



Understanding the politics of language egotism in contemporary Indian politics

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Abstract

The diversity of India has been described by professor Ashutosh Varshney as a “Salad Bowl” instead of a “Melting Pot”, this description gives a unique identification to Indian diversity. Language diversification is one of them that gives a unique image in Indian politics because of that language is not only a medium of communication but also it becomes a focal point in global politics. Due to the creative power of language, language has got more importance that’s why language is a central element of politics. Only some languages get more important because of this reason the local languages do not get more attention. Due to the creativity of languages, it achieves its own identity in global politics. Hence, inclusive politics is most important for the comprehensive of language, its inscrutability, and existence that will help in everybody’s company will help in everybody’s beliefs. Language is not only associated with the individual identity it has an association with the community. The communitarian theory also believes that human is taking identity from the community. That’s why if the identity of language is eradicated then the existence of community becomes a matter of concern. Unity in diversity is the cornerstone of India’s integrity and social harmony.

Keywords: global politics, salad bowl, democracy, minority, constitution, authorities, hierarchy, globalisation, overseas, contemporary, superpower, creativity, identity politics

Introduction

Language develops consciousness in humans. Consciousness is not only an important but also a compulsory factor for democracy. There is democracy in India that’s why language affects politics directly and indirectly, therefore language is also called the language of politics, the behaviors of politicians, and the culture of politics. We can’t deny the fact that learning a language and the right to the implication of language is connected somewhere from education and fundamental rights. Politicians use language very carefully because they believe that thinking should be powerful and language helps to make thinking powerful (D.S.Ali, 2011) [3]. Asha Sarangi prof. in Jawahar Lal, Nehru University believes that newspaper is published in 97 languages, primary education in 67 languages, national literacy missions in 80 languages, and radio broadcasts in 22 languages then why Indian constitution have only 22 languages (Sarangi, 2008) [10]. Language is a social element. Social element makes society together and this social element cannot be changed by a single person. When you change a language, it will change the whole social relationship (Joseph, 2006) [6]. When one language gets more attention, it develops supremacy of that language over other languages and establishes an inferior relationship between other language groups. In Sri Lanka between Sinhalese and Tamil, and eastern Pakistan and western Pakistan between Bangla and Urdu. In Belgium between French and Dutch. In Canada, there is a debate between English and French that helps flourish Canadian politics. The English spoken person criticized the Hindi language. They are criticized in the sense that they are trying to break the unity of India that’s why they are doing language-based politics (Bhardwaj, 2023) [1]. Politics is a relationship between the public and politicians. For connecting with people, politicians use polite language to reach people’s minds.

Antonio Gramsci used the word “vernacular materialism” in his book “the prisoner”. Gramsci believed that there are two types of grammar 1. Imminent grammar 2. Normative grammar. Dominating words are used in normative grammar. This creates a supremacy of the capitalist community over the proletariat community. They are also saying that supremacy is not only about the use of force and decision-making but also about the role of words in decision-making by the capitalist economy (Gramsci, 1948) [5]. Language itself is a wide word and it brings comprehensiveness to politics. We divide it into various subtopics and the language is used as Hindi language and we discuss the glory of language. Another subtopic is added as the power of language and how the question of language is the main element of politics in the context of India and globally, all perspective has been described.

Language identity as a question in contemporary politics

Differentiating between language and dialect and what measures should be used for determining the language and dialects, is itself a subject of politics in the present scenario. For example, there are many scripts of Konkani which is the language of Goa like Devanagari and Kannada. In this perspective, language is determined only based on regional category, promoting language-based politics. There are minorities based on languages in that states which are constituted based on language. Therefore, based on the language the classification between Hindi-speaking and English-speaking will create a problem for the existence of minority languages. Minority language should be an important point in language politics because India flourishes with the feeling of inclusive growth. In our constitution, there is a provision that minorities could get their education in their languages. But the reality is that it is only in the constitution but not on the ground therefore language-based politics is completely logical.

The politics of languages has been given a special place by Professor Morish Jones. He believes that the relationship between politics and language is creating a problem between the unity and integrity of our country. Language also got a special place in our constitutional assembly. Initially, there were only 14 languages in our constitution but at present, there are 22 languages in the constitution. Language-based politics exist in our constitution since the beginning of our constitution.

Initially, English was accepted as our national language for fifteen years but the plan was to substitute it for the Hindi language. but only because of language-based politics, Hindi does not get that place which is our national language. Our government implemented New Education Policy, which

is a major reason for politics in our southern states. At the time of the election, every politician wants to connect with people. As a result, language-based politics starts in India. Politicians want to poke people as they use language as a weapon. India has unity in diversity but sometimes language becomes an obstacle to unity. There exists always disharmony between north India and south India based on language. In north India, Hindi is a prime language whereas in north India Hindi has not to have much importance. South Indian people always give importance to the regional language. Dr. Suniti kumar and Dr. P. Subba Narayan was a member of the language commission of the constitution. they believed that making Hindi the national language will be enforced for south Indian people (Kaviraj, 2009)^[7].



Fig 1

After independence, it is very challenging for our constitution maker how to make complete integrity and unity in India. But after independence, states have made it based on language-based politics .in 1952, Telugu politician Shri Ramlulu died due to 52 days hunger strike .and Telugu-speaking people demands a separate state for them and this is how Andhra Pradesh was constituted. In 1966, Punjab has constituted based on Punjabi-speaking people and Haryana has made based on Hindi-speaking people.in 1960 Maharashtra has made for Marathi-speaking people and Gujrat for Gujrati-speaking people.in this way language-based politics in our country since independence. There was a question mark for the existence of Chandigarh after the partition of Punjab and Haryana there is always a debate between Punjab and Haryana because of Chandigarh. Belgaum is the same kind of example between Karnataka and Maharashtra. Indian politics is the politics of the vote bank.to attract people, politicians use language widely.in 1980, the Indian national congress has given a respectful place to Urdu, they want to attract Muslim voters through this policy.in 1980 Uttar Pradesh government also made Urdu a third compulsory language for making the Muslim community a voter. Only because of language-based politics, there is not any universal education policy.

Language and dialect are continuously diminishing it is also a subject of politics. Asha sarangi believes that if we study the comparison between language and numerals then we find that in the 1881 census, there are only 237 languages pointed out. according to the linguistic survey of India in

1923 we have 179 languages and 544 dialects .in 1991 the number of languages was limited to 114. there is a need for political attention and make some deliberation. she believes that the number of languages is declining due to the politics of the mother tongue (Sarangi, 2008)^[10]. Sudipta Kaviraj believes that when a person is known only by his dialect then the feeling of unity got always a question mark which is challenging for the unity of our country (Kaviraj, 2009)^[7].

According to Sumuthi Ramaswamy, based on the Sanskrit commission constitution maker wanted that our constitution shows the primitive culture of our history so by adding Sanskrit in the 8th amendment of our constitution they fulfilled this purpose. but the reality was that at that time Mizo and Tulu were widely speaking the language in comparison to Sanskrit and these are not added to the 8th amendment. Sudipta Kaviraj is saying that the language of the minority is additional pressure on democracy (Ramaswami, 1997)^[9].

Language conflict shifted towards radical politics

Language and politics are interconnected in this way that sometimes politics get violent. there is always a debate between north and south Indian people because of language.in 1965 many people died in Chennai because of riots between Dravidian and Hindi-speaking people. After independence, it was believed that we will not see again this kind of problem but this problem remains the same. in the decade 1950 Andhra Pradesh was constituted based on the

Telugu language but language-based violence remains in Andhra Pradesh because, in the capital of Andhra Pradesh, almost 40% population was Urdu speaking. social, economic, and language-based dissimilarity can establish unity in Andhra Pradesh. Urdu-speaking people were in minority but they want to protect their language as a result in the decade 1970 there were many riots. In the northeast state of Assam, there were many riots based on language. In Assam there is 33 percent of Bengali-speaking people because of this reason there were many riots during the partition of 1971.

Politics of social hierarchy in language context

Language makes a human social animal; language is the only thing that differentiates humans and animals but the level of people is determined along with people because of this it creates a hierarchy. India is a country of villages, and there is much language-based diversity in villages, so much hierarchy shown in villages. It is yet believed that English is the language of high society people. Peoples have different opinions regarding English-spoken people. When people turn back to the Hindi language then supporters of English oppose it. English-speaking people believe that English is the only language that connects people globally. It is a gift given by the British to us. if we study this matter in detail then we find that if English is the language of communication, then it is fine but if English develops a hierarchy in our society, then it will be very challenging for the tolerance of society (Language, Politics and Social Issues in India, 2015)^[8].

Language not only establish the individual identity but language is a collective identity. Some regional languages such as Bengali, Marathi, and Gujrati have denoted some special type of dance, food, and costume system. This regional language has been given importance by Englishmen since the colonial period. That's why the impact of these regional languages is more than any other regional language.

Politics of identity of language at the global level

Identity of Hindi Language and Connection with Politics at the Global Level

Civilization makes identity, so dominating people choose language to end civilization. the identity of the Hindi language is in India since primitive times. Colonial power also attacked the Hindi language but Hindi has maintained its identity. and in this time, it expands itself to many popular languages. Hindi is not a language but it is a set of dialects. but there are some problems we can't deny. this time is the time of globalization, in the time of globalization, it is a time for technology and artificial intelligence. now globally English and many dominating languages got importance on the world platform. we can't deny the fact that globalization gave a huge platform to the Hindi language and Hindi has made its identity a global language (Singh, 2020).

Today world is driven by globalization factor. Russia, Britain, China, America, etc. concentrated to fulfil their economic plans at this time. for any type of economic planning, the presence of the market is the immediate condition for it. These superpowers turn their head toward the third world. To get a better result we have to understand the value of language. India has the largest population in the world and also has a large Hindi-speaking population.

Media and advertisements tried a lot to destroy the glory of Hindi. we have to maintain the glory of the Hindi language on a global platform. (Singh, 2020).

Indian migrants are in almost every country of the world. They are the drivers of the Indian language, culture, and behavior. It is believed that human is widely affected by their surroundings. and language has a major role to create that surrounding. and it is also said that if a person adjusts to any surroundings but his language will always stay in their conscious mind. in this way, we can say that Indian migrants always show the glory of the Indian language and dialects on the global platform. Former American president Donald Trump also many times used the Hindi language for speech among Indians.

Language politics at global level

The politics of language is not only regional but is connected widely on the international level. Nom Chomsky has written in his book that at the time of the election, language is equivalent to currency (Chomsky, 1988)^[2]. The former director of BBC language plays an important role in making the base of democracy. If in a democracy the language will eradicate then its effect will opposite to the society. if the effect of language in politics is diminishing then only, we will not able to hear a good speech but also, but we have to lose many things. historically when the Rome empire was destroyed and Rome has an authoritative government then no equilibrium between leaders and their languages was the only reason that destroyed the social structure of Rome (Thompson, 2018)^[11]. after 2015, western society started its culture due to language-based relations and it adopts radical instead of tolerance. Attracting voters is the priority in politics and for this purpose, people love idioms using language used to attract voters. in the USA Trump gave the slogan "make America great America" during the time of election. This is like a punch line on the world platform.

In global politics, power means soldier power, and economic power but in reality, the use of language is the prime key to today's politics. in south Syria Kurd people, have fear of American president and the Turkish president. in international politics language shows the goal of the state, idea of state and mindset of state. By using language any state can fulfill its goal and we can understand the relationship between language and power. as for example if any country has a terrorist attack, then by using diplomatic answers fear, energy and calmness can be created in the mind of people. like former president of America and North Korean leader, Kim Jong wanted to create deterrence through debate (Dyfri, 2019)^[4].

Conclusion

Aristotle believes that human is a social and political animal. language makes people together through feelings, and communication and makes life better. language has the creative power to nourish and conserve politics. In politics, language gets more important so language is an important subject in politics. Professor Rassuddin khan believes that India is a country of diversity in unity because India has diversity in social, economic, political, and ethnic along with this India has co-existence and tolerance. after independence in India, state formation got priority based on language formation. language-based politics is the key factor of identity politics. in the present time, language is

not only a factor of communication but also it is a kind of power. which play an important role in state politics along with international politics. present politics in India is based on 'our strength is our vitality, our strength is our solidarity, our vitality is the spirit of the nation first -always first, it is only possible when inclusive development politics will be in our main agendas.

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