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**THE LANGUAGE THAT CAN NEVER BE :  
A CRITIQUE OF THE PROTO- INDO-EUROPEAN**



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**ABSTRACT**

*The construction of the history of a language can serve political purposes. As such, a Proto-Indo-European language is a colonial construct. It's co-born historical theories. Aryan Invasion Theory and Aryan Migration Theory bear witness to it. The evolution of Indian languages has not been caste or race-based. It was region- based. We cannot build the history of a vast country like India on such linguistic speculations. The western linguists go to the extent of creating a conjectural proto-Indo-European on the basis of cognates without any oral or written documents. That would make the dominant language families of India intrusive and invasive. Such an idea is contrary to the material history of the Indian sub-continent and Southeast Asia. Native scholars have from time to time resisted this colonial narrative. They have*

*highlighted the indigenous narration of 'out-of-India theory'. Similarities between Sanskrit and South Indian languages cannot be simply brushed away as interactional and assimilative. The indigenous critiques of this western linguistic theory have been largely neglected. The colonial discourse continues in one way or another in academic circles.*

**KEYWORDS**

*Proto-Indo-European, colonialism, Aryan Invasion/Migration Theory, Aryan and Dravidian languages, Language and politics*