

MEDIUM OF INSTRUCTION

Slaves of English

By M J AUDI

The best moments in the life of a conqueror are when the slaves extol their own slavery. Among India's invaders, this unique honour goes only to the English. India is so strongly chained by the English language that Malcolm Muggridge was convinced that the last English — speaking person on the face of the earth would be an Indian.

The anglophiles, better as the brown *sahibs*, maintain that India should be eternally grateful to the English language for its precious gifts. The gifts are: The English language inspired the Indians to regain their freedom.

● The English language taught not only the best ideologies but also the principles of good government.

● The English language united India and only English can prevent her disintegration.

● If India discards English, it would mean a return to barbarism. If the Indians desire to keep pace with progress, India should not only cling to English forever but also adopt the Roman script for all Indian languages.

What the brown *sahibs* praise as a boon, true lovers of India condemn as a curse. Mahatma Gandhi had an extremely poor opinion about the worth of English education. According to him, "The advantages we have so far got are in the spite of the system, not because of the system."

Tilak and Gandhi found that English-educated India was a phalanx that guarded the British Raj. They became loyal slaves and craved for such crumbs as titles, membership of the councils and legislatures, and jobs in the colonial administration, India's intellectual morbidity during the British Raj was exposed by Aurobindo. He said; "If an ancient Indian were to be set down in modern India, he would be amazed by the extent of its mental poverty, feebleness of creative intuition, sterility of art and cessation of science."

That education in English inspired Indians to revolt against colonial bondage is a fantastic nonsense. The history of India's

freedom movement is full of distortions and half-truths. Written by sycophantic intellectuals, it cannot be otherwise.

The truth is that no country wins her freedom through fine speeches delivered by professional politicians in comfortable legislatures or through pompous resolutions ritually approved by the bosses at annual Congresses.

No country gains its independence through gimmicks of its arm-chair patriots living luxuriously as A-class prisoners in the colonial jails by the grace of the conqueror. No country restores its self-respect because its children hold top positions in colonial

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civil and judicial services and become the valets of viceroys.

Freedom from the colonial yoke always demands sacrifices, sufferings and the very life of valiant patriots. Between the first revolt of 1857 and the last of 1947, such great patriots dedicated themselves to the cause of Mother India. For her freedom, India is forever grateful only to patriots in the true sense of the term. She owes nothing to calculating careerists who have cleverly exploited *Swaraj* to build family fortunes.

The basic purpose of western political thought, processes and systems is to preserve and promote the prosperity of the exploiters through the so-called market

economy. Western verbiage of democracy, liberty, equality, human rights and the rule of law is a camouflage to conceal the exploitation and to deceive the exploited.

Only Mahatma Gandhi grasped the western ethos in its entirety. He pointed out that "corruption and hypocrisy are the inevitable products" of western democracy. He likened the British Parliament to "a prostitute". As early as 1920, in *Hind Swaraj*, Gandhiji concluded: "If India copies England, it is my firm conviction that she will be ruined."

Forty years of parliamentary democracy in India confirms the Mahatma's prophecy. India's tragedy was never due to a lack of sound ideals and principles of governance. This can be seen from *Shanti Parva*, *Artha Shastra*, *Sukraniti*, *Panchatantra* and *Hitopadesh*, all ancient Indian treatises on governance. In modern times, her tragedy lay and still lies in not benefitting from the wisdom inherited through the ages.

To say that the English preserves the unity of India is as ridiculous as saying that artificial respiration preserves life. Nature unites India and makes her one compact territorial unit. How, then, was she divided? History tells that India's division was the joint contribution of the craft English and some Indians, whom Dr Ram Manohar Lohia rightly identified as the "guilty men of India's partition. Like Vietnam and Germany, India's division cannot last for long.

Will India relapse into barbarism if she discards English as a medium of instruction? Does any language by itself guarantee enlightenment? Enlightenment is a product of intelligence and capacity to take pains, and progress is their by-product.

This is not to say that English should be banished from India. The market value of English must be recognized, but must not be over-estimated. Over-estimation of the value English in India is the cause of alienation, denationalisation and deculturisation. The three are clearly visible in the shameless contention that the Indian lan-

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guages should opt for the Roman script.

Self-confidence and self-reliance are supreme qualities of persons as well as nations. Persons holding the highest offices in any profession, occupation or trade because of their fathers or god-fathers are like jackdaws clad in peacock's feathers. They never command respect and are always ridiculed.

So it is with nations that seek glory through imitation. Whenever there is a real contribution to art, architecture, literature and science, mankind recognizes it regardless of the medium of expression. What really matters is creativity and originality.

The greatest blunder of our founding fathers was the continuation of English for fifteen years from the commencement of the Constitution as the official language despite the selection of Hindi in the Devanagari script as the national language of India. But for that blunder, English would have been in its proper place.

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upon the retention of the English language in India is a big lie. Statistics show that not even five per cent of the Indian population use English. On the contrary, the people of India are convinced that the perpetuation of the English language is a cunning stratagem of the brown rulers to perpetuate their dynastic rule in India.

World history teaches that national language cements national integration. Hence territorial integrity of nation and national language are never debatable issues in any country. The only funny exception is the India that is Bharat. If the Indian genius is to bloom in its natural splendour India's national language should be immediately enforced in all aspects of national life. English should be immediately discarded as the official language of government in India.

So far, India's misfortune is that she never had a government at the centre reputed for firmness in implementing vital decisions and protecting national interests. As long as the English language rules, so long this fine and truly great country will be known to the world as the India that is Bharat. That is a land of denationalised, degenerate imitators.