

Documenting the Prominence of Indian English Literature in Indian Independence Movement

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Abstract:

The relationship of literature with the society is reciprocal. The literature and the society serve as cause and effect to each other. The same is true of the Indian English literature that has played very significant role in Indian independence movement. The researcher believes that a literary work cannot be created by itself. It is determined by the social, cultural, economic, political context. The art/literature has played an active role in Indian independence movement and therefore it is significant. The researcher documents examples of Indian English literature that have acted as a tool in Indian freedom struggle against Colonialism/British Raj. As part of the (pre) independence movement the writers and in a sense freedom fighters like Bankimchandra Chattopadhyay, Mahatma Gandhiji, Rabindranath Tagore, Mulk Raj Anand, Raja Rao and others have raised important issues on the national and international platform through their literary work. In view of the above, the paper discusses the prominence of Indian English literature in (pre) Indian independence movement.

Keywords: Indian English literature, Indian independence movement, context, Colonialism/British Raj, national and international platform.

Introduction:

The literature and society both influence each other. They serve as cause and effect to each other. Indian English literature has played an important role in the history. Literature has been used as a tool of propaganda in a very positive sense of the term 'propaganda'. Further, when it comes to the revolution in history the Literature has played an active role. In this context, the role of pre-Independence literature in our freedom struggle must be remembered as we are celebrating 71 years of Indian Independence.

We are all reasonably aware that the prominent newspapers like *Bande Mataram* (1905: Bipin Chandra Pal), *Jungantar Patrika* (1906: Barindra Kumar Ghosh, Abhinash Bhattacharya and Bhupendranath Dutt) and *Harijan* (1932: Mahatma Gandhi) etc. helped the Indian citizens UNITE for our FREEDOM.

These newspapers made all the brothers and sisters of India aware about the ill-treatment given by the British Raj. Additionally, the other freedom fighters also used fiction and poetry for creating the nationalist discourse in order to create and sustain the patriotic feelings among all the Indians.

In this context, Bankimchandra Chattopadhyay, Mahatma Gandhiji, Rabindranath Tagore, Mulk Raj Anand, Raja Rao and others have generated the nationalist discourse through their literary works in order to have independence.

Thus, in view of the above, the present paper deals with the Indian English literature that has played very significant role in Indian independence movement and accordingly documents the prominence.