

Reading English in Pune: Literature, Culture and Society

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This Research Project is run by the Department of English, University of Pune.

The word "reading" in the title is an intended pun that conveys the two focal points of the project: analysing the reading habits of the people in Pune city and reading into the operation of English language in the society. The former involves an observation of the reading habits of the participants, while recording their differences in age, gender, education and social or economical status. The latter questions the status of English in Pune: the effects of the English language on the minds of people as well as the way in which people perceive English.

The research methods include the distribution and the administration of questionnaires formulated by the research team. The questionnaires provide quantitative data about the reading habits of participants, for statistical analysis. Certain questions also attempt to obtain "subjective" data for qualitative analysis. Video interviews with a small number of participants are conducted to further capture their "subjective" views on literature, culture and society.

The final analysis will incorporate into the findings the theories of Pierre Bourdieu on Field, Practice and Habitus.