This study in the present form was originally conceived by me on reading some of the research papers on "Indian English" and "South Asian English" published by Dr. Braj B. Kachru. My curiosity to find out how non-native varieties of English function in non-English cultural and linguistic contexts was awakened by those studies. Later on, while reading the English books, essays and other prose pieces written by the bilinguals of Kerala, I began to note down lexical and structural items which appeared to be either non-normal, or deviant from native varieties of English. Such items, when taken together, showed a kind of consistency. It seemed to be possible to establish a common denominator for those deviations based on the multilingualistic and multicultural context in which the English language functioned in Kerala. The typographical features of the mother tongue seemed to influence this variety of English considerably.

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I should like to offer a word of apology to the various authors, the titles of whose books frequently appear in this study along with the illustrative examples. It does not imply that these are the only authors who write culture-bound or mother tongue-influenced English among the bilingual writers of Kerala. It only shows that they have been among the necessarily limited number chosen for obtaining the illustrative examples. The investigator does not treat the mother tongue-influenced non-native variety of English with any pejorative connotation, as the aim of the study is language description rather than language legislation. Living examples with the name of the source attached to each of them are given here for authenticity, rather than using possible deviations which are likely to be found in the English written in unpublished writings.

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