from Sanskrit: : ahimsa non-violence, ananda spiritual bliss, chakra a mystical centre of energy in the body, guru a (spiritual) teacher ,nirvana release from the wheel of rebirth, rajas a state of passion, samadhi spiritual integration and enlightenment, sattwa/sattva a state of purity, tamas a state of heaviness and ignorance, yoga a system of self-development, yogi one who engages in yoga
- ▣ from local languages: dining-leaf a banana leaf used to serve food, cousin brother a male cousin, cousin sister a female cousin, co-brother-in-law one who is also a brother-in-law.
- ▣ (1) Hybrid usages, one component from English, one from a local language, often Hindi: brahminhood the condition of being a brahmin, coconut paysam a dish made of coconut, goonda ordinance an ordinance
- ▣ against goondas, grameen bank a village bank, kaccha road a dirt road, lathi charge (noun) a charge using lathis, lathicharge (verb) to charge
- ▣ with lathis, pan/paan shop a shop that sells betelnut and lime for chewing, wrapped in a pepper leaf, policewala a policeman, swadeshi cloth home-made cloth, tiffin box a lunch-box.
- ▣ (2) Local senses and developments of general English words: batch-mate a classmate or fellow student, body-bath an ordinary bath, , head-bath washing one's hair, interdine to eat with a member of another religion or caste, issueless childless, out of station not in (one's) town or place of work

- ▣ (3) Words more or less archaic in BrE and AmE, but used in IndE, such as dicky (the boot/trunk of a car), needful ('Please do the needful, Sri Patel'), stepney a spare wheel or tyre, and thrice ('I was seeing him thrice last week'). (4) The many idiomatic expressions include: to sit on someone's neck to watch that person carefully, and to stand on someone's head to supervise that person carefully; Do one thing, Sri Gupta There is one thing you could do, Mr Gupta; He was doing this thing that thing, wasting my time He was doing all sorts of things, wasting my time
- ▣ Usage:
- ▣ In the English-language press, hybrid headlines are common: JNU karamcharis begin dharna (The Statesman, New Delhi, 12 May 1981),
- ▣ Marathwada band over pandal fire (The Indian Express, New Delhi, 9 May 1981), and 55 Jhuggis gutted (The Hindustan Times, New Delhi, 3
- ▣ May 1981)
- ▣ Matrimonial advertisements: 'Wanted well-settled bridegroom for a Kerala fair graduate Baradwaja gotram, Astasastram girl . . . subset no bar. Send horoscope and details'

Indian English: Usage

- ▣ “What’s your good name?”
- ▣ “Dear sir, with reference to your above see my below” - popular opening line in official letters.
- ▣ “Pritam Singh has left for his heavenly abode” - a death notice.
- ▣ “Hue and Cry notice” - title of police missing person newspaper advertisement.
- ▣ “She freaked out last night” - she had a good time.
- ▣ “Kindly please advise me.”
- ▣ “Thank youji, Doctor Sahib.”
- ▣ “Namaste, how are you?”
- ▣ “Will you take tea?”
- ▣ “To give a test”

Something FUNNY

- ▣ 1. A student's leave letter: "As I am suffering from my uncle's marriage I cannot attend the class...."
- ▣ A candidate's application: "This has reference to your advertisement calling for a 'typist And an accountant - Male or Female'... As I am both for the past Several years and I can handle both; I am applying for the post."
- ▣ An employee applied for leave as follows: Since I have to go to my village to sell my land along with my wife. Please sanction me one-week leave.
- ▣ . Another employee applied for half day leave as follows: "Since I've to go to the cremation ground at 10 o-clocks and I may not return, please grant me half day casual leave"

- ▣ . A leave letter to the headmaster: "As I am studying in this school I am suffering from headache. I request you to leave me today" –
- ▣ As my mother-in-law has expired and I am responsible for it, Please grant me 10 days leave.
- ▣ Actual letter written for application of leave: "My wife is suffering from sickness and as I am her only husband At home I may be granted leave".
- ▣ Letter writing: "I am in well here and hope you are also in the same well." –
- ▣ Leave-letter from an employee who was Performing his daughter's wedding: "As I am marrying my daughter, please grant a week's leave

English

Would you please be so kind
as to point me in the
direction of the
premises where
I will find some
relief?



Globish

Toilets,
please



A close-up photograph of a pair of light-skinned hands held palm-up, cradling a small, rectangular piece of white paper with deckled edges. The paper has the words "Thank You" written in a black, elegant cursive script. The background is dark and out of focus.

Thank You