

PROSE SECTION:

1) Importance of English by Mulk Raj Anand

Mulk Raj Anand (12 December 1905 – 28 September 2004) was an Indian writer in English, notable for his depiction of the lives of the poorer castes in traditional Indian society. One of the pioneers of Indo-Anglian fiction, he, together with R. K. Narayan, Ahmad Ali and Raja Rao, was one of the first India-based writers in English to gain an International readership. Anand is admired for his novels and short stories, which have acquired the status of classics of modern Indian English literature; they are noted for their perceptive insight into the lives of the oppressed and for their analysis of impoverishment, exploitation and misfortune. He became known for his protest novel “Untouchable” (1935), followed by other works on the Indian poor such as “Coolie” (1936) and “Two Leaves and a Bud” (1937). He is also noted for being among the first writers to incorporate Punjabi and Hindustani idioms into English, and was a recipient of the civilian honour of the Padma Bhushan.

REASONS WHY ENGLISH IS SUCH AN IMPORTANT LANGUAGE:

English is one of the most dominating language of the world which is having its impact on every field of work. Undoubtedly, English play a much greater role in the world that it is inevitable for people to ignore it fully. Here are 10 reasons why English is such an important language.

1. It's the most commonly spoken language in the world

Depending a bit on how you count, in addition to the approximately 400 million native speakers, English is understood and/or spoken by 1-1.6 billion people. With over a quarter of the world speaking the language, there's always someone to practice with, especially when you travel.

2. It's the language of international business

With world business headquarters predominantly in the financial hubs of the UK and USA, English has long been the default language of trade as you can read in the history of the English language. Therefore, English is the dominant business language and it has become almost a necessity for people to speak English if they are to enter a global workforce, research from all over the world shows that cross-border business communication is most often conducted in English. Its importance in the global market place therefore cannot be understated, learning English really can change your life.

3. Most movies are in English

Hollywood is a powerhouse of global entertainment, so it's natural that English would become the main language for movie-making. Sure, the movies are often dubbed over or subtitled – but they're really best enjoyed in the language in which they were intended.

4. It's easy to learn

This is debatable depending on who you speak to, but it's generally accepted that English isn't the most taxing language to get to grips with. The vocabulary is simple to grasp and it has developed throughout different languages regarding its evolution that is explained in the article about the history of English language. Therefore, many speakers of those languages can see where concepts in English originated from and fast adapt to understand the basics of English.

5. It helps you understand other languages

English has a long and fascinating history that spans wars, invasions and influences from around the globe. Cultures that have helped shape modern English include Romans, Vikings and the French. For this reason it's a hybrid language comprised of Latin, Germanic and Romance elements.

6. You can say things in a hundred different ways

One of English's best assets is its flexibility: you can often find many different ways to explain the same thing thanks to its wide range of vocabulary. It's said to have well over 750,000 words (depending a bit on how you count – some generous estimates put that number at 1 million) and is adding new ones every year as mentioned in the article about the history of English language.

7. It can be used around the world

English is also hugely important as an international language and plays an important part even in countries where the UK has historically had little influence. It is learnt as the principal foreign language in most schools in Western Europe. It is also an essential part of the curriculum in far-flung places like Japan and South Korea, and is increasingly seen as desirable by millions of speakers in China. Therefore, if you have the basics of English language you can make yourself understood in nearly every corner of the world.

Non-native English speakers who learn it as a second language often comment on how many ways there are to say things. That's because English doesn't discriminate – you can use it however you like. Countries like Singapore have taken this concept to heart, inventing an entirely new type of English called 'Singlish' that has absorbed facets of other languages like Chinese and Malay.

9. It's the language of the internet

Most of the content produced on the internet (50%) is in English. So knowing English will allow you access to an incredible amount of information which may not be otherwise available.

10. It continues to change

Selfie, Hashtagging, Blogging, Smasual, etc. All these words are new to the English language but have already become valued members of the lexicon. More than any other language, English continues to evolve and absorb new words that branch out – often untranslated – into other languages. Every year approximately more than 1.000 new and approved words are added to the Oxford Dictionary. This tremendous development is the result due to technology, Social Media and how people spontaneously coin new words during daily life. More information you can find in the article about the history of English

2) How to Make a Speech-Edgar I. Baker

3) The Night Train at Deoli by Ruskin Bond

In this short story, Ruskin Bond narrates his experience during one of his train journeys to Dehra as an eighteen-year-old. He tells us that he used to spend his vacation every summer in his grandmother's place in Dehra and had to pass a small lonely station, Deoli amidst the jungle on the way. This station appears strange to him as no one got on or off the train there & nothing seemed to happen there. He wonders why the train stopped there for ten minutes regularly without reason and feels sorry for the lonely little platform.

On one such journey, the author happens to see a pale-looking girl selling baskets. She appears to be poor, but with grace and dignity. Her shiny black hair and dark, troubled eyes attracts the author. The girl offers to sell baskets to him. He initially refuses to buy and later when she insists, happens to buy one with a little hesitation, daring not to touch her fingers in the melee. Both of them just look at each other for quite some time, just as it strikes a chord of affection between them. He longs to see her, her searching and eloquent eyes, again on his return journey. The meeting helps to break the monotony of his journey & brings in a sense of attachment & responsibility towards the girl.

The second time he sees her, both of them feel pleased to see each other, a smile on their faces reinforcing it, it seems like a meeting of old friends. Silence reigns and speaks more than words. He feels like taking her with him but does not do so. He tells her that he needs to go to Delhi and she replies saying she need not go anywhere, perhaps expressing her helplessness. Both of them separate unwillingly as the train leaves the station, with the hope of meeting again. The author spends the remainder of the journey and a long time later thinking about her.

The next summer, soon after his college term finishes, he rushes to go to Dehra, eager to meet the girl, his grandmother being an excuse. This time she is not to be seen at the Deoli station though he waits for a long time. This deeply disappoints him and a sense of foreboding overcomes him. On his way back to Delhi, he again waits anxiously to see her, but it ends in vain. On enquiry, he comes to know that the girl has stopped coming, & nobody knows about her whereabouts. Once again, he has to run for the train and invariably leave the station. He decides that once he would break the journey there, spend a day in the town, make enquiries and find the girl who had stolen his heart.

The following year in summer, he again walks up & down the platform hoping to see the girl, but somehow, cannot bring himself to break the journey to look for her. He seems to be afraid of discovering about her, dreading about anything unfortunate that could have befallen her and wants to retain his sweet memories of her & not allow it to be spoilt with unfortunate events. All the same, the author also suggests to his readers that he did not want to project himself like a hero of a movie where the hero would meet his sweetheart going through all hardships and win her over. He prefers to keep hoping and dreaming, waiting for the girl.

The author brings the readers to a realistic world rather than a fictitious, imaginary, unreal world, driving home the fact that life is not like a fiction novel or a movie; losing and gaining becomes part of life's journey that needs to be taken in our stride. Life is a constant process, which cannot be stopped. We can only carry memories forward while life goes on.

4) *The Conjuror's Revenge*-Stephen Leacock

'The Conjuror's Revenge' by Stephen Leacock is a humorous short story. A Conjuror deals smartly with a troublesome person known as the Quick Man for spoiling his magic show. The Conjuror is a skilled magician who performs magic tricks for an audience. He was so talented that he could produce even a fish bowl from a piece of empty cloth. He could do difficult tricks like extracting eggs from a hat. During a show, he meets the Quick Man who unnecessarily spoils the show. Initially, the conjurer ignores him and continues with the show. Towards the end, the conjurer decides to take his revenge on the Quick Man.

A 'Quick Man' is referred to a person who is crazy and fast in grasping, quick-witted but cunning. Among the audience, there was one such man who whispered at the end of every trick that it was all fraud. This upset the conjurer and spoiled the magical effect for the audience. He can be called as the villain in the story.

The conjurer performed several tricks for the audience. From the beginning of the show, the Quick Man keeps spoiling the show for the conjurer. He kept saying to the audience that the trick was done with the help of items hidden up the conjurer's sleeve. When the conjurer produced a fish bowl from a piece of empty cloth, the Quick Man said that this must have been up his sleeve. The next trick was the famous Hindostanee rings. He joined two separate rings into one with a blow. The Quick Man whispered that he had another lot up his sleeve. The conjurer worried a lot but he continued his tricks.

The conjurer got a hat from the audience and extracted seventeen eggs in thirty five seconds. The audience thought it was wonderful but the Quick Man told he had a hen up his sleeve. The egg trick was ruined. The conjurer got the same response for all his tricks. According to the Quick Man, the conjurer must have had rings, eggs, cards, bread, a live guinea pig and a rocking chair hidden up his sleeve. These constant comments by the Quick Man made the audience feel that the tricks were nothing special. This upset the conjurer. However, he went on performing one trick after the other till he could take it no more. He decided to take revenge.

The conjurer announced that he would be showing the famous Japanese trick. Appearing to perform a trick using items borrowed from Quick Man, he took the Quick Man's watch and broke it to pieces. The Quick Man told the audience that the watch had been slipped into the conjurer's sleeve. The conjurer then took the Quick Man's handkerchief and punched holes in it. The Quick Man thought that this was a trick which he did not understand. The conjurer then took the Quick Man's hat and trampled on it. He then proceeded to burn the Quick Man's collar and smashed his spectacles. The Quick Man, all the while thought that this was just a trick. However, later the Quick Man and the entire audience realized that what the conjurer did with the Quick Man's things were not tricks.

The conjurer's revenge was complete after he destroyed the belongings of the Quick Man. The conjurer had succeeded in fooling the Quick Man with his permission. Thus the conjurer took his revenge. The humorous part of the story is the seriousness with which he asked for the various items of the Quick Man. The conjurer kept up the suspense till the end of the show by not letting either Quick Man or the audience realize that the "trick" that he was performing at the end of the show was not a trick but the real destruction of the possessions of the Quick Man. At no point of time did the Quick Man realize that the Conjurer was taking his revenge. The moral of the story is that, when we cannot appreciate a person, we should learn to keep it to ourselves. If we unnecessarily irritate or cause any harm to another person, we will have to face the consequences.

5) *The Luncheon*-W.Somerset Maugham

'The Luncheon' the writer of 'The Luncheon' William Somerset Maugham, in this short story, relates about a lady who is an admirer of his stories. She wins the author's favor and expresses her wish to meet him at a high class restaurant. William exposes the false motives of modest eating habits, of the middle classes with a touch of humor. Twenty years ago the author was living in Paris, when he had met a lady, who is an admirer of his stories. She had met him at a play and relates to him the incident during the interval which had occurred at that time. She had read a book written by him, and had written a letter to him about her views. Another letter was posted, stating about her visit to Paris and her desire to have a little luncheon at the Foyots, a restaurant where French senators eat. William was not a rich man and had never even thought of visiting that restaurant, nor did he possess the art of refusing her request.

Estimating the cost of a luncheon, which should not cost more than fifteen Francs, he decided to cut down coffee from his menu, so that he could have enough for himself for the next two weeks. His meeting was fixed on Thursday, at half past twelve, through correspondence. The lady was in her Forties, talkative, and not attractive. She had ordered for Salmon, and Caviar, while the Salmon was being prepared. William had ordered for the cheapest dish mutton- chops.

After the meal, she had ordered for white champagne. She kept enjoying the meal, and chatting about art, literature, and music, while

William kept wondering about the bill. The bill of fare was soaring above that which he had anticipated. When the waiter had come with the bill she waived him aside with an air of gesture and ordered for Asparagus, the horribly expensive dish. William's heart sank, his mouth watered, and yet he had to quell his emotions. Adding to worsen the situation, she ordered for ice-cream and then coffee, all the same announcing that 'she never ate anything for luncheon - just a bite' Thoughts kept reeling through William's mind about how he was going to pay the exorbitant bill or how could he feign an act of his pocket having been picked.

To his utter dismay, the head waiter walked up to the table with a large basket full of huge Peaches. She picked up one protesting that her meal was just a snack, and that she could certainly enjoy the Peach.

The bill was finally paid, and William found himself with just a few Francs for the tips, and not a penny left in his pocket for the whole month. William believes, that he had had his revenge for then, when the Twenty years had passed by, he met her weighing One Hundred and Thirty -Six Kilograms.

The text I'm getting to analyze represents a short-story, entitled "THE LUNCHEON", written by a prominent, English novelist, short-story writer, playwright and essayist Maugham.

First of all, I'd wish to say some words about the title of the text "The Luncheon". The title of the text is quite ironic. If we consult a dictionary, we will determine that the word "luncheon" means a "light

snack”, but as we will see hereinafter a light-weight snack turns to be an abundant and expensive meal.

The text represents the primary person narration. the utilization of pronouns “I”, “my”, “myself” is predominant. E.g. “Did I remember?”, “My heart sank”, “as for myself, I chose the most cost-effective dish”.

The plot of the text is that the following: the narrator, a book writer, recognizes a lady with whom he had lunch years ago. He starts remembering the unforgettable evening.

He was young, lived in Paris and will barely make ends meet. She had read of his books and wrote a letter to congratulate him on his work. He invited her for lunch and to his horror, she chose an upscale restaurant. He had only eighty francs to last him the remainder of the month. She ordered one expensive dish after another and when the bill came he paid and was left with no money in the least. However, within the end, the narrator feels that he has finally had his revenge when he sees that the woman now put tons of weight.

Maugham offers the reader an outline sustained by dialogues that features a source during a cutback. The author presents a cut back soon at the start of the text and this cut back becomes a crucial detail “Did I remember?” which allows us to understand what had happened twenty years ago. The flash-back goes to the last paragraph when the narrator comes back to this time and shows us that he had been revenged.

The tone of the text is ironic. The irony is presented here during a stressed form, mainly in the scene of the restaurant.

The given text is often divided into 3 logical parts: the 1 one is presented by 2 first paragraphs when the narrator sees the woman at the theatre in 20 years since their first meeting, which recurs to his memory within the second logical part. I'd wish to say that it is the story within the story. So, this very part is often divided into 3 structural parts. I feel that it's the open structure: it possesses the exposition, the story and therefore the climax.

The exposition begins with the sentence "It was twenty years ago and that I was living in Paris" and ends with the words "I answered that I might meet my friend by correspondence at Foyot's on Thursday at half-past twelve." Here the reader learns about the place of action – Paris and time – it had been 20 years ago.

We learn that most of the narrator was very poor and will hardly keep body and soul together. The reader gets information about the events which preceded the meeting of the most characters. The protagonist got the letter from a woman who was admired by his work, she wrote that she was interested to possess a chat with him and suggested meeting at Foyot's, one among the foremost expensive restaurants. He was flattered and couldn't say "no" to her. The author uses: epithets little luncheon and modest luncheon are in contradiction with the posh restaurant Foyot's at which the French senators eat. I feel it's wont to achieve the ironical effect., the epithet – tiny room

and therefore the cliché to stay body and soul together underlines the very fact that he lived in want.

Then comes the most part. It begins with the narrator's description of his admirer and lasts until the last sentence. The action takes place within the restaurant. Here the reader learns more about the most characters. they're presented both directly and indirectly. So, the male character is that the ingenious one as we may note through the expressions from his way of thinking, acting and speech "Foyot's was thus far beyond my means I had never even thought of going there", "I used to be flattered, and I was too young to possess learned to mention "no" to a woman". These and other examples show us the narrator's traditional concepts. he's also an informed man, polite, from an honest family tradition.

As for the feminine character, we will get a transparent idea about her from what the narrator tells about her "She wasn't so young as I expected and in appearance imposing instead of attractive. She was, in fact, a lady of forty (an enthralling age, but not one that excites a sudden and devastating passion initially sight), and she or he gave me the impression of getting more teeth, white and enormous and even than were necessary for any practical purpose. She was talkative, but since she seemed inclined to speak about me I used to be prepared to be an attentive listener. So, we will see that the narrator is the mouthpiece of the author. And also we study her through her actions, behavior, and speech: e.g she repeats "I never eat anything for luncheon", but she eats everything she will because the narrator

says: “I watched the abandoned woman thrust the asparagus down her throat in voluptuous mouthfuls and in my polite way discoursed on the condition of the drama within the Balkans.

” So we will conclude that the lady is sensible, experienced, selfish, cold, with none feeling except to satisfy her desires. I feel that he perceives her like a beast of prey and therefore the hyperbole “she gave me the impression having more teeth, white and enormous and even than were necessary for any practical purpose, proves this concept.

The dialogues between the host and therefore the guest are effective and permit the reader to witness what’s happening. we will easily perceive how the author makes the tone vary within the words of the characters. The woman’s tone never changes while she cheats the host and orders the foremost expensive dishes, and therefore the repetition of the same phrases proves it “I never eat anything for luncheon”, and “I never eat quite one thing”. which is the key sentence of the text. The woman’s insistence in saying that she doesn’t eat anything for lunch is within the stressed mark of irony, for she ate sort of a heroine. The contrast during this short – story gives origin to a posh game between the host and his guest and it’s sustained through things of the host which becomes worse as time goes by.

We can feel the suspense to be developed through the words of the narrator from the very beginning. At the start of the text, we notice his

willingness to please her, but because the time passes his utterances become shorter and shorter and his tone becomes more and more subdued. e/g. metaphor: my heart sank a touch, I turned a touch pale, my heart sank, panic seized me. He answered generously, I answered promptly, I asked faintly becomes less generous, as he's more worried about what proportion he will need to pay. it had been the sole thing he could believe. The tension gets to its highest point when the bill comes. I think this moment to be the climax of the text.