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### HISTORY OF BRITISH COLONIZATION IN INDIA AND ITS IMPACT ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF INDIAN ENGLISH

The beginning of British colonization of India dates back to 1600, when the first British East India Company was formed on Indian territory. In 17<sup>th</sup> century the British East India Company acquired three independent sovereign settlements in India: Madras, Bombay and Calcutta, and each grew into substantial trading ports. It was the catalyst of the British colonization of India.

India faced many clashes with the British Empire. The Company's rule was a corrupt one, and the British appointed Lord Cornwallis as governor general of India in 1786. The British Parliament had passed Acts in 1773 and in 1784 to bring the East India Company under the control of a British government minister. At the same time, there was a growing body of opinion within the company that only British control of India could end the constant wars and provide really satisfactory conditions for trade. And so, by 1857 the British had established complete political control of the Indian subcontinent, which they ruled directly or through subordinate princes.

The English language came to the Indian territory with the British East India Company and spread all around the subcontinent. People from the local elite believed that English would give the Indians access to Western culture. Three main universities in Calcutta, Bombay and Madras were opened. The language of education was English, and it remains so nowadays in these and other prestigious universities.

India's history under the British Empire is hardly a peaceful one; Indians suffered, a great number of cultural sites were destroyed, devastated or taken, natural wealth was seized; British colonization brought the division of the Indian subcontinent.

And yet, English became a means of interethnic communication. After gaining independence in 1947, the issue of the status of the English language in the new self-governing country became a major problem, and Hindi was the best

option as the official language of the country, yet people, especially from southern regions, were strongly against this decision. That's why English was proclaimed in the constitution as major language. Yet it was also stated that after fifteen years Hindi should remain the only official language, which caused discontent among people who did not speak Hindi. Southerners believed that switch to Hindi would give the North an unfair advantage in government examination. As a result, in the 1960s the 'three language formula' was established. According to this system, Hindi and English became official languages for the entire country and the third official language was the language of a particular region.

Indian society keeps using English in the legal system, in administration, secondary and higher education, media, business, tourism, and in the armed forces. It is a strong unifying force. As David Crystal writes, "In the Dravidian-speaking areas of the south, the English language is widely preferred to Hindi as a lingua franca. In the north, its fortunes vary from state to state, in relation to Hindi, depending on the policies of those in power."