

Hindi transcript:

इंडिया बहुत बड़ा है, again और languages भी काफी हैं, मेरे ख्याल से 26-27 languages हैं हमारे यहाँ। और उनके पिर different dialects। For example, हम अब उर्दू या हिन्दी को ही ले लें आप। दोनों सुनने में same लगती हैं, कोई कहेगा... बोलते वक्त। पढ़ते हुए different लगती हैं, script different है। और पिर अपनी same script... उसमें... हिन्दी में भी काफी differences आ जाते हैं कि भई, एक यू.पी. का इन्सान अलग तरीके से हिन्दी बोलेगा बजाय दिल्ली के... दिल्ली के किसी इन्सान के। इसी तरह से उर्दू... लखनऊ के लोग अजीब तरीके से उर्दू बोलते हैं, हम लोग अलग तरीके से उर्दू बोलते हैं। इसी तरह से पाकिस्तान की उर्दू बहुत ज्यादा शुस्ता है। हम लोग काफी हिन्दी के word use करते हैं हमारी उर्दू में। वे लोग उतने नहीं करते। जैसे 'पेड़' को उर्दू में 'दरख्त' कहते हैं, tree को। लेकिन इंडिया में जो लोग उर्दू बोलते हैं, वे लोग मेरे ख्याल में 'दरख्त' नहीं कहेंगे, वे लोग पेड़ कहते हैं। हमारी उर्दू, क्योंकि हम लोग हिन्दी के साथ रहते हैं, तो mix हो गई है, overlap हो जाती है कि कौन-सी language बोल रहे हैं। तो एक तरह से यह बहुत अच्छा भी है कि इतनी... इतनी बड़ी... इतनी बड़ी country है, इतने different cultures हैं, different cultures... overlap कर रहे हैं, languages overlap कर रही हैं। आप देखिए 26 languages हैं, जिसमें तमिल है, तेलुगु है, पंजाबी है, उर्दू है, हिन्दी है, और पिर इन सब languages के अपने dialects हैं जो कि अपने-आप में एक अलग, amazing चीज़ है।

Imperialism की वजह से भी हमारे language में बहुत changes आये हैं कि भई, हम लोग कुछ words English के ऐसे use करते हैं जिसका हमें पता ही नहीं है, मतलब हिन्दी में क्या होता है। ...मतलब शायद पता भी हो लेकिन हम उसे बोल नहीं सकते कि भई, क्या... हम लोग English का ही word use करेंगे। तो imperialism से भी काफी फ़र्क पड़ा है के हमारे यहाँ बच्चों को A to Z पहले आ जाती है... A-B-C-D... बजाय उसके कि उनको अ-आ-इ-ई... या अलिफ़-बे-ते आए। किसी को भी नहीं आती है। तो वो बड़ी funny-सी बात है लेकिन सच है कि काफी overlap हुआ है, English के साथ भी, क्योंकि आप देखिए, मैं भी इस वक्त बात कर रही हूँ तो काफी English के sentences use कर रही हूँ। इतनी ज्यादा आ चुकी है culture में; हमारे music में... हमारे गानों में काफी English की lines हैं और तो कुछ लोग... singers English में गाने भी बना रहे हैं और movies में भी आप देखेंगे... मैंने अपने student को एक हिन्दी की movie देखने के लिए

दी थी। उसने कहा, “Lots of English.” I said, “Yeah, that’s how it is. That’s how it goes.” तो यह है।

Slang use करते हैं... जहाँ तक abuse करने का सवाल है तो मेरे ख्याल में English में लोग abuse करते हैं और जो लोग हिन्दी में abuse करते हैं – चाहे उनका meaning same हो – तो हिन्दी में अगर कोई abuse करता है, तो वह ज़्यादा बड़ी बात हो जाती है; ज़्यादा गंदा इन्सान हो जाता है, और वही, same चीज़ को English में बोलते हैं तो उतना बुरा नहीं माना जाता और उसकी वजह मुझे बिल्कुल idea नहीं है कि क्या है।

English translation:

India is very big, again, and there are quite a few languages, I believe there are 26-27 languages in our country. And their different dialects. For example, take Urdu and Hindi. Both sound the same when you speak them. They look different while reading; the script is different. And then the same script ... there are many differences in Hindi also such that, a person from U.P. would speak Hindi differently than any person from Delhi ... from Delhi. Similarly Urdu ... the people of Lucknow speak Urdu strangely; we (people from Delhi) speak Urdu in a different way. In the same way, the Urdu in Pakistan is extremely pure. We use a lot of Hindi words in our Urdu. Those people do not [use Hindi words] so much. Like, a ‘tree’ in Urdu is called ‘*darakht*,’ a tree. But the people who speak Urdu in India, would not, I think, say ‘*darakht*,’ they say ‘*ped*.’ Our Urdu, because we live with Hindi [around us], so it has gotten mixed, there is so much overlap that [it is difficult to say] which language we are speaking. So, in a way, it is also good that it is such ... such a big ... such a big country, there are so many different cultures, cultures overlap, languages overlap. You can see there are 26 languages, in which there is Tamil, Telugu, Punjabi, Urdu, Hindi and then these languages all have their own dialects which, in itself, is a different and amazing thing.

Many changes entered our language on account of imperialism, too: we use some English words in a way that we do not even realize, I mean, what they are in Hindi. Even if we know the meaning [in Hindi] we cannot say what ... we will use an English word only. So there has been a huge difference because of imperialism, such that children in our country know A to Z first ... A-B-C-D... rather than knowing *a-aa-e-ee* ... or *aliph-be-te*. No one knows.¹ So this is a rather funny fact but it is true that there has been quite a lot of overlap, even with English, because you can see even as I talk I use quite a few English sentences. This has entered so deep into our culture, in our music ... there are quite a few lines in English in our songs and some people ... singers are making up songs in English too and even in movies you will see ... I gave my student a Hindi movie to watch. S/he said, “Lots of English!” I said, “Yeah, that’s how it is. That’s how it goes.” So that is it.

¹ Editors’ note: this is quite an overstatement. Perhaps the speaker means that most children don’t know their Hindi or Urdu alphabet.

We use slang ...when the question of abusing [others verbally] arises, I think people abuse in English and the people who abuse in Hindi – even if the meaning is the same – so if someone [swears] in Hindi it becomes a bigger issue [than when one swears in English], s/he becomes a worse person and if s/he says the same thing in English, then it is not regarded as quite so bad and the reason for this ... I have no idea what it is.

About CultureTalk: CultureTalk is produced by the Five College Center for the Study of World Languages and housed on the LangMedia Website. The project provides students of language and culture with samples of people talking about their lives in the languages they use everyday. The participants in CultureTalk interviews and discussions are of many different ages and walks of life. They are free to express themselves as they wish. The ideas and opinions presented here are those of the participants. Inclusion in CultureTalk does not represent endorsement of these ideas or opinions by the Five College Center for the Study of World Languages, Five Colleges, Incorporated, or any of its member institutions: Amherst College, Hampshire College, Mount Holyoke College, Smith College and the University of Massachusetts at Amherst.

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