



**TRINITY COLLEGE FOR WOMEN
NAMAKKAL**

Department of English

INDIAN WRITING IN ENGLISH

21UEN04- EVEN Semester

Presented by

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Indian Writing in English

- ❑ **Indian English literature (IEL)**, also referred to as **Indian Writing in English (IWE)**, is the body of work by writers in India who write in the English language and whose native or co-native language could be one of the numerous languages of India.
- ❑ Its early history began with the works of Henry Louis Vivian Derozio and Michael Madhusudan Dutt followed by Rabindranath Tagore and Sri Aurobindo.
- ❑ R. K. Narayan, Mulk Raj Anand and Raja Rao contributed to the growth and popularity of Indian English fiction in the 1930s. It is also associated, in some cases, with the works of members of the Indian diaspora who subsequently compose works in English.
- ❑ It is frequently referred to as **Indo-Anglian** literature.

Indian Writing in English

- ❑ some Indo-Anglian works may be classified under the genre of postcolonial literature, the repertoire of Indian English literature encompasses a wide variety of themes and ideologies, from the late eighteenth-century to the present day, and thereby eludes easy categorization.
- ❑ The first book written by an Indian in English was *The Travels of Dean Mahomet*, a travel narrative by Sake Dean Mahomed, published in England in 1794.
- ❑ Early Indian writers used English unadulterated by Indian words to convey an experience which was essentially Indian. Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay (1838–1894) wrote *Rajmohan's Wife* and published it in 1864; it is the first Indian novel written in English.

Indian Writing in English

- ❑ This began to change in the late 1800s, when famous Indian authors who wrote mostly in their mother tongue, began to try their hand at writing in English. In the early 1900s, Rabindranath Tagore began translating his works from Bengali to English.
- ❑ Starting in 1917 Dhan Gopal Mukerji wrote many children's stories that were set in India. He was awarded the Newbery medal in 1928 for *Gay Neck, the Story of a Pigeon*.
- ❑ Soon after, a new generation of Indian authors, who wrote almost exclusively in English, hit the bookshelves, beginning in 1935 with R.K. Narayan's *Swami and Friends* and Mulk Raj Anand's *Untouchable*. Raja Rao's *Kanthapura* followed in 1938.

R.K. NARAYAN

- ❖ Unarguably the **best and foremost Indian writer in English**, R.K. Narayan's novels, and short stories are the reasons why common middle-class Indians developed an interest in English stories.
- ❖ Best known for the fictional town of Malgudi, Narayan has written many fiction books including *Swami and Friends*, *The Guide*, *A Tiger for Malgudi*, *The English Teacher*, etc.
- ❖ His most famous and most sold book is his collection of short stories – *Malgudi Days*.
- ❖ His is a name which you will find on any list of “Best Indian Authors”.

MULK RAJ ANAND

- ❑ One of the pioneers of Anglo-Indian fiction, Mulk Raj Anand's works are remarkable for their depiction of poorer castes in a conventional Indian society.
- ❑ He is one of the first Indian writers in English to have gained international readership with his first novel *Untouchable*, published in 1935.
- ❑ His other notable works include *The Village*, *Coolie*, and *The Private Life of an Indian Prince*. Mulk Raj is one Indian author whose every book is highly recommended.

KHUSHWANT SINGH

- ❑ Khushwant Singh is one of the greatest Indian writers and journalists of all times.
- ❑ A versatile genius, he has been a lawyer, an information officer, a journalist, an editor and an MP. He was awarded the Padma Bhushan in 1974, which he returned in 1984 to protest against Operation Bluestar.
- ❑ His foremost books include *Train to Pakistan*, *Delhi: A Novel*, *Why I Supported the Emergency*, *There is No God* and *The Sunset Club*, amongst others.

RUSKIN BOND

- ❑ Renowned for his role in promoting children's literature in India, **Ruskin Bond is an Indian of British descent.**
- ❑ He was born in Kasauli and grew up in Shimla and Dehradun. His life in the different hill stations of Himalayas has greatly influenced his stories and writing style.
- ❑ With a career spanning over 50 years, he has experimented with many different genres - children's fiction, short stories, novella, non-fiction, romance, etc.
- ❑ He was awarded the Padma Shri in 1999 and Padma Bhushan in 2014. His greatest works include *The Room on the Roof*, *A Flight of Pigeons*, *Delhi is Not Far*, *The Night Train at Deoli* and *The Blue Umbrella*.

ARUNDHATI ROY, KIRAN DESAI & PRATIBHA RAY

- ❑ She rose to international prominence after winning the Man Booker Prize for Fiction in 1998 for her novel *The God of Small Things*. Roy began her career writing screenplays for television and movies and went on to become one of the most recognised names in Indian writing in English.

NOTABLE BOOKS:

The Algebra of Infinite Justice

Listening to Grasshoppers

Broken Republic

- ❑ Kiran Desai critically acclaimed first novel *Hullabaloo in the Guava Orchard* was published in 1998. Her second book *The Inheritance of Loss* won the 2006 Man Booker Prize. In 2015, she was listed as one of 20 most influential global Indian women.

- ❑ A professor by profession and a writer by choice, Pratibha Ray undoubtedly is a household name in Odisha and in most parts of India through her translated works.

NOTABLE WORKS:

Yajnaseni: The Story of Draupadi

Adibhoomi

Shilapadma

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