

Gleanings from Home and Abroad

What does the author mean by saying that there should be a Bharat Brand of English?

Born in Madras, **R.K Narayan** is one of the best of the first generation of Indian Novelists writing in English. His works have been translated into other Indian languages and his famous novel *The Guide* has been filmed in Bollywood. The setting of most of his stories is Malgudi town: an imaginary town. He is well known for the direct simplicity of his language, his realistic settings and even realistic characters. *Toasted English* is half Humorous, half serious essay about how the same language- English differs from one country to another.

According to R.K.Narayan Bharat brand of English means to use the English in Indian way. According to him Bharat English would respect the rule of law and maintain the dignity of grammar, but it would still have a swadeshi stamp on it. There are scores of words from Indian languages which have been adopted in English. Bazaar, bungalow, charpoy, curry, dhoti, durbar, juggernaut, khaki, pajama, pundit are a few of them. All these are such charming words. Call me narrow-minded, but I feel this charm is simply absent in their pure English counterparts. Is it just me, or does 'maidan' sound much more royal than field, or ground? Maybe I'm just too close to my language, but I'd prefer using maharaja and maharani in my essays any day.

R. K Narayan considers being serious about the use of English language in India. English Language is just confined to schools and colleges and it should be in daily use in India. It should come open to the dusty streets, market places and under the Banyan tree. Americans being colony to British took English their official language unlike others they

did not blindly follow what the UK created but added to it a delicious flavor that really characterizes the nature of the country. They got rid of the formality of the passive use and made it more comfortable for daily use.

Indians are generally do not go by rules such as traffic rules and table etiquette and their use of English should be free from useless rules that spoil the beauty of language. Indians are really instinctive people. Therefore, Bharat Brand English should also be instinctive and should come out naturally.

SUM UP THE MAIN IDEAS CONTAINED IN THE ESSAY TOASTED ENGLISH:

R.K Narayan is one of the best of the first generation of Indian Novelists writing in English. His works have been translated into other Indian languages and his famous novel *The Guide* has been filmed in Bollywood. The setting of most of his stories is Malgudi town:

The author interestingly points out that like Indians, Americans also drove the British out of their country but allowed English to stay back. The Americans made the usage of English easier by giving up Passive Voice. For example, instead of, 'Trespassing Prohibited' they say, 'newly planted, don't walk' on the notice-board. This process of modifying the English language is called *toasting*. Americans have created certain basic key words which may be used anywhere, anyhow- words which have universal multipurpose use. O.K, Yeah, is more commonly used expressions.

Finally he concludes by adopting English to suit our purposes, developing a Bharat brand of English'. He clearly mentions that he is not advocating *mongrelisation'* i.e. hybridization of 11 English. The author asserts that Indian English should have its own identity, its *Swadeshi Stamp'*. The author wishes that Indians should develop their own English which would be more unique and distinct than the present English.

SUM UP THE MAIN IDEAS CONTAINED IN THE ESSAY LETTER WRITING.

Alfred Gardiner, who was widely known by his pen name Alpha of the Plough made his remarkable contribution in modern English literature as a writer of sketches. It is pertinently observed that his essays remind us of pleasant things, sunshine, and mirth, laughter and peace. The essays combine ideas and emotions with beauty of form.

The essay opens with the conversation between two soldiers Bill and Sam. They find it very difficult to write letters. A.G. Gardiner says that letter writing is not practised by many people now-a-days. They do not have the gift of self-expression. They are not able to condense the atmosphere into concrete word.

The art of letter writing was killed by penny post and modern hurry. The poor people could not enjoy the luxury of letter writing. In those days a letter was an important event. The art of letter writing is not practiced in our age. This is because of the advent of the penny post. Letter writing has become very cheap. So people do not bother to write good letters. Moreover the telephone, the telegraph and the type writer has destroyed the art of letter writing.

Modern people do not write literary letters. They are not able to put the great things that happened in their life into words. The secret of letter writing is intimate triviality and through such trivialities a living picture should be presented.

In short, a good letter should be written in a light and casual way. It should be simple and perfect. It should be personal and not abstract. It should not be orderly, stately and elaborate like a good essay. It should be written in a familiar tone.

WORK BRINGS SOLACE: DR APJ ABDUL KALAM

1. Describe in your words, how Kalam explains the experience of Flow?

The missile man of India, a teetotaler and vegetarian and bachelor, Dr. Kalam was born in Rameshwaram, Tamilnadu. Dr. A.P J Abdul Kalam had a tremendous faith in the youth of India and thought that Indian youth had high caliber but all they need is a dream to chase and fulfill. Besides being a scientist Dr. Kalam was poet and avid lover of Music and use to play on Veena but even then he was a scientist who thinks, lives and breathes science. It was Dr. Kalam who as Director of Defense research and Laboratory lined up Pirthvi, Agni, Trishul, Akash and Nag missiles. He was conferred Padma Bhushan and Bharat Ratan awards for his contribution in science.

In the essay work brings solace Dr. Kalam believes in the total surrender to work that gives immense pleasure and satisfaction.

Flow is an overwhelming and joyous experience while working. It is a feeling we experience when we work with total involvement. During flow, hurry, distraction cannot take place. Kalam and his team experienced flow while working on SLV. The first step to getting into

flow is hard work with no limits. The next need is the uninterrupted time span. It is almost impossible with disturbance. When you forget the outer world during work, you are in the flow. Kalam and his team mates use to be so involved in their work that they would forget their lunch hour on many occasions. Total commitment to ones work, good health, and boundless energy take you to the top of the world for that there is need of single minded devotion towards ones goal, if one wants to succeed in the given mission. If the work is done with passion then 100 hours a week seems to be less and comfortable. Passion plays an important role in achieving desired goals and complete involvement in work for flow.

2. Describe in your own words the interaction between Kalam and Werner Von Braun during their flight from Madras to Trivandrum.

Ans: Dr. Brahm Prakash informed Dr. Kalam that one day the famous rocketry scientist Wernher Von Braun would visit Thumba when Kalam had recently returned from France after successfully testing SLV-3 Apogee motor. Kalam was also informed to meet and pick Dr. Braun from Madras. Dr. Kalam was filled with fear and awe that he would be visiting with scientist who is a great designer, production engineer, administrator and technology manager, all rolled into one. Kalam also

knew that everybody working in rocketry science knows this man who made Lethal V-2 missiles that devastated London in world war-II.

The AV20 aircraft which Dr. Kalam brought for him took around one and a half hours from Madras to Trivandrum. So, Dr. Kalam got enough time to have a discussion with this great man of his field, and during their journey Von Braun asked Kalam their work. Kalam was very surprised when he found that Von Braun was listening to him as a student of rocketry. He was quite humble, receptive and encouraging that Dr. Kalam got deeply impressed of him and felt really at ease through their journey.

Kalam knew about Von Braun's success in rocketry and he had produced Jupiter missiles with the range of 3000 k.m. It was his success that he was given a top position in NASA. During their flight, Kalam asked about his experience in America because he had become a cult figure in America after creating Saturn rocket, in Apollo mission which created a history and put the first man to land on moon. Von Braun shared with Kalam that there are great opportunities and possibilities in America but for them which is something un-American falls under suspicion and contempt and they are suffering from "not invented here complex" . He further said that if Dr. Kalam wanted to do something in rocketry then they have to rely on their own.

Dr. Braun said that SLC-3 was a genuinely Indian design and there can be troubles of its own kind. There is always success after failures and it is through failures only that success builds and mere hard work cannot fetch you honour. He advised Kalam not to make rocketry his profession or livelihood; he should make it his religion and mission only such people make rock walls and after their death miles of walls speak their hard work done. The goal makes all the difference. There are people who have vision while placing rock on another rock.