

INTRODUCTION

Research in the area of IE has been attracting the attention of more and more people in the last twenty to thirty years. It appears that there has been a definite change in the attitude of scholars towards the phenomenon IE. Before Independence IE was considered as a substandard variety of English (Firth 1930). However, in recent years not only has IE been recognized as a national variety in its own right, but it has also got rid of the earlier stigma (Dustoor 1968; Kachru 1965, 1966).

Side by side with the development of IE into a more or less stable and systematic variety of English, a good deal of experimentation with English in creative writing has been taking place. This has also received attention of researchers, and a good deal of work on this aspect has been done (Kachru 1965, 1966, 1976:1.2, 1978).

Just as aspects of IE are now being researched into systematically, the nature and function of experimentation with language has also been receiving attention (Desai, ed. 1974; Mukherjee 1968, 1971; Mohan, ed. 1978). The moot question is whether or to what extent features of IE and devices of experimentation are common or distinct. Also a number of allied questions like why does an Indian write in English, who does he write for, and is there a systematic

correlation between the experimentation with language and the audience in view, etc. have been asked.

One thing seems to be agreed and that is experimentation with language tends to be author-specific. A good deal of studies on experimentations by different authors have appeared. One such study pertains to Anand's experimentation with language in *Untouchable* and *The Road* by Thakur (1974). On reading this study the present researcher felt that there was some scope for further work on this topic. Initially it was felt that in addition to the experimentations noted by Thakur there might be other devices in the other works of Anand's. Therefore, it was decided to analyse two more novels — *The Big Heart* and *The Private Life of an Indian Prince*. On analysing these two novels it was discovered that there was no substantial addition to the phenomena noted by Thakur. However, on scrutinizing Thakur's work and taking into consideration the literature on the subject, it appeared that there was some scope for reinterpreting Thakur's data in the light of Meenakshi Mukherjee's view of experimentation. It was also felt that this work could be narrowed to the analysis of only one novel — *The Big Heart* — for the purpose of verifying Mukherjee's hypothesis.

According to Mukherjee (1971 second edition 1974 : 180), there seems to be a systematic correlation between the type of experimentation and the aspects of narrative techniques —

dialogues and narrative parts of the novel. In this work an attempt has been made to see how far this is true firstly of the two novels analysed by Thakur - *Untouchable* and *The Road* - and secondly *The Big Heart* analysed by the present investigator.

The work is divided into four chapters. Chapter I deals with the nature of IE which is common to the use of English for various purposes in India. It discusses the concept of IE and tries to show that IE is a legitimate variety of English in its own right. It also distinguishes between features of IE and devices of experimentation with English.

Chapter II deals with aspects of *The Big Heart* and reviews literature on experimentation with language by Anand. By way of review of work done so far it elaborates Thakur's contribution to Anand's experimentation with language.

Chapter III attempts a reappraisal of Thakur's work by recasting his data in terms of Meenakshi Mukherjee's hypothesis and comes to certain conclusions.

Chapter IV presents an analysis of *The Big Heart*, and based on reappraisal of Thakur's data and the analysis of *The Big Heart* comes to certain tentative conclusions. The report is presented following the MLA style. No references are provided at the end of the chapters. However, a comprehensive bibliography of all the works consulted, whether actually cited or not, is given at the end of the dissertation.