

The 'sound' contribution of India to the world



Ramanadham Ramesh Babu, P Sreenivasulu Reddy, N.Srinivasa Rao

Abstract: *The potencies of sound and voice have nowhere else been so profoundly investigated as in India. For Sanskrit is the background 'language consciousness' of this land. It is not a mere language for expression or communication, but an expression of culture and soul. The science and technology of the sound and light were better understood by the seers and the saints in this land long ago. The subtle aspects of light and sound were experienced by them and they gave it to the humanity in the form of 'vedas' (Samaveda, Rigveda- the precious spiritual texts of India that speak about the significance and impact of sound and music on the souls). People have always believed in this land that one can experience immortality through music. In the recent history also, there have been singers that created miracles through music. This paper will discuss various dimensions of the sound and the invaluable contribution of India for the growth and the enrichment of language.*

Keywords:- *language consciousness, potencies of sound and voice, language for expression, immortality through music.*

I. INTRODUCTION

Indeed, the first and foremost personalities in India to catch and capture the subtlest aspects of language English are the spiritual leaders. They have made the best use of English to give out to the world, the most quintessential aspects of life. In fact, any literary exercise is in the background of sound only. Indians have achieved mastery over sound due to their knowledge of the sound that they gained through the special utterances of certain systematic arrangement of the syllables that produce vibrant sound effect. The secrets of the sound have been unraveled and exploited fully in this land.

If a person makes a consistent effort to utter forth letters precisely, accurately and meaningfully in consciousness, then the transmutation of cells in the body happens and thereafter, whatever is uttered forth by him becomes a 'mantra', and this transmutation of cells can gradually lead to transcendence. That means proper utterance of sounds leads to the higher levels of experience and elevates a person to higher consciousness.

"Since the revival of classical learning", the Encyclopedia Americana states, "there has been no other event in the history of culture as important as the discovery of Sanskritthe science of religion owes its very existence to the discovery of Sanskrit."

George Bernard Shaw's conception of a new alphabet Bernard Shaw wrote a wise and witty essay on the phonetic inadequacy of the Latin-based English alphabet, in which twenty-six letters struggle unsuccessfully to bear the burden of sound. With his habitual ruthlessness, Shaw urges the adoption of a new alphabet with forty-two characters. (Shaw's preface to Wilson's 'The Miraculous Birth of Language'). Such an alphabet, according to Shaw, would approximate the phonetic perfection of the Sanskrit language, whose use of fifty letters prevents mispronunciations. He further says that "if the introduction of an English alphabet for the English language costs a civil war.... I shall not grudge it."

II. CONTRIBUTION OF THE INDIAN SPIRITUAL MASTERS - DISCUSSION

We can find in the speeches and writings of the spiritual masters the impact of the sound. It is not just the literal meaning of the utterances of the spiritual masters that is conveyed to the audience or the readers, but it is the light of the alphabet that is conveyed. Hence, ordinary letters, spoken by them also acquire radiance and act as 'mantras' (sacred utterances of some special syllables, related to the scriptures). In both, the letters are one and the same, but all the difference lies in the way, the letters are uttered forth and by whom they are uttered. Perhaps, this is one of the reasons why there is music and light in the speeches of the spiritual writers.

"I utter every word consciously, not habitually. That gives the words power. Spirituality is about not allowing anything to happen to you unconsciously, says Sadhguru." (*Sadhguru-More than a Life: 206*)

"Even sacred 'mantras' become ordinary expressions, if they are uttered forth by a person that does not have awareness in utterance. Indeed, "Mantras are vibrations which can transform your energies and prepare you for a higher possibility. If you use right sound properly, with the right amount of intensity and perseverance, it will change the chemistry of your system. Mantra, used with a right sense of awareness, can cease your mind and give you a glimpse of reality. Because, ultimately everything is just vibration and sound." (*Essential Wisdom : 122*)

III. RESULT

Perhaps, this is one of the reasons why there is music and light in the speeches of the spiritual writers.

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It is not just the literal meaning of the utterances of the masters that is conveyed to the audience or the readers, but it is the light of the spirit that is conveyed. Hence, ordinary letters, spoken by them also acquire radiance and act as 'mantras' (sacred utterances of some special syllables, related to the scriptures). In both, the letters are one and the same, but all the difference lies in the way, the letters are uttered forth and by whom they are uttered.

It is in India; the relation between sound and light has been perceived and understood deeply. Dr. Parvathi Kumar explains, "Sound and Light are twins. They co-exist. Sound has light and light has sound. However, sometimes we see the light and do not hear the sound. Sometimes, we hear the sound and do not see the light. There is the 'light of the sound' and 'sound of the light'. Since we have two different senses to experience the two, we sometimes only see light or hear sound. In higher states of awareness, when the senses merge in their source, all is experienced through one. With the help of the word, we can experience this. As the word is appropriately pressed at various points from the throat to the lips, it produces different sounds and their related Light, just like every thunder produces its lightning. Divine speeches, thus, give birth to Light, and such Light is transmitted to the listeners, other speeches do not." (*Saraswathi*- the word: 116)

Sanskrit is the background 'language consciousness' of this land. It is not a mere language for expression or communication, but an expression of culture and soul. (A scientific explanation for this is given in 'An autobiography of a Yogi':17-18) India has been the lighthouse of spirituality to the world and all the reputation, as a nation, she carries with her, is the image of spirituality. A European or an America, when thinks of India, he is invariably reminded of the saints and the spirituality. The contrast between the Oriental and the Occidental is conspicuous in their attempts to conquer nature; while the former tries to conquer the nature internal, the latter attempts to conquer the nature external. The East has been in love with the spirit and mind and the West has been in love with the matter and machine. The Eastern spiritualists made huge headway in rediscovering the properties of space, time, sound, colour and symbol. The spiritual masters could understand the secrets of sound, the different dimensions of sound and their related Light and how it could be transmitted to the listeners.

IV. CONCLUSION

If a person makes a consistent effort to utter forth letters precisely, accurately and meaningfully in consciousness, then the transmutation of cells in the body happens and thereafter, whatever is uttered forth by him becomes a 'mantra', and this transmutation of cells can gradually lead to transcendence. That means proper utterance of sounds leads to the higher levels of experience and elevates a person to higher consciousness.

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