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**Impact of Sanskrit on English and other European Languages**

Historical references have traced the human civilization to be of 200000 years old, and the Africa, India and China to be the oldest civilizations on this earth. Historically the language is believed to be emerged before 20000 years. What we call Indian and European languages in modern context, is believed to be a cluster of Proto- Indo-European Languages, the most widely spoken language family in the world, which was estimated to have been spoken as a single language between 4500 to 2500 BC.

 India being one of the oldest civilizations influenced the world civilizations in almost every aspect of human life and literature is no exception in this regards. It is often believed that Sanskrit, the classical language of India, is amongst the earliest Indo- European languages; closely related to English, Greek and Latin and most distantly to English and other modern European languages. It is an ancestral to the modern Indo- Aryan languages and has evolved in to, as well as influenced many modern languages of the world.

English being one of the modern European languages has structurally emerged from Germanic languages and influence by Greek, Latin and French languages. Therefore, the language and literature of English does not remain unaffected by Sanskrit. Sanskrit, also known as *Devanagari,* the language of Gods, has rich heritage of literature and literary discourses. There are many parallels found in terms of forms and discourses in Greek, Latin and in Sanskrit languages. Bharat Muni’s Natya *Shastra* and Aristotle Poetics are the finest examples of such parallels. Not only this, but even forms of literature are influence by Sanskrit and Greeks. Drama, Poetry, Short stories were some of the earliest literary forms in Sanskrit that have influenced many Greek and Latin forms influencing indirectly to English and other modern European languages. Moreover, in branches of scientific literature, phonetics, grammar, mathematics, astronomy, medicine and law Sanskrit achieved notable results. In some of these subjects their attainments are indeed, far in advance of what was the accomplished by the Greeks. However, the lack of the historical sense is so characteristic that the whole Sanskrit literature is darkened by the shadow of this defect

The influence of Sanskrit on language and Literature became visible when British invaded India, especially in the East India Company. As a result of this, Western scholars started studying Sanskrit and Vedas. The study unfolded not only just the roots of Sanskrit but many Western languages including Latin and English itself. The results are notable as English philologist Sir William Jones noted in 1786;

“The Sanskrit language, whatever be its antiquity, is of wonderful structure, More perfect than the Greek: more copious then the Latin, and more exquisitely refined than either, yet bearing to both of them a stronger affinity, both in the roots of verbs and in the forms of grammar, than could not possibly have been produced by accident: so strong indeed , that no philologer could examine them all three, without believing them to have sprung from some common sources which, perhaps, no longer exists; there is a similar reason, though not so quite forcible, for supposing that both the Gothic and the Celtic, though blended with a very different idiom, had the same origin with the Sanskrit; and the old Persian might be added to the same family”

Modern day philologist believe this very strongly that Sanskrit is one of the oldest evidences we have in proper proto-Indo-European group and therefore Sanskrit Latin and Germanic languages have more similarities in the articulation of the sounds and somewhat in the Spellings for example;

Sanskrit English/Latin

Matr Mother/Mater

Pitr Father /Pater

Na no

Gau cow

Naama name

Dwar door

Naas nose

lok( place) loc as in locator/location

Lubh (desire) love

There is also a significant resemblances found between Indian and western mythologies. So there also is a spiritual connection of Sanskrit to that of the English and other languages like as Sanskrit God of sky is known as Dyauspitr which is Zeus Pater in Greek. Apart from this many qualities that we associate to Indra, the sky god of India has the same with Zeus, the sky god in West.

The Significant influences made by Sanskrit have created an urge for learning which led to several English translations of Sanskrit texts into English. Some of these translations include *Shakuntal* by William Jones in 1789, *Ritusamnhara* in 1792, Warren Hastings translation of *Bhagavad Geeta* as The Song of the Adorable One in 1785. *Rigveda* by F Rosen in 1838, etc.

To Sum up it can be said that the importance of ancient Indian literature as a whole largely consists in its originality. Naturally isolated by its gigantic mountain barrier in the north, the Indian peninsula has ever since the Aryan invasion formed a world apart, over which a unique form of Aryan civilization rapidly spread, and has ever since prevailed. When the Greeks, towards the end of the fourth century B.C., invaded the North-West, the Indians had already fully worked out a national culture of their own, unaffected by foreign influences. No other country except China can trace back its language and literature, its religious beliefs and rites, its domestic and social customs, through an uninterrupted development of more than three thousand years.

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