



English in the
Jewel in the Crown
-Indian English-

Rochana Jayasinghe





Middle East

Asia

Pakistan

Bhutan

Nepal


Bangladesh

India

S.E. Asia

Sri Lanka


Maldives


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- Number of English speakers in the Indian subcontinent – 200 million to 333 million
 - India is among the leading English-using nations in the world; 125 million
 - The third largest English book printing country in the world after the UK and the US
 - India publishes more books in English than in any other language

HOW? WHY?




BRITISH RAJ (1858-1947)
Jewel in the Crown


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- One of the 22 official languages
 - Widely used in administration, education, media, cross cultural communication
 - Plays the most prominent role in the prestigious domains of education, science and technology
 - The instrument that various political leaders utilized for national awakening and freedom struggles


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- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AL2TShb6fFs>


English is 'nativized'

- When a language is transported to new cultures as in South Asia, it undergoes striking changes
- It is not a uniform variety

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- What is your good name?
 - Today morning, yesterday night
 - Cousin sister, cousin brother
 - Prepone
 - Do the needful


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- Auntie/uncle
 - Timepass
 - Kindly adjust
 - Don't eat my head
 - To pass out


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- On/off the lights
 - ‘Only’
 - Revert back
 - Do one thing
 - Himalayan Blunder


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- I have a doubt
 - Batch/batchmates
 - Cut the call
 - Current went/current came
 - 'No'


Sri Lankan English


- Hi
- How have you been lately?
- What a shame
- Dont be silly
- No way!
- I accept that
- They're dating

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- This is my son's girlfriend
 - Everybody
 - Everything is alright
 - Is that ok?
 - Don't worry
 - Late night partying
 - This is ridiculous
 - Dont make me repeat myself
 - Unfortunately

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- Can you turn the air conditioner on?
 - Can you switch off the light?
 - My arm hurts
 - There you go
 - There was so much traffic on the road today
 - You must be so tired
 - That's what I told you!
 - Yes, that's right
 - I didn't know at all

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- Oh alright. That could be done, yes
 - Could you come down for a second?
 - Bon Appetit!

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- Sounds ridiculous?
 - Is it wrong?



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1hfX9z8ulX8>



THANK YOU