

# Indian English Fiction : Recent Issues Beneath And Beyond **A New Literary Generation**



**Dr. Jyoti Patil**

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*A New Literary Generation*

***Dr Jyoti Patil***



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## Preface

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Indian English literature is renowned throughout the world for its complexity and depth, with the range of fiction published in the subcontinent reflecting the incredible diversity of India and its diasporic dispersions. The 21<sup>st</sup> Century Indian writers are retracing the boundaries of Indian literature, and expressing themselves through the forces of globalisation, nationalism and glocalization which are reshaping their style and interpretation. In the previous century, several Indian writers have distinguished themselves not only in traditional Indian languages but also in English language. First Indian Nobel laureate, Rabindranath Tagore who won the coveted prize in 1930, was a Bengali writer. Later, V. S. Naipaul, a writer of Indian origin won the Nobel Prize in 1970. Other major English writers who are either Indian or of Indian origin prove convincingly their Indianness through their impressive writings, on one hand we have the first generation writers like R. K. Narayan, Rajarao, Mulkraj Anand, Kamla Das, Manohar Malgaonkar and on the other hand we have a progressive lot who have dominated the first two decades of 21<sup>st</sup> century like Salman Rushdie, Vikram Seth, Amitav Ghosh, Bharati Mukherjee, Anita Desai, Shashi Tharoor, Shashi Deshpande, Manju Kapur, Arundhati Roy, Jhumpa Lahiri, Kiran Desai and many more.

Indian English writing in the first decade of the twenty-first century showed a unique advance in the direction of experimentation in the various genres of literature. The Indian writers have shown their talents to the world by winning many such prestigious prizes. On the world platform also, Indian writings have left their indelible imprints with the publications of *Midnight's Children* by Salman Rushdie that won the prestigious Booker Prize and Best of Bookers



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# Innovative Leitmotifs In Indian English Fiction

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## Abstract:

*The later part of 20<sup>th</sup> century and the beginning of the 21<sup>st</sup> century has shown to the world that English literature is no longer the sole domain of the Imperial England. The English people have themselves sown the seeds of the unexpected developments and the unprecedented growth of Indian English Literature today. Indian English fiction has always been progressive and responsive to the contemporary changes of material reality and theoretical perspectives since it was born as Indo-Anglian Literature. The last two decades of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century has witnessed the rise of popular novels depicting contemporary Indian society, written perhaps with an Indian readership in view, but acclaimed by an increasingly International audience. The fictional writings of many of the recent Indian English fiction writers also register a marked and significant shift. Instead of informing a typical Indian cultural background and traditional Indian cultural ethos, their works exhibit global concerns through the presentation of multi-cultural reality. The changed nature of their concerns has resulted in their ever-increasing readership. In the present paper my endeavour will be to examine and elaborate the new trends in Indian English Fiction in the progressive perspectives of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.*

**Keywords:** *Contemporary, cultural-ethos, Imperial, multi-cultural, progressive, responsive.*

## Post-independence Indian English Fiction: Socio-Political Realism

It is true that post-Independence Indian English writing is actually post-colonial Indian English writing because it continues to





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