
CHAPTER III: IF-CONDITIONALS IN INDIAN ENGLISH

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1. Aims and Objectives

In the short review of literature in Chapter I, it was mentioned that a number of investigators have discovered a number of peculiarities in the English used in India. Some have called these 'mistakes', while others have given the more positive label 'deviations'. The status of Indian English as a variety in its own right was debated and many have argued that there are sufficient grounds for Indian English to be called a variety -- a non-native, or interference variety of English.

It was also stated that different investigators had studied different aspects of Indian English based on different kinds of data. The need for comprehensive description of Indian English based on a large data-base was emphasized.

The object of this investigation is to investigate one small area of IE, i.e., the nature of if-conditionals in Indian English, and see if the hypothesis that they differ in the use of modal auxiliaries and tense forms as compared to standard English is sustainable.

2. Work done so far

In Chapter II, we summarized the handbook rules of mood and tense form restrictions on the verbs that occur in if-conditional

sentences in Standard English. In the same chapter we noted that this aspect of English grammar has generated a lot of controversy. The controversy centres mainly around the use of will and would in if-clauses of conditional sentences. Many linguisticians and philosophers were found to disagree on the nature of the structure of if-conditional sentences as they found problems of interpretation. This has led to the speculation that many if-clauses are not conditional clauses at all.

As far as if-conditionals in IE are concerned practically no work has so far been done as far as I know. However, almost all those who have investigated the syntactic aspect of Indian English have noted that the use of tense forms of verbs and modal auxiliaries differs in IE. Parasher (1983) commenting on the use of modal auxiliaries in IE says that in his data "most of the differences were in the use of modal verbs because modality is a semantic notion and the use of an appropriate modal verb depends on what exact meaning the speaker/writer wishes to convey." (p. 32). Verma (1972), Hosali (1983) and Katikar (1984) have all discovered differences in the use of modals and tense forms in IE. Katikar has specifically commented on the use of modal auxiliaries in IE and has said that they need to be further investigated. She has found many instances of past forms of the modal in if-conditional sentences where a present form might have occurred in SE. She has also found a good deal of mismatch between the verb form in the if-clause and the verb form in the main clause. This in fact is

the basis of our investigation.

3. Materials

Again it was suggested at the end of Chapter I that the descriptions of aspects of Indian English have so far used available data or ad hoc data or even learner's English. After the Standard Corpus of Indian English became available, many investigators have started using it as data-base for investigating aspects of Indian English. The first to use this corpus was Mrs P.B. Katikar for the investigation of the meanings of the modals in IE. She has given a comprehensive description of the IE corpus and its British and American counterparts, the LOB and the Brown Corpora in her dissertation.

We have used the IE corpus as the data for our study. We shall briefly describe this corpus here. The Kolhapur Corpus of Indian English (Shastri et al., 1986), like its counterparts is intended for use with digital computers. The corpus consists of 500 texts representing 15 different styles of Indian writing in English. Each text consists of approximately 2,000 words. In effect the corpus consists of one million words of written Indian English all edited and published in the year 1978. The Brown and the LOB corpora draw their samples from materials published in 1961. The Indian corpus is comparable to the British and the American corpora in all other respects except the year of publication of materials and the subcategories of samples representing imaginative prose.

The composition of the three corpora is shown in Table No. 1.

4. Methods

All the contexts in which the word if occurred were extracted from the entire Corpus of 500 texts. In the case of press materials, i.e., A, B and C categories the contexts were extracted with the help of a programme on ICL 1904 Computer System at the Regional Computer Centre, Pune. The contexts in the case of all other categories were extracted by manual inspection of the printouts. In all 1,655 instances of if occur in the entire corpus. These include not only conditional sentences but also sentences in which if-clauses function as various other grammatical elements. These were written out on cards and the analysis was carried out.

5. Analysis

The distribution of 1,655 occurrences of if-constructions over the different categories of materials in the corpus is shown in Table No. 2. The Table shows the number of instances of the if-clauses that conform to rules of SE as compared to the number of instances in which they deviate, and the percentage of deviant occurrences to the normal ones.

All the 137 sentences in which if-clauses appeared and which seemed to be deviant were classified. Following Declerck (1984), the sentences were classified into two major groups — the standard conditionals and the nonstandard ones. Within the standard

Table No. 1: The Basic Composition of American, British and Indian English Corpora.

Text Categories	No. of texts in each category		
	American Corpus	British Corpus	Indian Corpus
1	2	3	4
A Press: reportage	44	44	44
B Press: editorial	27	27	27
C Press: reviews	17	17	17
D Religion	17	17	17
E Skills, Trades and Hobbies	36	38	38
F Popular lore	48	44	44
G Belles Lettres	75	77	70
H Miscellaneous [Government Documents, foundation reports, industry reports, college catalogue, industry house organ]	30	30	37
J Learned and scientific writings	80	80	80
K General fiction	29	29	58
L Mystery and detective fiction	24	24	24
M Science fiction	6	6	2
N Adventure and Western fiction	29	29	15
P Romance and love story	29	29	18
R Humour	9	9	9
Total:	500	500	500

Table No. 2: Distribution of if-constructions normal and deviant in the data.

Total No. of texts	No. of texts in which if-constructions occur	Total occurrences of if-constructions	Deviant occurrences of if-constructions	Percentage of deviant form to normal
A 44	35	139	11	7.91
B 27	26	145	12	8.27
C 17	14	33	5	15.15
D 17	13	42	5	11.90
E 38	34	163	13	7.97
F 44	37	129	23	17.82
G 70	61	191	12	6.28
H 37	28	141	14	9.92
J 80	53	171	8	4.62
K 58	57	261	17	6.51
L 24	21	86	5	5.81
M 2	2	6	1	16.66
N 15	11	36	5	13.88
P 18	17	66	3	4.54
R 9	9	46	3	6.52
Totals 500	418	1,655	137	8.27

conditionals again the three types, open, hypothetical and counterfactual, were separated. Again the nonconditionals were classified into the types suggested by Declerck.

Each type of standard conditional was further classified into several kinds A, B, C, D, etc., each one showing a specific kind of deviation in respect of tense forms of the verb and the use of modal auxiliaries. The break up of the data is shown in Table No. 3.

In the following pages we shall describe and illustrate each kind of deviant if-clause discovered in our data.

Type 1

Open condition

A) Cases of conditional constructions in which the tense form of the verb in the if-clause seems to be deviant.

The following are some of the most striking examples:

If hands or feet be pressed, they puff up, the skin becomes stretched and glossy, and violet red marks result. 0990 F13

The verb form in the if-clause is present subjunctive here; but since the sentence expresses an open condition it should have been a finite verb in the present tense i.e., are.

... if any Cabinet or any Government either in the State or in the Centre is failing to protect the

lives of the Scheduled Castes and Tribes,
then, certain special powers must be given to the
Governor and it should be the special responsi-
bility of the Governor to protect them. 0580 H17

The verb form in the if-clause should have been in the
simple present tense i.e., fails.

Other instances of this type are:

If it is to be judged (= is judged) ... the answer
is positive. 0320 F21

A penal rate of 15 per cent is charged if such
deposits exceeded (= exceed) for a period not
exceeding 30 days. 0920 H01

If a person had (= has) participated ..., the
person will be categorized accordingly. 0130 H23

Some of the salesmen don't like to show our
cotton saris especially if the customer came
(= comes) in to buy silk sari. 0640 P07

Meanwhile if that bastard Naresh Kumar laid
(= lays) a finger on her body ..., I'll kill
him. I'll kill him. 1200 P18

B) Cases of conditional constructions in which the verb form
in the head clause seems to be deviant.

The following are some of the most striking examples:

A number of writers have stated that if both the partners felt the same way about the issues, there would probably have been no bones of contention in their lives. O630 A25

As this sentence is a report, the verb in the head clause should have been would be.

It may be all right so long as quarrels are 'uncorporal'. But if they (quarrels) are fought bodyline style, it is a havoc and devastation. 1560 B22

The sequence of tense rule requires the verb form will be in the head clause.

If this sum is not removed it causes graining. 1410 E19

Here again there is the problem of sequence of tense form. It should have been will cause in the head clause.

If you grind the seeds and store them as a powder, the smell is rapidly lost. O340 E20

Here will be as a future marker is required according to rules of sequence of tense.

Other instances of this type are:

If (they are) dried in the sun, the pods are (= will) partially (be) bleached and (= will) look half white and half green. O650 E20

They are (= will be) capable of productive work
if proper training is given. 1670 F19

Its effectiveness can (= ?will) be increased if
the information is disseminated ... 1100 F20

If a human atmosphere prevails in these camps, the
occupants do (= ?will) not sink into bitterness
and apathy. 1870 F20

The voluntary organisations are (= ?will be) assisted
if they are national in character, and if their
functions are of national character. 1000 F22

Apart from this, if we cast a glance at the unrefined
religious idea ... we find (= shall find) that this
was more often a compulsive or exciting ... 0800 F31

It is now a well known fact that if a normal person
takes Cinchona or its allied drug, an attack of malaria
is (= will be) prevented and if it occurs, it is
(= will be) in a mild form. 1730 F33

On the other hand, if in the decades ahead, we use the
film medium wisely ... we can (= ?shall) have an
altogether pleasant film scenario in Second
India. 0720 F38

If the trustees are good, they would (= will)
work hard ... 0610 F42

Hindi is still not a homogeneous language, it
arrogates (= will arrogate) forty per cent of the

population ... only if some extremely peculiar
dialects are included in it. 1320 G22

If that happens ... and if this is allowed to
happen, then disintegration of the country sets *
(= will set) in. 0150 H19

If we succeed ... we would have added (= will add)
a powerful dimension to our export planning. 1900 J46

If one of the batteries is a standard cell of known
voltage E; 2; the emf of the battery B.2; is
(= will be) given by ... 0930 J69

If carbon in the iron is high, the graphite
available for precipitations is (= will ... be)
also high. 1200 J76

If the switch is open, (0 state) the lamp is (= will be)
on (1 state); if the switch is closed, (1 state)
the lamp goes (= will go) off (0 state). 0850 J80

If master is not informed he would (= will) take
an hour ... 0150 K42

... even if I chance to see a pretty female, a message
from my brain, actuated by fear is (= will be)
immediately dispatched to the eyes. ... 0480 R09

C) Cases of conditional constructions in which the tense
forms of the verbs in both the clauses seem to be deviant.

The following are some of the most striking examples:

If anyone thinks that by the Government running the sugar mills the consumer could get "sugar cheap", he would be mistaken. 1190 B09

The structure of this sentence is hypothetical but it is a report with the reporting verb in the present tense. The verbs should have been can ... will.

He had analysed thoroughly that if this monster is not destroyed, it shall raise its head and there will be a sort of civil war. 0700 H17

As the reporting verb is in the past tense the reported verbs should have been was ... would ... would.

"If Indians made the necessary efforts they could grow all the food they need. ..., they will not make the efforts." 0360 J31

This has the form of hypothetical clause but from the content it is clear that the intended meaning is open condition which requires present tense form of both verbs i.e., make ... can grow.

D) Cases of conditional constructions in which past forms of modals 'can', 'will' and 'may' are used instead of their present tense forms.

The following are some of the most striking examples:

If a vacancy occurs ... the party or the group which

had the representation in Parliament could nominate another of its party member. 1580 A15

As the verb form in the if-clause is in the present tense, the verb form (had as well as could) should have been has ... can.

... if this shortfall is made up ..., there could be a very steep rise in the budgetary deficit. 0390 A17

But if the Indian Hockey Federation agree to forgive and forget ..., the Indian side could be given a look of class. 0140 A20

In both the examples above the sequence of tense form requires can in place of could.

Other instances of this type are:

In the circumstances another of the naughty trio Baldev could (= can) be recalled if he also apologizes. 0560 A20

... if prison industries are run on proper lines, ... the tax payer would (= will) be saved from any burden of prisons. 1150 A24

... if the programme has organisational flexibility ..., it would (= will) fulfil the preconditions. 0940 A40

If the communists do not give up their demand ..., he would (= will) advise the president to order a new general election. 1490 B01

If anyone thinks that by the Government running the sugar mills consumers could (= can) get "sugar cheap" he would (= will) be mistaken. 1190 B09

If President Carter's visit acts as a stimulus ..., it would (= will) have at least one major achievement to its credit. 0900 C09

Here is an actress who, if moulded on correct lines, could (= can) mature into a sensitive artist. 0420 C15

... Zoroastrianism would (= will) have to once again become a living faith ... if it and they *is (sic) to survive. 1160 D17

If the tyre wears more on the shoulders ..., this would (= will) indicate ... 0180 E09

... What would (= will) happen... if our animals are left absolutely uncared for? 0220 E26

If there is a closure, the financial loss would (= will) be easily absorbed. ... 0170 E27

The cancellation could (= can) be effected if the company at any time fails to comply with ... 1620 E28

..., if a capital intensive and high-mechanized high-yield technology is introduced, there could (= can) be an adverse impact. ... 0550 E37

If, however, an appropriate technology is introduced, there could (= ?can, will) be greater opportunities. ... 0580 E37

If collective action should prove impossible because of a veto ..., then, under the "Uniting for Peace" resolution the matter would (= will) stand transferred. ... 1620 F03

... they would (= will) not hesitate to modify ... if it fails to measure up to the imperatives. ... 1280 F05

The monetary difficulties could (= can) be solved, if the petitioner (husband) would (= will) transfer ... 1150 F07

..., if it is published by the Government, it would (= will) at once remove. ... 0350 F08

If a weak sperm gets in, the result could (= ?can, may) be defective baby. 1280 F32

If one brother shows inclination to the Congress, another would (= will) show his affiliation ... 1820 F42

It would (= will) be somewhat bizare, if political events take place outside the framework. 0720 G19

If art has been reduced to a profession like others the question would (= ?will) have no importance, ... 1110 G64

But if such distinction cannot be made at the empirical level, it would (= will) have a further implication ... 1920 G66

If we do not adhere to this theory it would (= will) be difficult to solve the problems which are arising in our society. 0300 H31

If sexologists, social reformers and parents co-operate to give proper sex instructions and knowledge ..., it would (= will) curb the sociological causes. ... 0990 J13

... if it really happens, what would (= will) become of us! 0980 K13

If you listen carefully, you might (= may) be able to hear it. ... 0200 K15

If all the passengers on board a crowded bus deflate their lungs ..., some more waiting passengers could (= can) be sucked in. 0810 R05

It is in quite good condition and if it has buttons, I could (= can) give it to some poor man to use it. 0430 R08

E) Cases of conditional constructions in which it seems that there is inappropriate/superfluous use of modals in either the if-clause or the head clause, or both.

The following are some of the most striking examples:

It could (= ?would) grow much faster if goods could (= ?can) be moved overland through Pakistan. 0170 B05

In a crowd, even if several persons may pass by and see us, we may be quite obvious of any of them. ...

0150 D10

Here 'may' seems to be superfluous.

Other instances of this type are:

If the chest is 81 cm or less than that, the length of the arm hole will (= ?should) be 1/4 cm - 2.5 cm.

0720 E04

... if you ask him for an answer he himself would (= may) not know or would (= ?may) not like to tell you.

0290 G32

If you go by the numbers, then the sparrow and rat can (= will) alone become the national bird and national animal respectively.

0460 H19

You can reach a Satvi State, if you can become perfectly fearless. ...

1230 J51

Here 'can' seems to be superfluous.

If I find that it is not stolen property, I can (= will) give you ten rupees; but let me first find out.

1380 K34

Yes, his son would (= will) be back soon if the cable would reach (= reaches) him.

1490 L24

F) There are only two examples, in our data, in which it

seems that the use of modals is deviant in the sense that a double modal is used.

But of course his return can only be possible if he tenders an apology for his walk-out from the Patiala Camp. 0210 A20

... if we take in an isolated manner the question of law and order, alone, probably that conference may not be successful and we will not be able to get any solution whatsoever. 0540 H17

The use of a double modal is not always wrong. Such occur even in SE. But these instances strike as odd for which we have no explanation to offer.

Type 2

Hypothetical condition

A) There are only two examples, in our data, in which the tense form of the verb in the if-clause seems to be deviant.

The following are the striking examples:

If there is (= was/were) a significant decrease in the disease rate among the individuals who gave up the habits, then it would prove that ..., it would effectively disprove the "X-factor" hypothesis. 1490 F41

If he would come (= came) to know that the officer had recorded on file the message he had received from him,

he would have him transferred to an unimportant post.

0900 G61

B) Cases of hypothetical conditional constructions in which the tense form of the verb in the head clause seems to be deviant.

The following are the examples:

If the same were to hold true for cricketers vis-a-vis their firms, then the purpose of the "Times" shield will have been (= would be) served.

0790 A08

If one were to search for such 'revolutionary achievements' one can (= could) find them in abundance in any society.

0560 B11

If political parties be required to maintain proper books either they will (= shall) have to keep election expenses within the legal ceiling or desist from using black money for promoting their political interests.

0380 B20

The verb in the if-clause is present subjunctive; it perhaps requires the formal (legal) use of shall, in the head clause.

other instances of this type are:

Every man is (= ?would be) God, if he but realized it, ...

0750 D15

If they did, then it would not be happening
 (= would not happen) 1630 E16

If you ate 100 grams of cheese you will (= would)
 receive all the protein expected from a square
 meal. 0830 E19

If the press were to publish only Government
 handouts ..., who will (= would) pinpoint lapses,
 deficiencies or mistakes? 1380 G29

A boy whose main activity is shown as a student under
 16(A) can (= could) be considered to have the
 secondary work of say, cultivation if he helped the
 head of household ... 0810 H23

The next child, if it were a boy, would be brought
 up as though he were (= was) a girl. 0150 K04

If, for example, you were reminded of the advance
 in your age ... your limbs grew (= ?would grow)
 slowly relaxed. ... 0050 K11

If you went up a spiral stair case ... you came
 (= ?would come) upto a small room that contained
 the insides of the clock. 0750 N02

"If they were not originally yours, they won't
 (= wouldn't) sit on your skin. ..." 0380 N11

If his friends teased him on this score, he got
 (= would get) out of it ... 0650 N15

Type 3Counterfactual

A) Cases of conditional constructions in which the tense form of the verb in the if-clause seems to be deviant.

The following are some of the striking examples:

If an equation were (to be) established between demand ..., there would have been no case for increasing ... 0310 B12

Here to be is not necessary, or had been would be more appropriate.

... Seven years or more by those persons who would naturally have heard of him if he were (= had been) (= was) alive. 1140 D14

... even if I did (= had done), it would have been of no use to me. 0170 G59

But if the Syndicate wished (= had wished) to pursue ..., it could have challenged Saran's version ... 1760 G65

If it were (= was) merely a question of living ..., one did not have to go to plantations; ... in one's own village. 0230 K03

[This example is perhaps close to Wood's rejected condition.]

If such a thing was called (= had been called) for ...,
the seniors would not have relished the leadership
of new comer. 0040 K08

In fact, if you really loved (= ?had really loved) my
eyes you would have bought a woolen coat long
ago. 1660 K33

And even if it were (= had been) late, I would still
have gone out. 0020 K38

... you know that mother's prayer does not go far.
If it did (= had (gone)), your eldest son Suleman
would not have died an early death. 1090 K52

Patwardhan imagined how wonderful it would have been
if his boss were (= had been) Chinese: then he may
have had to play only ping pong. 0840 N09

B) Cases of conditional constructions in which the tense
form of the verb in the head clause seems to be deviant.

The following are some of the most striking examples:

If only Mr Nadkarni had interviewed the director ...,
then that could (= would) have been a contribu-
tion. ... 1190 B16

If it was the author's intention to focus on the
massacre ..., he should have to extend (= should have
extended) the imagery. ... 1370 C13

If a fair deal had been given to Scheduled Castes ...,

the coefficient of equality should (= ?would) have
been 100 or in other words ... 0600 H05

I should (= would) have been very happy if no
passions had been involved. 1190 H19

If I hadn't got jaundice, I would be going (= would
have gone) (= ?would have been going) to the Nursery
School by now. 1250 K48

If I hadn't been keeping my eyes on the ground ..., I
might (= ?would) have slipped. ... 0240 L03

If Ranganathan had read his character correctly
Ramasamy by this time would be (= would have been) in
such a mental state. ... 1740 L19

C) There are two examples, in our data, in which the tense
form of the verbs seem to be deviant.

The following are the examples:

As fiery Khojaste Mistree pointed out Christianity,
Islam, Hinduism wouldn't be (= would not have been)
in business if they don't (= didn't) have religious
scholarship. 1510 D17

It had been said in some quarters that "If only we
would have put (= had put) them to work, we may
(= might) have found a solution to this highly
difficult global problem." 0700 H36

D) There are some conditional constructions, in our data, in which the use of verb form seems to be doubtful, i.e., simple past for past perfect in the if-clause (Typically 'be' and 'have').

The point he stresses is that so many people ...
would not have seen it without any kind of protest
if it was really (= ?had really been)
pornographic. 1130 C06

If he was (= ?had been) economically well placed ...,
he would have followed his conscience. 0920 E25

If the money from excise was used (= ?had been used)
for two or three years for good housing, it would have
improved social conditions.... 0940 F04

Consequently, the probation officers applied their
energies only to those cases which would have been
really harmful if they were not supervised (= ?had
not been supervised) diligently. 1520 J26

If I had (= ?had had) the money I would have also
given Shastriji a present. 1530 K40

If I had (= ?had had) more time, or if I was (= ?had
been) less tired, I would have waited. 1380 L03

If only he was given (= ?had been given) another chance
he would have blessed the couple whose image he saw
before his mind's eye. 0330 L24

E) There is only one sentence, in our data, in which the
use of verb form in head clause seems to be doubtful.

If something similar was attempted by Napoleon in Algiers or by the Czar in Russia, they would be (= ?would have been) loudly denounced for tyranny.

O210 F23

F) The use of verb forms in both the clauses seem to be doubtful in the following sentence:

If it was (= ?had been) the author's intention to focus ... he should have to extend (= ?should have extended) the imagery of photography. ...

1370 C13

Non-Standard Conditionals

As we have seen earlier in Chapter II, according to Declerck, many of the exceptions to the rule of 'Sequence of Tense' in conditional constructions are in fact, in conformity with the core tense system of the English language. It is only in the case of what he has called 'Standard Conditionals' that the rule is broken. This is contrary to the view held by earlier grammarians who tried to explain the use of 'will/would' in if-clauses by setting up various rules in terms of volition or willingness. They would not admit that 'will/would' in if-clauses convey pure futurity. Declerck's whole article, 'Pure Future' will in if-clauses, is in support of the use of 'will/would' to convey pure futurity in if-clauses.

He has posited two definite criteria for distinguishing the three types of 'Standard conditionals' -- open condition,

hypothetical condition and counterfactual condition: (1) "These sentences are of the cause-effect type; 'if p then q'. In each case the occurrence of p is represented as sufficient condition for the occurrence of q ... (2) there is a close modal and temporal relation between p and q" (Declerck, 1984: 283-84). In the case of these 'Standard Conditional' sentences p is situated temporally with respect to q and not with respect to the moment of speaking.

In the case of other conditionals which may use 'will/would' in the if-clause, there is no "close relation between p and q and p is temporally situated not with respect to q but with respect to the moment of speaking. This means that the system of time reference in p is no longer the relative system ... but the 'absolute' system that is typical of head clauses." (p.286)

If this is true not only of if-clauses with 'will/would' to convey pure futurity, but of other if-clauses which use other tense forms typical of head clauses, and in the sentences containing these if-clauses there is no close relationship between p and q, then we can distinguish between 'Standard Conditionals' and other conditionals on the basis of these criteria.

An attempt has been made to identify such other-than-standard-conditionals among the occurrences in our data and classify the deviant non-standard conditionals in terms of the

nine types posited by Declerck.

Type I: 'Closed Condition'

There are nine instances of Declerck's Type I i.e., 'Closed condition' in our data in which the form of the verb used in either the if-clause or the head clause or both seem to be deviant.

A striking example is:

'Well', confessed Maluka with a faint smile, 'many among us felt that if some bright boys can't (= couldn't) see straight with Gandhi, their vision needs (= ?needed) to be corrected. 0920 K17

The sentence containing the if-clause is being reported here and so the verbs need backshifting.

If an organization like State Bank of India can assist the slum-dwellers in the above fashion, why it should not be possible for the other commercial bank's office. 0840 A39

The word order in the head clause is deviant.

If the two countries could (= ?were able to) gain so much from bilateral action how much more could be (= can be) had from multilateral action, the neighbours are likely to ask themselves. 0740 B20

The verb form in the head clause requires a future

reference which it does not have.

Other examples of inappropriate tense forms and modals used in the head clause are:

If India is an agrarian appendage, there would be (= is) no prospect for the development of class struggle. 0800 G16

You will wonder why it should be, if this maiden was so beautiful that I should be (= am) left without a rival. 1760 G34

... if an appeal has been presented it should (= must) have been dismissed. 0930 H14

Here p is a fact and from the context, it appears that the modal must is required.

The Begum said, "Has he no children? or has he made short work of them? He is a door cashier, if there was (= is) one. ...". 0870 K43

If this person possesses uncommon energy, physical strength, and agility, and his brain too functions well, it is possible that he may (= will) then hinder our further experiments. 0560 M02

Type II: 'Utterance Condition'

There is only one example of this type, that is, utterance condition in our data. In this the form of the verb in the main clause is deviant.

If there were any assumptions at the start of the experiment, have they (been) found to be valid?

0090 F21

(been is missing)

Type III: 'q-primary'

There is only one example of Type III in our data, in which the verb form seems to be deviant.

Surely he has wasted his time and money (the latter, if his two visits to the region were undertaken at his own expense), if he has not understood the immediate problem of the people of Marathwada.

1540 B17

The verb form in the if-clause were undertaken seems to be deviant. It should have been have been undertaken, parallel to has not understood in the second clause.

Type IV: 'p-primary'

There are two instances of Type IV, in our data. The following are the examples:

If reservations are made on the basis of caste and communities, we are making (= shall be making) a permanent division among our own people.

0660 B23

If State authority is to be enlarged it is (= will be) only to translate national policies more efficiently than now.

1670 F09

Type V: q-primary with a free if-clause.

There are two instances of this type in our data both of which seem to be deviant.

Rohan Batra would learn the virtue of team work only then, if he ever did (= would). 0290 NO3

If you like, I could (= can) put it off in view of this anniversary thing.

Type VI: Expression of strong wish.

There is only one example of this type in our data which is deviant.

My instant snoozes of which you complain are nothing but a symptom of my peace. If death could prove gracious enough to close in on me while I was in one of those snoozes. 1030 P10

'If' for 'if only'.

Here if only death could prove seems to be required.

Type VII: Deductive Open condition.

There are two examples in our data which seem to be deviant.

Since economic and moral salvation of India rested with them, the patriotic would (= will) refuse to adorn herself for men including her husband, if she will be an equal partner with men. 1600 F29

Now it is how can we! if this is the limit of your capacity how dared (= did ... dare to) you grow such obscene hair? 1470 K23

Here 'dared' is used for 'did ... dare to'.

Type VIII: Open condition with complex time reference.

There are three examples of this type in our data which seem to be deviant.

If these powers could be persuaded to exercise their influence ..., a reversal in the attitude of that vis-a-vis the problem of South West Africa could be expected. ... 0130 F02

Could be, could be is repeated in both clauses. It is not clear what the writer wants to say.

... if this evolution is to take place, ... the initiative can (= must) come from India. 0770 G01

Here 'must' seems to be necessary in place of 'can'.

If they are going to import now, a Coordination Committee of a high powered nature would have to be (= will have to be) set up to solve the problem of coal. 0290 H18

'would' used for the more frequent 'will'.

The nature of deviations, types of sentences in which they occur and the number of instances of each type are shown in Table No. 3.

Table No. 3: Table showing the different kinds of if-constructions in which deviations were noted.

		Description	No. of instances
1	2	3	4
Standard conditionals	Type 1	A verb in if-clause deviant	7
	Open	B verb in head clause deviant	21
		C tense forms of verbs in both clauses deviant	3
		D past forms of modals 'can', 'will' and 'may' used instead of present tense forms	32
		E inappropriate or superfluous use of modals	8
		F a double modal used	2
Type 2	A verb in if-clause deviant	2	
Hypothetical	B verb in head clause deviant	13	
	cal		
Type 3	A verb in if-clause deviant	10	
Counter-factual	B verb in head clause deviant	7	
	C tense forms of the verbs deviant	2	

contd.

Table No. 3 contd.

1	2	3	4
	D	doubtful simple past for past perfect in the if-clause (typically with BE and HAVE)	7
	E	verb form in head clause deviant	1
	F	verb form in both clauses deviant	1
Total			116

Non-standard conditionals	Type 1	closed condition	9
	2	utterance condition	1
	3	q-primary	1
	4	p-primary	2
	5	q-primary with appended free clause	2
	6	expression of strong wish	1
	7	deductive open, close to standard conditional	2
	8	open condition complex time reference	3
Total			21
Grand Total			137

6. Observations

The foregoing analysis of if-conditionals in the Indian English data seems to suggest certain tendencies in Indian English as far as the behaviour of if-conditionals is concerned. From Table No. 2, it is clear that 8.27 per cent of all the occurrences of if-conditionals in IE seem to deviate from SE usage. The total number of occurrences are 1,655 distributed over 418 of the 500 texts and over all the 15 categories of material. The corresponding figures for British English are 2,479 occurrences distributed over 467 texts and over all the 15 categories (Hofland et al., 1982). From Table No. 2 again it appears that the percentages of deviant forms of if-conditionals range from 4.54 (in P category i.e., Romance and love story) and 17.82 (in F category i.e., Skills, Trades and Hobbies).

In analysing the deviant conditionals we used Declerck's model of classification and tried to distinguish between standard conditionals and others. Within standard conditionals we distinguished between open, hypothetical and counterfactual conditionals. Reviewing this in the light of the views of various grammarians and researchers mentioned in Chapter II, it must be mentioned that the model we have used has not been entirely satisfactory. A number of instances of hypothetical and counterfactual conditionals could have been placed in the other category instead of in the one that we have placed them in. This

difficulty arises out of the doubtful tense forms of verbs, sometimes in the if-clause and sometimes in the head clause. For example, the sentence we have identified as counterfactual conditional:

... you know that mother's prayer does not go far. If it did (= had (gone)), your eldest son Suleman would not have died an early death. 1090 KB2

presents a difficult problem. Although we have suggested a past perfect form (had gone) instead of did, we are not sure if that is the solution. Perhaps a past subjunctive (were to) might have been better. But then the sentence would have become 'hypothetical'. In view of the fact that Suleman had in fact died this would have given rise to problems of grammar. This is only one instance of the undependability of our classification. Added to this, there is the problem of the semantic diversity of the meanings of the modals. As Parasher has pointed out, there is no sure way of getting at the speaker/writer's meaning independent of the expression. The other clues are the larger context and the knowledge of real world conditions. We have used these to the best of our ability. However crude the analysis may be it appears from Table No. 3 that by far the largest number of deviations pertain to the wrong forms (usually the past for the present). Again the highest figures are to be found in the head clauses. The 32 instances of could, would and might for can, will and may seem to further strengthen Katikar's hypothesis of



politeness. But similar high frequencies of wrong forms in the head clause (type I B-21, type II B-13 and type III B-7) suggest problems of sequence of tenses. Moreover, there are many deviant instances of non-standard conditionals also in which the strict rules of the grammar of conditionals are not supposed to operate. Here too it is perhaps the problem of sequence of tenses with the moment of speech as point of orientation. If this is true, then the second hypothesis is also strengthened.

As far as the nature of deviation is concerned, there is one area in which the deviation can be said to be highly systematic: that is the use of past forms of modals in the head clause instead of the present forms. The motivation may be politeness. In the case of past forms of other modals not only in the head clause but also in the if-clause, the motivation seems to be semantic, that is tentativeness. The other deviations of tense form pertain to shifts from present to future (will + infinitive) and vice versa. This may be traced to the fact that the present tense form most often refers to future time also in English.

These types of deviations account for the bulk of all deviations. Past forms of modals alone account for 32 out of 137 that is 23.35 per cent of the total number of instances, the others that is sequence of tenses account for 41 instances in the head clauses, i.e., 29.92 per cent.

It appears then that the hypothesis that 'if-conditionals in IE deviate in respect of the use of modals and in the sequences of tense' is largely supported by this study.