

The Otherness of English
India's Auntie Tongue Syndrome

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New Delhi: Sage

1993

From the inside jacket

This book offers a unique interpretation of the meaning of the English language in India, focusing on the mode of its presence in the post-modern phase. To do this, Professor Dasgupta presents an interdisciplinary account of the role English plays at various levels of modernization. Starting with the socio-linguistic notion of diglossia and the geo-linguistic notion of an Asian area of formalized code cleavage, the author shows that English occupies a constrained functional slot in India's discursive space. Professor Dasgupta's critique of earlier works on the linguistic and literary presence of English suggests that they were based on a code-oriented, naturalistic theory of language and thus could not cope with the discourse-bound properties of diglossic systems. Based on this critique, the author argues that the crucial contrast that needs to be explained - given the fact that both Sanskrit in ancient times and English today play an artificial 'high' role - is that between the poverty of modern India's English compared to the obvious creative success of Sanskrit in classical times. [...]

This is the first analysis of English (or any modern language) to situate the topic in the context shaped by recent work in a host of domains including modernization, post-modernity, cultural strategies, 'othering' as the cognitive content of colonial domination, and a theoretical convergence of sociology and linguistics. It will interest scholars in such fields as socio-linguistics, education, sociology, political science and English literature.

1993. *The Otherness of English: India's Auntie Tongue Syndrome*. New Delhi: Sage Publications. 12. Dua, Hans. 1994. *Hegemony of English*. Mysore: Yashoda Publications. 13. George, J. (1867). *The mission of Great Britain to the world, or some of the lessons which she is now teaching*. 58. Singh, J. (1996) *Colonial Narratives/Cultural Dialogues: "Discoveries of India in the Language of Colonialism*. London: Routledge. 59. Singh, Udaya Narayana. 1998. Introduction by the series editor. In Rajendra Singh (Ed) *The Native Speaker: Multilingual Perspectives*. New Delhi: Sage Publications. 11-25. 60. Sonntag, Selma 2003, *The local politics of global English: Case studies in linguistic globalization. The otherness of English: India's auntie tongue syndrome*. London: Sage. Google Scholar. Diversity in communication and languages; predicament of a multilingual nation state: India, a case study. In N. Wolfson & J. Manes (Eds.), *Language of inequality* (pp. 399-407). Berlin: Mouton de Gruyter. Google Scholar. Pattanayak, D. (Ed.). (1990). *Multilingualism in India*. Clevedon: Multilingual Matters. Google Scholar. Pennycook, A. (1994). *The cultural politics of English as an international language*. London: Longman. Google Scholar. Pennycook, A. (1998). *English and the discourses of colonialism*. London: Routledge. Google Scholar. "The Otherness of English: India's Auntie Tongue Syndrome", in which he talks of the situation of English in India, has led to various debates on the social implications of the presence of English in India[2]. Dasgupta has been a member of the Akademio de Esperanto since 1983. He served as the Vice-President of the Akademio for five terms from 2001 to 2015. "Panel Discussion: India Studies Group- Part - II." "Panel Discussion: India Studies Group- Part - I." Transcription.