

Role of Hindi Poetry in Freedom Movement

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Abstract

To find out how the Hindi literary elite thought about religion during British India's control, the poetry of prominent Hindi poets is evaluated. The Indian freedom movement has benefited greatly from the use of Hindi poetry. It is an artistic medium that beautifully conveys ideas, emotions, and movement principles. Hindi poetry gives the people a voice and motivates them to keep going. Indian literature has always been crucial in forming the nation's sociopolitical environment. Poetry and literature developed into potent instruments of inspiration and resistance during the Indian independence movement, mobilizing the populace and promoting a feeling of solidarity and nationalism. Millions of people were inspired to embrace independence by the writings of well-known authors like Subramania Bharati, Rabindranath Tagore, and Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay. The important contributions of these literary titans and their works that had a lasting impact on the Indian freedom movement are examined in this blog article. In this paper we will discuss. Role of Hindi Poetry in Freedom Movement.

KEYWORDS: *Hindi Poetry, Freedom Movement, Indian independence movement, solidarity, nationalism, British rule, freedom Struggle, patriotism, Progressive Writers.*

INTRODUCTION

As a potent instrument for social and political awakening, igniting patriotic zeal, and promoting national unity, Hindi poetry was vital to the liberation fight. Poetry was a tool utilized by poets like Makhn Lal Chaturvedi to organize the populace for the fight by illustrating the brutality of British rule and igniting the spirit of resistance.

India has had numerous invasions, as evidenced by its history. However, the British invasion was the one that had the biggest impact on India. Given the numerous religious influences that Indians had been exposed to

through different channels, the caste system and religion had emerged as the main social identifiers.

The difficulties in cultivating any form of Indian nationalism necessary to topple a repressive foreign government were foreseen by this social consciousness. Hindi literature underwent a linguistic shift during the modern era. Harishchandra Bharatendu, who is regarded as the creator of modern Hindi, arranged the change from braja bhasa to khari boli. The change in colonial power is crucial to the discussion of religious literature and philosophy. The poetry of the time mirrored the Muslim dominance that preceded British control in India. [1]

It has been said that at this time, Indian literary practices and Western literary influences came together to form a literary movement known as *rastra andolan*, or national revolution. This era's literature actively promoted patriotism. His literary peers were greatly influenced by Bharatendu.

Given the character of the colonial invasions, there would unavoidably be a need for divine intervention to free India and her people from oppression. As a result, authors from a variety of theological faiths highlighted their longing for divine intervention in their poems.

Role of Literature in Indian freedom Struggle

Numerous patriotic poems, novels, plays, and short stories that portrayed the brutality and injustice of the British rulers against Indians were produced. These works served as powerful tools to oppose British authority in India. Indian youngsters were motivated to participate in the liberation struggle against British rule by the revolutionary poems written by a number of poets. The Hindi revolutionary poet Makhn Lal Chaturvedi's poem *Pushp ki Abhilasha*, or "A Flower's Desire," served as an inspiration to the Indian freedom fighters. Furthermore, who can overlook the well-known couplet of Ram Prasad Bismal, the legendary Indian liberation fighter?

(We will see how strong the oppressor's arms are; we have a deep-seated yearning to become martyrs). This couplet inspired the Indian youths to fight for freedom, and the outcome is there in front of us. We live in a sovereign nation. In addition, Indian patriots produced a number of news articles to highlight the brutality and oppression of the British and to incite the Indian populace to rebel against British authority. "Sambd Kaumodi," edited by Raja Ram Mohan Roy, "Bande Mataram," edited by Bipin Chandra Pal, and "Harijan," edited by Mahatma Gandhi, were significant news publications at that period.

In India's struggle for independence, the printing and distribution of newspapers was a miracle. These newspapers stoked nationalist feelings in the populace by educating them about the current state of their nation's decline at the hands of the English. [2]

The Freedom Movement

Poetic poetry that captured the spirit of resistance and solidarity flourished during the freedom movement. Poets were inspired to express the aspirations of the masses by the Indian National Congress and kindred movements. The "Nightingale of India," Sarojini Naidu, used her poems to arouse passion and patriotism. Her writings, such as *In the Bazaars of Hyderabad*, addressed issues of hardship and resiliency while also celebrating Indian culture.

Dazul and the Progressive Writers' Movement, which aimed to advance social realism and use writing to address issues of class, gender, and caste, rose to prominence during the turbulent time preceding independence.

Poets like Mulk Raj Anand and Nazim Hikmet emphasized the need for unity among the disadvantaged and promoted a collective identity that went beyond individual experiences. The suffering of colonial oppression and the desire for a more just society were both expressed in their poetry.

Poetry was another way that women's contributions to the independence fight were expressed. Kamala Das violated social taboos by addressing themes of gender, identity, and social restraints in a candid manner. Her art connected personal experiences with the political fight for autonomy and rights, reflecting the larger challenges faced by women in a patriarchal culture. Kamala Das's poetry demonstrated the complexity of political poetry and grew to represent the feminist movement within the broader national fight.

Poets and authors such as Josh Malihabali, Subramanya Bharathi, and Rabindranath Tagor Literature, poetry, and discourse were employed by Mohammed Iqbal, Bakim Chandra Chattopadhyay, Mohammed Ali, Johar, and Kazi Nazrul Islam as a weapon against the cruel British rule, elevating the ideas of freedom and inspiring people to fight against the British Empire for India. Sarojini Naidu Begum Rokeya and other female leaders encourage women to take part in national policies and the freedom movement. [3]

Bakim Chandra Chattopadhyay promoted patriotism via writing. In *Anandamath* (1882), he emphasized a number of patriotic deeds and sacrifices performed by his characters, ordinary people who lost their homes and families in order to struggle for freedom and serve "The Mother." He imagined an uprising against the British by unskilled warriors who were able to defeat the skilled British soldiers with sheer grit and tenacity, symbolizing a spirit of nationalism and patriotism. The British Empire outlawed this book, but the Indian government repealed the prohibition after independence. *Vande Mataram*, our national song, was initially included as a poem in the book "Anandamath."

The figures exhort and motivate people to oppose the British Empire. Common people would recite the poem in front of British officers despite it being prohibited; many were detained and imprisoned for this behavior. The Indian National Congress selected the first two verses of *Vande Mataram* as their national anthem in 1937 because of the song's legacy of sacrifice and its ability to unite the nation against the British.

In 1884, Bankim Chandra released his novel *Devi Chaudhurani*. Women were inspired to join the fight for independence by this book. Similar to *Anandamath*, the protagonist of this book is a woman.

In both books, women proclaimed the ideals of love and used weapons to struggle for freedom. As Shanti states in *Anandamath*, "which hero ever became a hero without the cooperation of his wife?" Chattopadhyay had the insider knowledge that women's cooperation was essential to the nation's triumph in the freedom war.

Rabindranath Tagore is another well-known figure in Indian English literature. He has made a name for himself as a novelist, dramatist, short story writer, musician, philosopher, painter, educationalist, reformer, and critic in every genre. For his timeless masterpiece *Gitanjali*, he was awarded the 1913 Nobel Prize in Literature.

In front of the entire world, Rabindranath Tagore demonstrated that Indian authors can successfully and effortlessly convey their literary ambitions in a foreign language. Indian English literature during the British Empire got its generic moniker because Western influence was little noticeable. Tagore's works take place in a contemplative and representational atmosphere. He painted in Bengali and English with ease and friendliness. During the British Empire, he wrote thirteen books and translated nine of them into English. *Gora*, *The Home and the World*, *The Wreck*, *Binodini*, and other works have all been translated by him. His books include realistic and organic characters. [4-5]

In his books, he depicted Bengali socioreligious society and highlighted women's issues. Through various social contexts, he depicted and examined various human connections. At the age of twenty, he authored *Valmiki Pratibha* for the first time. The goal of his art was to express "the play of feeling and not of action." In both Bengali and English, he employed allegorical and philosophical topics.

One of the best authors of this era is Raja Rao. The Gandhian movement's impact was evident to the reader in his 1938 novel *Kantapura*. The author concentrated on a little community where the independence movement had an effect on the locals.

the quantity of individuals taking part in the novel's portrayal of the independence struggle. Raja Rao disseminated Gandhian ideas and ideas throughout the country through his writings. The book portrayed Gandhi's impact on Indian society and how his teachings motivate people to take part in the fight for freedom. Following independence, he authored books such as *Comrade Kirilov* (1976), *The Cat and the Shakespeare* (1956), and *The Serpent and the Rope* (1960). the female protagonists in his books who endure oppressive customs and domestic injustice. In the novel *The Serpent and the Rope* (1960), *Savitri* is one of the ambitious but submissive female characters. His writing was deeply steeped in Indian culture, yet he was unable to provide practical answers to the issues facing women.

The themes of the freedom fight are still present in contemporary Hindi poetry, but in a form that takes into account contemporary issues. Today's poets struggle with concerns of caste oppression, gender discrimination, environmental crises, and communalism, whereas older poets battled against colonial power. Beyond political independence, the

concept of "freedom" now encompasses social and individual autonomy. The fight for justice is one of the main topics of modern Hindi poetry. Poets like Ashok Vajpeyi, Rajesh Joshi, and Alok Dhanwa have used poetry to draw attention to the suffering of working-class people, laborers, and marginalized communities. Their writings uphold the independence fighters' revolutionary spirit, but they oppose governmental authoritarianism, corporate exploitation, and corruption rather than British control. [6-7]

The rewriting of history is another important issue. In addition to celebrating the freedom struggle, many poets revisit it to challenge its narratives. Who were the heroes who were forgotten? What tales are still untold? Particularly, Dalit and feminist poets have tried to elevate the voices that are frequently ignored by mainstream nationalist poetry. Poets like Sudama Pandey "*Dhoomil*" and Om Prakash Valmiki have tackled the injustices that continued even after independence, contending that many societal segments have yet to understand what freedom really means. Poetry's function as a protest tool is just as potent now as it was in the colonial past.

In response to incidents like communal rioting, censorship, and human rights abuses, contemporary Hindi poets actively participate in political discourse.

Another important poet of this era is Bankim Chandra Chatterjee. His late 19th-century poem *Vande Mataram* served as an anthem for the Indian independence movement. The poem personified India as a mother figure while praising the country's richness and beauty. In addition to instilling a sense of patriotism in Indians, this activity served as a catalyst for political mobilization against colonial control. Chatterjee's combination of poetic language and nationalist enthusiasm encapsulated the shared desire for independence and unification across various communities. Poetry became an essential tool for voicing opposition to colonial rule as the independence movement gained traction in the early 20th century.

Poets started addressing the hard reality of living under British rule, criticizing colonialism's exploitative tactics and injustices via their poetry. The growing disenchantment with the colonial rule and the pressing need for social reform were expressed in the writings of poets such as Sukanta Bhattacharya and Dhumi.

Modern Indian poetry was greatly influenced by Rabindranath Tagore, who would go on to become the first non-European to win the Nobel Prize in Literature

in 1913. His paintings frequently combined Western and Indian elements, demonstrating his global perspective. Tagore captured the spirit of the Indian experience by expressing deep spiritual and patriotic sentiments in collections like Gitanjali.

His poems, which emphasized the value of self-discovery and ethnic pride, spoke to the struggles for independence. Tagore was a crucial figure in the

nationalist movement because of his capacity to explain the difficulties of Indian identity amid a period of foreign dominance.

Rabinder Nath Tagore, Bharatendu Harishchandra, Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay, and other notable nationalist writers contributed significantly to the independence of Bharat from the British Raj. [8]



We will now discuss Hindi literature and mention Bharatendu Harishchandra (1850–85), who played a significant role in bringing Hindi literature into the contemporary period.

Bharatendu wrote in a range of genres, including essays and poetry, and generated a vast amount of literature despite his early passing. Additionally, he published several magazines to educate the populace about national and social issues. [9]



Bharatendu Harishchandra

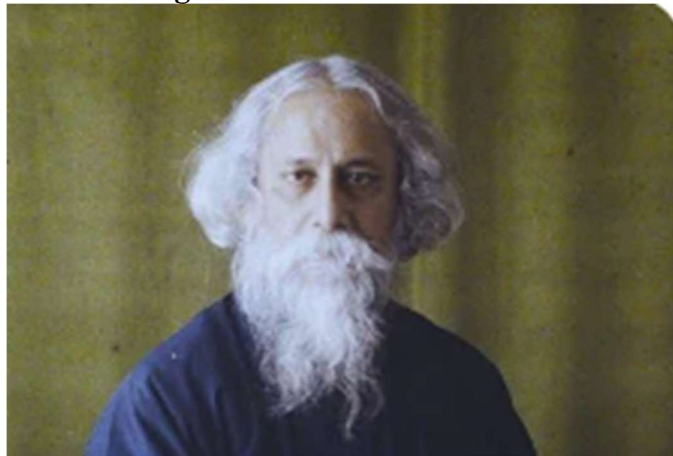
The issue of subjection appears frequently in Bharatendu's writings. For instance, he poignantly asked the audience, "How come, as human beings we became slaves and they (the British) kings?" during a public lecture on the promotion of Hindi in 1877. Even the most common people could grasp this issue because it touched on the core of India's political crisis in a straightforward and poignant way. But in the face of their all-powerful "kings," this query could make individuals feel important. As a result, Bharatendu asked them another question that was meant to lift their spirits.

"How long would you endure these sorrows as slaves?" he questioned. In this talk, he continued to caution against the crippling habit of relying on foreigners to save the nation. He inspired the populace to put aside their animosity and fear of one another in order to defend the honor of their language, religion, culture, and nation. It should be noted that this speech was given in the style of extremely straightforward couplets that had the power to deeply affect readers and listeners. [10]

Thus, Bharatendu used poetry to convey the message of patriotism to the populace. For this objective, he even employed traditional and popular poetry as well as other literary styles. He composed bhajans, for instance, that were meant to depict the nation's situation. He might expand the audience for his message and appeal in this way. Additionally, he encouraged his peers to employ popular literary forms. It should be mentioned that this development peaked during the height of the freedom movement, when well-known songs were written and performed at public gatherings and prabhat pheries. The British Indian government was compelled to outlaw several of these songs, albeit with little effect.

In general, literature refers to the whole corpus of works that address a specific topic. As one of the key mass communication tools for raising awareness and igniting a sense of patriotism among the populace, literature has been crucial to India's fight for independence. Numerous well-known personalities have contributed their writings in a variety of forms to convey their sorrow and worry for the state of the nation's citizens under the brutal colonial control of the British. Poems, essays, articles, newspaper stories, books, novels, and other types of writing all had a significant impact on the emotional framework.

Rabindranath Tagore: The Bard of Bengal



The first non-European to receive the Nobel Prize in Literature, Rabindranath Tagore was not just a poet and writer but also a visionary and a deep thinker. His creations went beyond simple creative expression, exploring social themes and the human mind in great detail. Poetry, poems, essays, and short tales were among the many literary works that Tagore produced throughout the liberation movement.

Gitanjali: The collection of poems in Tagore's masterpiece, "Gitanjali" (Song Offerings), reflects his spiritual development and search for divine truth. The underlying themes of independence, global brotherhood, and the pursuit of truth struck a strong chord with the Indian people, motivating them to seek freedom from colonial authority even if they were not immediately political.

Jana Gana Mana: Tagore's song "Jana Gana Mana," which was eventually chosen as India's national anthem, is evidence of his vision for a unified country. The anthem, which honors India's unity and variety, became a national rallying cry for freedom fighters.

Ghare-Baire: Tagore examines the intricacies of nationalism and the effects of the Swadeshi movement on Indian society in his book "Ghare-Baire" (The Home and the World). Tagore explores the moral conundrums and difficulties brought on by nationalist zeal through the characters of Nikhil, Bimala, and Sandip, advocating for a fair approach to the fight for liberation. [11]

Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay: The Voice of Nationalism



One of the first literary advocates of Indian nationalism, Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay used his writing as a weapon against colonial oppression. In addition to fostering pride in Indian culture and tradition, his writings served as a model for opposing British tyranny.

Anandamath: Many people consider Bankim's groundbreaking book "Anandamath" to be the Bible of Indian nationalism. The famous hymn "Vande Mataram," which became the anthem of the Indian freedom movement, was first heard in the novel, which was set against the backdrop of the Sannyasi Rebellion. "I bow to thee, Mother," or "Vande Mataram," idealized India as the Mother Goddess and inspired millions of people to rebel against colonial oppression.

Kapal Kundala and Devi Chaudhurani: Bankim continued to weave themes of resistance, sacrifice, and the exaltation of India's history in his subsequent books, including "Kapal Kundala" and "Devi Chaudhurani." A generation of freedom warriors were motivated by these works to struggle for the liberation of their motherland and to take pride in their ancestry.

Subramania Bharati: The Revolutionary Poet



Subramania Bharati, also known as Mahakavi Bharati, was a Tamil poet, writer, and freedom warrior whose passionate writings inspired Indians to pursue independence. His poetry was a call to arms against British domination, marked by a revolutionary and passionate tone.

Swadeshi Movement: Bharati was a fervent supporter of the Swadeshi movement, which promoted local products and called for a boycott of British goods.

His poetry, like "Enthayum Thayum" (My Mother and Motherland) and "Achamillai Achamillai" (Fearless, Fearless), encouraged people to reject colonial exploitation **and embrace independence.**

Kannan Pattu and Panchali Sabatham: Bharati used Hindu mythology and philosophy to inculcate a feeling of moral and ethical obligation to the country in works such as "Kannan Pattu" (Songs of Krishna) and "Panchali Sabatham" (The Vow of Panchali). He inspired people to actively engage in the fight for independence by evoking the bravery and morality of mythological figures.

Numerous authors have donated their works with the intention of raising awareness and bringing people together around a shared sense of patriotism. Despite the differences in their writing styles, the goal remained the same. These individuals wrote of liberation from the social problems of the day as well as independence from the British. These literary icons are mentioned below, along with a description of their works. The list is representative of the works that had an impact during the freedom struggle, but it is not all-inclusive.

Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anandmath (1882) • Devi Chaudharani (1884)
Lokmanya Bal Gangadhar Tilak	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maratta (English 1881) • Kesari (Marathi) (1881)
Rabinder Nath Tagore	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Anthem: Jana Gan Man • Amar Sonar Bangla (Song Later Became National Anthem Of Bangladesh) • Gora (Novel; 1909) • Ghare Baire (1916) • Char Adhyay (1934)
V. D. Savarkar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indian War Of Independence (1909)
Gadar Aandolan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weekly Newspaper • Hindustan Gadar
Bhagwati Charan Vohra,	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Philosophy Of The Bomb
M. K. Gandhi	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hind Swaraj Or India Home Rule (1938) • From Yervada Mandir (1932) • Young India (Newspaper; 1919) • Harijan (Newspaper; 1933)
K. S. Venkatramani	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kandan, The Patriot (Novel, 1932)
Subhash Chander Bose	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An Indian Pilgrim (1937)
Raja Rao	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kanthapura (1938)

Role of Hindi poetry in the movement

Nationalist feelings were aroused: Poems produced a sense of pride and solidarity among the populace as well as feelings of love for the nation.

Inspired a spirit of revolution: young people were inspired to pursue independence by verses that discussed sacrifice and the oppression of the adversary.

Poetry and other literary works gave the Indian people a way to communicate their hardships and yearning for independence. [12]

Conclusion:

This study demonstrates how, throughout history, the poetic form has been an essential tool for social critique and transformation. Poetry in India has always mirrored the hopes and hardships of its people, from the ancient epics that established the principles of moral government to the revolutionary poetry of the Bhakti poets who questioned social conventions. Indian poetry encourages discussion about identity and societal change in addition to capturing the spirit of shared experiences. The lasting influence of political movements on Indian poetry will continue to motivate and test us as we look to the future, guaranteeing that the art form will continue to be a crucial voice in the fight for social and political change.

The story of the Indian liberation fight was greatly influenced by the works of these and numerous more authors and poets. In addition to inspiring the freedom fighters, their writings contributed to the development of a shared national identity. It is crucial to acknowledge the lasting influence of their literary legacy on India's path to freedom as we commemorate their achievements. We are still motivated and reminded of the ability of literature to bring about social and political change by their words. It is impossible to overestimate the contribution Indian literature made to the fight for independence. Through their writings, Tagore, Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay, and Subramania Bharati raised national consciousness and brought people from all walks of life together in support of freedom.

Generations after generation have been inspired by their writings, which serve as a constant reminder of the influence of literature on a country's fate. Let's honor the innumerable other authors and poets who, via their creative brilliance, cleared the path for India's independence as we commemorate their efforts.

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