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### THE INFLUENCE OF BRITISH COLONIAL LEGACY IN INDIA ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF INDIAN ENGLISH

It's a well-known fact that English is the leading language on the international arena as a language of business, commerce, science, medicine and other key areas. Although there are many more native speakers of Mandarin Chinese and Spanish, English prevails to be lingua franca of the present world – but it was not always the case.

English became an accepted leader due to politics and power. Before colonizing much of the planet, the British were the only ones speaking it; yet once they began trading in Asia and Africa and settling around the world, the language spread – first, mainly for administration and business purposes, but later as a language of education, literature, poetry and philosophy, as well.

However, when discourse British colonial legacy, we cannot bypass India, as it was Britain's most important, profitable and populous colony of that time – it was called the “Jewel in the Crown” due to its abundance of natural resources and strategic location. With the British ascent to power in India, English was introduced as the state language. Soon afterwards, it expanded to virtually all areas of Indian life.

Currently, English remains one of the two official languages of India alongside Hindi, and boasts of the largest population of English speakers in the world after the United States. The English which is spoken in India is different from that spoken in other regions of the world, and it is regarded as the unique variety which is called Indian English.

Similar to other varieties of English, Indian English – or Hinglish – has its own specific characteristics. These include phonology as people from different parts of India pronounce words with diverse accents, and original words, in turn, undergo a strong phonetic transformations (for instance, the pronunciation of words *take*, *make*, *bad* with [ɛ:] sounds instead of [eɪ], [æ], [e] and [ə:]); same applies to morphology which is very creative and filled with new terms and

usages: the extensive usage of compound formation (*cousin-brother / cousin-sister* to differentiate between male or female relatives), the pluralization of mass nouns (*furnitures, woods*); purely English formations (*blanks* – white people, *brandy coatee* – raincoat, *missi-baba* – a young lady). Indian English grammar is likewise deviant from standard English forms: inconsistent use of articles, use of reduplications to emphasize an action (*Come come!*) or intensify something (*curly-curly hair*), the use of the continuous tense with habitual actions, completed actions, and stative verbs (*I am doing it often*) and – perhaps the most famous one – use of general tag questions (*You're going, isn't it?*).

To conclude, I'd like to say that Indians have made English into a native language with its own linguistic and cultural ecologies and sociocultural contexts, and by this have not only given the world one of the most widespread and popular varieties of English, but in turn enriched it, as well.