



Original Article

From Epics to Experimentalism: A Comparative Study of Traditional and Modern Writing in India

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Manuscript ID:
IBMIRJ -2025-020812

Submitted: 10 July 2025

Revised: 20 July 2025

Accepted: 10 Aug 2025

Published: 31 Aug 2025

ISSN: 3065-7857

Volume-2

Issue-8

Pp. 43-45

Aug 2025

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Quick Response Code:



Web: <https://ibrj.us>



DOI: 10.5281/zenodo.17129348

DOI Link:

<https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.17129348>



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Abstract

Language is a great medium to share information. We can convey it to everyone through writing, speaking, and reading. It changes over time. Earlier, writing was done on stones, leaves, and copper. Now, it has been replaced by computers, laptops etc. Along with this, the method of writing has also changed. Modern writing style differs from Traditional writing. Ancient Indian wisdom has an important role in balancing knowledge and value system. It starts from Oldest know text Vedic Literature to the oral tradition of native speaker. Language has played very vital role in (developing) reaching to the people. This study investigates the distinction between conventional / traditional and modern ways of writings.

The paper explores the evolution of Indian Literature from its traditional roots in classical epics and religious texts to the dynamic expressions of modern writing. It compares the thematic concerns, linguistic diversity, literary forms, audience, and modes of transmission between the two periods. The study aims to highlight how Indian Languages reflects the country's socio-political and cultural transformations from the ancient oral traditions to the postcolonial global narratives. Through selected case studies and literary analysis, this paper underscores both the continuity and the departure in Indian writing across time.

Keywords: Traditional writing, Modern writing, Experimentalism, Writing style etc.

Introduction

Language is indivisible part of society, through the language people understands the tradition, culture, lifestyle, values and polity of contemporary society. Communication never India is a multilingual country. Communication and learning never stopped in India because of variety of languages are spoken in India. Traditionally written epics, books are translated in different languages. Over four hundred years ago, writing came in India much earlier than civilization. Brahmi and Kharoshti are the earliest writing systems used in Ancient India and subcontinent. After some decades Devnagari, Tamil, Grantha, Sharada were developed from these scripts. India has largest books, authors and publications. Language uses has changed over the time. Modern languages significantly impact India, shaping communication, employment, education, employment and cultural identity. The evolution from old to new writing styles reflects changes in culture, technology, and communication preferences. While old styles emphasize formality and tradition, new styles prioritize accessibility, engagement, and diversity.

This paper aims to compare the Languages used in the Traditional and Modern India. Experimentalism in language involves using language in new and innovative ways, often challenging traditional linguistic norms, and exploring its relationship to thought and culture. This can manifest in various forms, including the creation of new languages for research, experimental writing styles, and the application of experimental methods to study language and its use.

Traditional Writing:

India is the land of linguistic diversity. India's Traditional (classical) languages represent the essence of its rich cultural heritage. They are the carriers of ancient wisdom, literature, and philosophy, which continue to shape contemporary Indian society. Time period for traditional language was Ancient to pre-colonial period. Early periods saw the development of languages like Sanskrit and Prakrit, alongside the rise of various regional languages.

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How to cite this article:

Sangvikar, S. P. (2025). From Epics to Experimentalism: A Comparative Study of Traditional and Modern Writing in India. *Insight Bulletin: A Multidisciplinary Interlink International Research Journal*, 2(8), 43–45. <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.17129348>

Traditionally knowledge is often passed down through storytelling, songs, and practical experience. Traditionally writing encircles a wide range of writing styles and formats. It includes handwritten letters novels and textbooks. Here are some characteristics of traditional writing include:

1. Oral tradition and memorization- Oral traditions act as a living library, safeguarding cultural heritage, customs, and historical narratives within communities. Oral literature includes epics, puranas, folktales, religious narratives, and folk songs, often specific to particular regions and communities
2. Emphasis on moral, spiritual, and philosophical themes:
Traditional languages, particularly those with rich philosophical and religious contexts, often emphasize moral, spiritual, and philosophical themes through their literature, poetry, and philosophical texts. These languages serve as vessels for transmitting cultural values, ethical frameworks, and profound insights into the nature of reality, human existence, and the divine for example Ramayana, Mahabharata.
3. Allegorical and symbolic language:
The languages are used to express and explore spiritual concepts such as the nature of the soul, the divine, the relationship between humans and the cosmos, and the path to liberation or enlightenment. This is often achieved through symbolic language, poetry, and contemplative practices for example Kalidasa's Meghduta, Shakuntala, *Tirukkural* by Thiruvalluvar and religious, philosophical texts such as Vedas, Upanishads, Jain and Buddhist Literature.
4. Materiality: Traditional writing is often created victimization of physical materials, for example paper and pens. It means writers had to physically put down the pen to paper to create their work.
5. Propriety: Traditionally writing was structures and formal approach also mentioned. Traditional writing was more stick and formal conventions f languages, grammar, and style.

For centuries traditional languages have different methods and there are many benefits to this approach. For example: Traditional writing appeal more aesthetically, as the feel of writing on paper gives pleasure to writer. The methods are more deliberate, thoughtful approach of writing, as author has to give efforts and put more exertion into each word.

In essence, traditional languages serve as more than just tools for communication. They are repositories of cultural wisdom, ethical guidelines, and profound philosophical insights, shaping the worldview and spiritual development of individuals and communities who inherit them.

Modern Writing:

Time period of Modern writing in India was started from Colonial Period to present. Modern writing has impact of British rule, English education and western literary forms. This period was the rise of printing press and newspapers. Modern languages include English and Indian languages (Hindi, Bengali, Tamil, Malayalam, etc.).

On the other hand, Modern writing refers to writing that has been produced precaution of digital technologies; it includes emails, blog posts and e-books etc.

Some characteristics of Modern writing:

1. Digitalization: In the world of digitalization writers are using digital technologies like computers, tablets and smart phones. Writers can work much faster and more efficiently than traditional written material methods.
2. Simplicity: Modern writing style of language and grammar is often less formal than Traditional Language. It is correct with social media and online communication, here brevity and informality is more important.
3. Wider distribution: In the Modern era writing is more distributed practically. The writers can reach to global audience with their work.
4. Interactive: Modern writing involves writer and their audience's interaction. It includes blog post and media updates. It can create a more dynamic experience for readers. Readers are involved mentally with writers.
5. Realism and individualism: Modern writing is influenced by Realism and individualism in language; it refers to approaches that prioritize representing reality (realism) and the unique perspectives of individuals (individualism) within language use. Realism in language aims to depict subjects truthfully, often focusing on everyday life and avoiding idealization or artificiality. Individualism, in this context, highlights the distinctiveness of each person's language use, acknowledging their unique experiences and perspectives.
6. Global readership: Modern Indian languages are seeing increased global readership, driven by factors like India's growing digital presence and the localization of content. Indian languages are gaining traction, particularly in content creation and digital platforms.

Conclusion:

This study's primary conclusion focuses on traditional and modern writing styles differ significantly in their methods and aims. Traditional styles emphasizing formality and physical production. It also provides a foundation for understanding cultural values, historical narratives, and societal structures. Preserving traditional literature and language helps maintain linguistic diversity, as these works often preserve older forms of language and dialects also.

Modern styles leverage digital technology for speed, accessibility, and interactive engagement. It also impacts how information is presented, consumed, and even how writers engage with their audience. Modern voices offer contemporary perspectives and address evolving social issues. It contributes to social change and promote understanding and empathy. Language is the mirror of the society while preserving traditional language alongside modern voices ensures the continuity of cultural heritage and enriches the literary landscape.

Acknowledgment

The author sincerely expresses gratitude to MGM University, Chhatrapati Sambhaji Nagar, and the Institute of Indian and Foreign Languages for their academic support and encouragement in carrying out this research. Special thanks are extended to colleagues, peers, and students for their valuable insights and constructive suggestions that enriched this study.

The author also acknowledges the contributions of various scholars whose works on Indian literature, cultural history, and linguistic studies provided the foundation for this paper. Finally, heartfelt appreciation goes to family and well-wishers for their constant encouragement, patience, and motivation throughout the research journey.

Financial support and sponsorship: Nil

Conflicts of interest

The authors declare that there are no conflicts of interest regarding the publication of this paper.

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