

Viraj Rajendra Deshpande

Thesis: MS Dhoni: Triumphs and Disasters

February, 2017

Primary supervisor: Mike Johnson

A thesis submitted to Auckland University of Technology in partial fulfilment of
the requirements for the degree of Master of Creative Writing

Centre for Creative Writing,
School of Language and Culture

Table of Contents

Attestation of Authorship	3
Acknowledgements	4
Intellectual Property Rights	5
Confidential Material	6
Abstract	7
Thesis: MS Dhoni: Triumphs and Disasters	8
References	101

Attestation of Authorship

“I hereby declare that this submission is my own work and that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, it contains no material previously published or written by another person (except where explicitly defined in the acknowledgments), nor material which to a substantial extent has been submitted for the award of any other degree or diploma of a university or other institution of higher learning.”

Candidate’s signature: Viraj Rajendra Deshpande

Acknowledgements

I would like to thank my mentor Mike Johnson for his constant support, encouragement and the patience he showed with me throughout the year. I would also like to thank the teachers James, Siobhan, Vana and Paul for their guidance, and my fellow MCW classmates for giving constructive inputs.

Intellectual Property rights

- 1) All intellectual property, including copyright, is retained by the candidate in the content of the candidate's exegesis. For the removal of doubt, publication by the candidate of this or any derivative work does not change the intellectual property rights of the candidate in relation to the exegesis.
- 2) I confirm that my exegesis does not contain plagiarised material or material for which the copyright or other intellectual property belongs to a third party.

Confidential Material

- 1) The content of the candidate's thesis is confidential for commercial reasons, that is, the possible publication by the candidate of the thesis, or a derivative of it, as a work of creative fiction for sale.
- 2) This exegesis relates to and describes that thesis, and confidentiality is retained in it for that reason.
- 3) This confidentiality remains until after any commercial publication.
- 4) For the removal of doubt, publication does not change the intellectual property rights of the candidate of this or any derivative work.

Abstract

MS Dhoni: Triumphs and Disasters is a creative non-fiction book that relives the highs and lows in the career of India's most successful cricket captain. It begins with the story of how cricket became such a big sport in India before the focus shifts to MS Dhoni. His early struggles in the small town of Ranchi, his rapid rise as an international cricketer, the fall that was as rapid as the rise, and then how he rose again against all odds when controversies threatened to end his career. And how, even after all the highs and lows he remained the same man. Maybe that was his secret.

The Process

An exegesis to the thesis MS Dhoni: Triumphs and Disasters

Author: Viraj Rajendra Deshpande

2017

Centre for Creative Writing,
School of Language and Culture

An exegesis submitted to Auckland University of Technology in partial fulfilment
of the requirements for the degree of Master of Creative Writing

Primary supervisor: Mike Johnson

The Process is an exegesis for the creative nonfiction book "MS Dhoni: Triumphs and Disasters". There are two reasons for selecting this title for the exegesis. The exegesis is a discussion around the process I followed to write this piece of creative non-fiction. Second, followers of Indian cricket would recognise that 'process' is a word that MS Dhoni introduced to Indian cricket. In a cricket-mad country where the pressure on players to produce results is enormous, and it shouldn't happen but sometimes emotion rules decision making rather than rationale. Dhoni, by focussing on process, by which he means the controllable things, helped his team better prepare and deliver during crunch situation without worrying about external factors such as the expectations from the fans. As those factors can only have a negative effect on a player's performance if he lets it go to his head.

Dhoni simplified cricket for his team. Just do what is in front of you without worrying about anything else. If you do the process right, the result will follow. It is not too dissimilar to what is taught in the great Hindu religious text- The Bhagvad Geeta. The text says, "do your duty, but do not concern yourself with the results"¹.

Dhoni shifted the focus from the results part of the game to the process part of the game. The thinking behind this approach was that the result is not in your hands but you can control how well you prepare for a game. This generated a widely-accepted philosophy within the world of Indian cricket that; if you do the process right you will think less about the outcome. More often than not a focus on process brings about the hoped-for result.

India is a country of 1.37 billion² people, and cricket is India's most popular sport³. It is often said that in India, cricketers are treated as a cross between rock stars and deities⁴. Mahendra Singh Dhoni is an Indian cricketer and a former national cricket team captain under whose leadership Indian cricket reached never before seen heights but also experienced some unforeseen lows. '*MS Dhoni: Triumphs and Disasters*' is an account of a fascinating period in Indian cricket through the story of MS Dhoni's cricketing career.

MS Dhoni comes from Ranchi in the state of Jharkhand which is one of the least developed states in India. The per capita income of Jharkhand was RS. 1,009.07 in the year 2014. Jharkhand was ranked 29th among the 33 Indian states⁵. 2013, the Government of India identified 26 districts in the country as highly Naxal⁶ that is considered to be dominated by far-left radical communists with high levels of violence from 2010-2013 being reported in these areas. Out of those 26 areas, eight were from Jharkhand.⁷

The creative component for this Master's project reveals how a ticket collector in the Indian Railways from Jharkhand, became the most successful Indian cricket captain of all time. And about how this man successfully remained in his job for close to a decade.

Sachin Tendulkar was Dhoni's cricketing idol⁸. Before the 2011 cricket World Cup, Tendulkar had failed to win the highly-coveted trophy despite

¹ Source: <https://www.holy-bhagavad-gita.org/chapter/2/verse/47>

² Source: Worldpopulationreview.com, according to the most recent UN data

³ Source: Deccanherald.com, Why cricket, and not football, rules in India

⁴ Embracing Cultural Diversity: Australia: A Cross-Curricular Lesson Plan, pg 19

⁵ Comparing Indian States and Countries by GDP per capita, statisticstimes.com

⁶ Naxalites are considered far-left radical communists, supportive of Maoist political sentiment and ideology.

⁷ "26 districts highly Naxal-hit in country: govt", *Hindustantimes.com*, April 2013

⁸ Sachin Tendulkar was like God to me: MS Dhoni, news18.com

appearing in five World Cups. The primary aim of my work here is to recreate MS Dhoni's career in an unbiased manner, which I argue has not been the case with previous works on the subject. This work also seeks to bridge a gap between the cricket fans of two generations: the generation that started following cricket before the arrival of the Internet, and the younger generation or millennial generation.

The primary aim of this book is to relive MS Dhoni's career in an unbiased manner, which hasn't been the case with previous works on the subject as I found out while doing research for this book. The secondary aim is to become a piece of work that is a bridge between cricket fans of two generations- the generation that started following cricket before the internet came, and is more aware about the history of the game, and the younger generation or millennial generation that lives in the now.

At the start of the work is a chapter dedicated to the history of cricket in India. That chapter reveals how cricket wasn't always the biggest sport in India, and looks at the factors that contributed to cricket being not only the most popular sport in the country, but also a commercial success. This chapter also sees the first of several carefully curated images to support the text.

There is also a personal motivation behind this work. As noted, my dad was a cricket writer himself. Cricket was one of the few things he taught me before a brain stroke took him in 2003. My 11-year-old self found comfort in cricket as cricket was something that was just 'ours'- as far as me and dad were concerned. This work is my way of updating my late dad on all of the things that have happened in Indian cricket through the story of a man my dad narrowly missed out on seeing: a man whose career symbolically reflects the broader, modern game of cricket in India.

MS Dhoni's tale is a classic story of rags to riches. It could be easily assumed that there are already over a dozen books published on this well-known man. Yet, the reality is quite different with only a few books publishing that focus on Dhoni, his life and his career.

Gulu Ezekiel's "Captain Cool" published by Westland publishers in 2008, was the first biographical work done on MS Dhoni. Other notable works on Dhoni are "MS Dhoni: Captain Cool" by Ayaz Memon (November 2013), "Mahi: The story of India's most successful captain" by Shantanu Guha Ray (December 2013), "MSD: The Man, The Leader" by Biswadeep Ghosh (February 2015). Apart from these biographies there is also a self-help book - "Think and Win like Dhoni" written by motivational speaker Sfurti Sahare published in July 2016.

"Captain Cool" by Ayaz Memon just touches the surface without going into the detail. So it fails to satisfy the reader who already knows what has happened in Dhoni's career but wants to know more than what meets the eye. The heart-breaking 2007 World Cup loss, Dhoni becoming India's T20 captain, the World T20 win in South Africa, and Dhoni becoming test captain are four major events in Dhoni's life, yet these events are covered in just three paragraphs in Memon's book. Furthermore, India's 2011 World Cup win gets just two paragraphs, whereas Dhoni's match winning knock in the finals doesn't even get a mention!

Ezekiel has dedicated a chapter to Dhoni's Ranji Trophy career, which isn't in any other book. From all the four books, Ezekiel's is the most detailed account. However, lack of humour makes for a strenuous reading experience. There are photographs, but they are at the end of the book.

In his book "MSD: The Man, the Leader" Ghosh has given a detailed account of MS Dhoni's early life and struggles in Ranchi. It is a refreshing read and it makes for a promising start to the book. After that chapter about Ranchi,

the book moves from one game to another without any build up or drama. After a point it gets repetitive. There are factual errors, for example, calling Hockey as India's official national sport (India doesn't have an official national sport), and calling the 2011 World Cup win as the 2010 World Cup win.

One thing that I noticed in all the books is that once the description of games start, it gets a bit predictable. To avoid this, what I have tried to do in my work, as there was no way around writing about the games, is that even though the games are history and most readers already know who won, I have tried to write as if I'm telling the story for the first time to make the reading interesting.

Another thing which was pretty glaring in the works of Ezekiel, Memon, Ray, and Ghosh, was the complete absence of the two C's: Controversies and Criticism. It is not that Dhoni's career has been spotless and there aren't any controversial incidents to talk about. In fact the IPL Spot fixing scandal of 2013 in which Dhoni's name was linked is one of the biggest scandals in Indian sport, yet Memon, Ray and Ghosh turned a blind eye to it, whereas Ezekiel gave a passing mention to the IPL scandal but dodged the bullet by saying "*subsequent events over the next two months are too complicated and fast changing to record in a book*".⁹

All these authors are prominent journalists who know Dhoni, and I suppose have a relationship to look after. I think that could have had a role to play in them writing in a hagiographic way.

Fortunately or unfortunately, I have no such relationship to maintain with Dhoni, and thus can write with more freedom. My book isn't just a song of praise of the man. Apart from criticising Dhoni wherever necessary, I have two chapters dedicated to the two C's. The chapter- 'The Curse of Dominica' is an account of how Dhoni was found short and uninspiring as a leader on India's away tours. The chapter "N Srinivasan: The Godfather That Wasn't" depicts how Dhoni almost lost his captaincy but for a certain Mr N Srinivasan, the then chief of cricket in India, in whose company (India Cements) Dhoni was a Vice President. This chapter adds the political angle Indian cricket is incomplete without.

As far as the writing style is concerned all the four biographies are a chronological progression of his career, a series after series account focussing more on the big games. I have used the same method. There were other options such as the thematic approach or anecdotal organization. But the flaw in the anecdotal method was that it would have meant leaving out the things that weren't as amusing, and with thematic approach the shortcoming was it would have been hard for a reader to get a clear picture about the order of events. Thus, I went with the tried and tested chronological method.

Where my book is different is the depth in which I have described the games as my intention was not just to show a progression of his career, but for readers to relive those events. I feel sports biographies have a long shelf life and make for interesting reading even 10-20 years after publishing. If I'm reading a sportsperson's biography, I want to know what was happening around the game to make what happened in the game much more interesting.

Being the most recent work my work is able to cover the time frame between the publication of earlier works and today. Critically, my own researcher is able to discuss Dhoni retiring from test cricket in 2014, a year after three of the four books were published, and him handing over the One Day International and T20 captaincy reins to Virat Kohli in 2016 are a few examples. Even the

⁹ Chapter 17: Statistics, *Captain Cool: The MS Dhoni Story* by Gulu Ezekiel, Westland Publishers, 2013

official MS Dhoni biopic: "*MS Dhoni: the Untold Story*", have only shown events till the 2011 World Cup, despite being released in September 2016.

One of the reasons for only showing the events till 2011 could be that post 2011, Dhoni experienced a stunning fall which was as rapid as his rise. His name was dragged into the IPL spot-fixing scandal, and on the field he kept losing game after game. The story of Dhoni's cricket career, and thus this book, is like the archetypal three act structure. It captures how Dhoni rose again in 2013, and now in the twilight of his career has become a legendary figure in Indian cricket, a darling of the fans.

MS Dhoni is a very private person. He doesn't give many interviews; neither does he reveal much about himself in the few that he has to do. He has that gift of speaking a lot without actually saying anything. In spite of four biographies and a biopic available in the public domain, there is still a lack of knowledge about Dhoni the person. In Chapter no.11 "Man behind the Myth", I have tried to decode Dhoni's character through his cricket. As sportswriter Heywood Hale Broun once said "Sports don't build character; they reveal it". Chapter no.11 along with Chapter no. 13 "Dhoni and the stump mic" that show Dhoni at his humorous and expressive best is my attempt to fill that void.

I know reading a sportsperson's biography could be a heavily factual experience, so I have resorted to humour whenever possible to ensure reading is an enjoyable experience. I hope my conversational writing style, the dashes of humour, and the inclusion of tweets here and there will appeal to the younger readers and make my work stand out.

I hope that by writing about the business of cricket, Dhoni the person behind Dhoni the cricketer, controversies in his career, cricket's rise in India, Dhoni the wicket-keeper, along with the complete account of Dhoni's career, in an informative yet entertaining manner, my work will be the most thorough and enjoyable read on MS Dhoni, until he himself decides to put pen to paper.

It is difficult to explain cricket to a person who has no idea about the game. Ask Andrew Flintoff, former England cricket captain who was asked to explain cricket to Jennifer Lopez on the Graham Norton show. "*Probably the closest sport in America is Baseball. But cricket... it lasts five days. We break every now and then for food. And we spend a lot of time rubbing our balls on our trousers.*" Flintoff said. He wasn't even joking and he did well not to use any complex cricketing terminology.

The big decision I had to make at the start of the writing process was the target audience of the book, as it would determine the lexicology of the book. Should I make it a niche product aimed at the general cricket fan or write it in such a manner that even non-cricket fans would be able to read and understand? The downside of the latter option was the danger of the general cricket fan, which at the end of the day was going to be the primary market no matter how I write the book, finding the book too shallow. So I chose the former option as it allowed me to go into technical depths of the subject without having to worry whether my reader would understand this or not.

This does not mean that I want to drive the non-cricket readers away. For the benefit of readers with no cricketing background, I decided to write a glossary explaining all the technical cricketing terms chapter wise at the back of the thesis. However, creating the glossary wasn't an easy task.

The language of cricket is a complex subject. Cricket is blessed to have such a rich vocabulary that it is a study in its own. At one end of the spectrum, the language of cricket has been integrated in everyday English, but when you get to the other end of the spectrum you get terms which are very specific and

which are not well known, they are essentially only vocabulary for cricket. Then there is also a big grey area of terms which fall in the middle of the spectrum. They are the terms that are originally from cricket but used in everyday life as well but only in the major cricket playing nations. So there is not really a sharp line between those terms that are known and those not known. When it came to the issue of my glossary I had to draw the line somewhere, and it was not an easy task as it's a grey area.

For the purpose of the glossary, I decided to think from the point of view of a non-cricketing person. I divided the cricketing vocabulary into three parts- white, black and grey. The first part or the white part contains the words and phrases used in cricket and in everyday English, and have same meaning in both. For example appeal, boundary, century, and the phrase 'to bat for someone' which means to support someone. It is originally a cricket term but has filtered into common English and we hear it frequently when the elections are close. It is also a favourite of the headline writers.

Then comes the grey matter, the terms a non-cricketing person may or may not know. All-rounder, sticky wicket, to be stumped, it's not cricket, are some of the examples of the grey matter. They are originally cricket terms but also used particularly in cricket playing nations in other walks of life as well.

The third part or the black matter, are the terms solely used in cricket. You would not hear them anywhere else. Wicket-keeping, Googly, short fine leg, silly mid-on, shouldering arms, arm ball, zooter, are all part of the black matter. These terms and phrases are of the cricket, for the cricket, and by the cricket. It goes without saying that the glossary contains all terms from the black matter, some from the grey, and none from the white.

There is also a fourth part, the part where the words are common English terms but when strung together or even on their own have a completely different meaning in cricket. Consider the phrase- "bowl a maiden over". This phrase is commonly used in general English and in cricket, but with no correlation whatsoever.

In everyday English, to bowl a maiden over roughly translates to impress a lady. In cricket though, the same phrase is used to describe the act of bowling six consecutive legal deliveries by a bowler without conceding a run. To have a fine leg in place in cricket means to have a fielder patrolling the leg side boundary behind the stumps.

I do understand that there are some things I can't provide a glossary for. For example the cricketing humour that seeps in every now and then in the book. Consider the excerpt below from Chapter no.6 Honeymoon in Whites.

"However, on day three, MS Dhoni only in his third test as captain produces a tactical masterstroke that chokes Australia into submission. The plan looks simple enough. Have an 8-1 field with just one fielder on the leg side and bowl wide outside off stump and wait patiently for the batsman to make mistake.

.... The bowlers- Zaheer and Ishant complement the field setting by consistently bowling it wide outside off. Some might say that it is after all Ishant's natural line."

The last sentence of the above paragraph is a cricketing joke. Ishant Sharma, the Indian fast bowler mentioned here is often accused of bowling wide outside the off stump- which is generally regarded as poor bowling, however it was the need of the hour in that specific scenario and no wonder Ishant did a wonderful job.

I decided to tell the story through the matches and tours of the Indian cricket team. I think my target audience is familiar with this type of writing.

There is a particular reason why most Indian cricket books, especially those who are focussed on a player, are structured that way. Being a cricket fan and a lover of cricket books, whenever I find a mention of a cricket match in a book I want to know what happened in that match. Who won? Who scored how many? Did any interesting incident happen? These are just my primary fan instincts taking over.

If I have seen that match live, I'm able to experience the joy of reminiscence. Just like listening to one of your favourite songs takes you back to the place you were when you first heard that song, a cricket match has the same nostalgic effect on a cricket fan. To those who haven't seen that match, or were too young to remember, it is an opportunity to learn something new.

Another thing I did to make the reading interesting was to provide a context to those matches and match situations to keep the bigger picture in the frame always. The bigger picture isn't always known when you are watching a game. For example, when MS Dhoni promoted himself up the order in the 2011 World Cup final run chase against Sri Lanka, I didn't know the last time Dhoni walked out to bat while chasing in a big pressure game against Sri Lanka, he looked a bundle of nerves before getting out first ball. Then there was this scathing attack on Dhoni by Sangakkara who was Sri Lanka's wicket keeper in that game.

"The impact of the pressure-cooker atmosphere was perhaps most obvious with Mahendra Singh Dhoni. He played an unbelievably expansive shot first ball. Sure, you have to play your natural game, but you also have to adapt to the situation in crunch matches".¹⁰

Sangakkara was the Sri Lankan captain in 2011 world cup and all this would have been riding on Dhoni's mind when he took that call to promote himself up the order in the world cup final. While doing research for the chapter on the 2011 World Cup final, I found this information which I was sure not many, if any, knew and it was definitely going to enrich the reading experience.

That was the major methodology I used to write this book. I first divided the story into chapters based on major events and developments in Dhoni's career. And then I did the research on those particular chapters to find all the interesting things I could find to give context to the reader. It was a learning experience for me too as I got to learn so much about Dhoni and Indian cricket while doing the research. On some occasions, I used flashback to give more context to a situation. On others I used parenthesis to include more information within the paragraph or a sentence.

Indian cricket team plays throughout the year. There is no off-season for them. They play roughly 10 tests, 40 ODIs, 10 T20s and 60 IPL matches each year. But every game or series is not equally important. Test cricket is the oldest format of the game and the most important according to majority of the cricket world. Test matches go down in history and the test match records are valued more than One Day Internationals and Twenty20 cricket. So on multiple occasions while writing, it happened that I included a test series in which Dhoni didn't quite perform as well over an ODI series in which he did a stellar job because that test series had more meaning than the inconsequential ODI series.

Reading Ramachandra Guha's *A Corner of a Foreign Field* for research purpose led me to the discovery of the Parsis¹¹ (one of the two Zoroastrian

¹⁰ "I feel sorry for India's cricketers", Kumar Sangakkara, *espnricinfo.com*, March 2008

¹¹ Parsi is one of two Zoroastrian communities majorly located in India and few in Pakistan. Parsi community migrated from Iran to India in the 8th and 10th century.

communities, Parsi community migrated from Iran to India in the 8th and 10th century) being the first in India to play cricket. I remembered a funny anecdote legendary Indian cricketer Sunil Gavaskar had shared about former India player Farookh Engineer who was a Parsi. So in the chapter on the history of cricket in India, I used that anecdote to convey what I had learned from Guha in my own style.

I used the climactic approach to write the chapters involving occasions with a lot riding on them. First setting the scene and then building tension with every passing paragraph, using the parataxis style to create a montage leading up to the climax. The perfect example of this is chapter no. 7- 'Fulfilling God's Wish' which talks about how MS Dhoni led India to their first World Cup title in 28 years. Although the book is written in the chronological order of Dhoni's career, each chapter stands on its own. Each chapter is a story in its own with a beginning, middle, and an end and can be read as one. Only the readers who have no clue who MS Dhoni is are exception to this because in this case it is better if they read the story chronologically.

As far as the point of view is concerned, it is a cross between third person objective and third person limited, tilting ever so slightly in the favour of third person objective as I'm stating the events from a neutral yet objective point of view.

I do not know the exact thoughts and feelings of the protagonist in my story but I have tried to provide as much context and description of the situation from his point of view for the audience to decipher what the protagonist could be going through during any particular time in the story.

Glossary

(Definitions in the glossary are sourced from bbc.co.uk, espncrio.com and Wikipedia.org)

Prologue

Batsman: A player on the batting side, or a player whose speciality is batting, or one of the two members of the batting side who are currently at the crease.

Four: A shot that reaches the boundary after touching the ground, which scores four runs to the batting side.

Six: A shot which passes over or touches the boundary without having bounced or rolled, so called because it scores six runs to the batting side.

Bowling figures: A shorthand statistical notation summarising a bowler's performance.

Bowler: A player on the bowling side who delivers the ball to the batsman.

Googly: A deceptive spinning delivery by a wrist spin bowler which spins the opposite direction to the stock delivery. For a right-hander bowler and a right-handed batsman, a googly will turn from the off side to the leg side.

Test matches: A cricket match with play spread over five days with unlimited overs played between two senior international teams. It is considered the highest level of the game.

One day internationals: A match between two national sides limited to 50 overs per innings, played over at most one day.

Over: The delivery of six consecutive legal balls by one bowler.

Cricket in India

Bouncer: A fast short pitched delivery that rises up near the batsman's head.

ICC: International Cricket Council, the governing body of the game.

IPL: Indian Premier League. An inter-city T20 competition run by the Indian cricket board in which players from across the globe participate.

Chapter 1: Early days

Wicket keeping: The player on the fielding side who stands immediately behind the batting end wicket.

Duleep trophy: Duleep trophy is a domestic cricket competition played in India named after Kumar Shri Duleepsinhji of Nawanagar.

Deodhar trophy: Deodhar trophy is a domestic cricket competition played in India named after professor DB Deodhar.

Opener: Two batsmen who start the innings are known as openers.

Pitch: the rectangular surface in the centre of the field where most of the action takes place, usually made of earth or clay. It is 22 yards in length.

Short fine leg: Short fine leg is a fielding position.

Dismissal: To get one of the batsmen out so that he must cease batting.

Stumping: It is an act where the wicket-keeper dismisses the batsman by disturbing the stumps while the batsman is out of the crease.

Chapter 2: *The Woodsman with an Axe in a Gentleman's game*

Cut: A type of stroke in cricket played behind the stumps on the off side.

Flick off the pads: A type of stroke where the batsman tries to turn the ball bowled on his legs towards the leg side.

Wicket: Set of stumps either end of the pitch are known as wickets. When a batsman gets out it is said that he lost his wickets.

Run up: The motion of the bowler prior to bowling the ball.

30 yard circle: A circle painted thirty yards away from the stumps in limited overs cricket for the purpose of field few batsmen in a team are collectively who don't possess much batting prowess.

Slip: A fielding position beside the wicket keeper.

Pull shot: A type of shot where batsman pulls a short pitched delivery towards the leg side.

Point: A fielding position square of the wicket on the off side.

Driving: The act of hitting a full pitched ball straight down the ground

Around the wicket: A right-handed bowler passing to the right of the non-striker's stumps in his run-up, and vice versa for a left-handed bowler.

Beamer: A delivery that reaches the batsman above waist height without bouncing. Due to the risk of injury to the batsman, a beamer is an illegal delivery, punishable by a no ball being called.

Chapter 3: Making of the ODI beast

Covers: A fielding position on the off side between point and mid-off.

Mid-on: A fielding position on the leg side of the field inside the thirty yard circle.

Cover drive: A drive played by the batsman through the cover region.

Straight drive: A drive shot played straight down the ground.

Short mid-wicket: A fielding position closer to the pitch on the leg side.

Spinners: A type of slow bowler who tries to spin the ball.

Floater: A flexible batsman that can be used anywhere in the batting order.

Runner: A player from the batting side who assists an injured batsman by running between the wickets.

Average: A bowler's bowling average is defined as the total number of runs conceded by the bowler (including wides and no-balls) divided by the number of wickets taken by the bowler. A batsman's batting average is defined as the total number of runs scored by the batsman divided by the number of times he has been dismissed.

Finisher: The batsman coming in to bat in the middle order whose job is to stay till the end and take the team to victory while chasing a target.

Chapter 4: Convicts to Conquerors

ICC World Twenty20: A world cup of 20 over cricket organised by the International Cricket Council.

Bowl out: A bowl out in cricket is similar to the penalty shoot-out in football. In case of a tied match result is decided by five bowlers from each side bowling at unguarded wickets.

Net run rate: In a match, the average run rate scored by a team minus the average run rate scored against them. In a series, a team's NRR is $(\text{total runs scored}) / (\text{total overs received}) - (\text{total runs conceded}) / (\text{total overs bowled})$.

Run out: Dismissal by a member of the fielding side breaking the wicket while the batsman is outside his crease in the process of making a run.

Wide: a delivery that passes illegally wide of the wicket, scoring an extra for the batting side. A wide does not count as one of the six valid deliveries that must be made in each over – an extra ball must be bowled for each wide.

Dot ball: A delivery on which no run is scored.

Full toss: A delivery that reaches the batsman on the full without bouncing.

Scoop: A shot where the batsman tries to scoop the ball behind the stumps on the leg side.

Off side: Off side is a particular half of the cricket field.

Chapter 5: Bigger Triumph than WT20

Swing bowler: A bowler who uses his skill to curve the ball in the air away from or towards the batsman in an attempt to deceive him.

Leg spinner: A spin bowler who turns the ball from leg to off of a right handed batsman.

Sledging: Verbal abuse in simple terms, or a psychological tactic in more complex terms. Used by cricketers both on and off the field to gain advantage of the opposition by frustrating them and breaking the concentration of the opposition. Considered in some cricketing countries to be against the spirit of the game, but acceptable in others.

Inswingers: A form of delivery where the bowler curves the ball in towards the batsman.

Chapter 6: Honeymoon in Whites

8-1 field: A fielding strategy where the fielding captain laces eight fielders on the off side and just one on the leg side.

Leg side: Leg side is a particular half of the cricket field.

Over the wicket: A right-handed bowler passing to the left of the non-striker's stumps in his run-up, and vice versa for a left-handed bowler.

Shoulder arms: Rather than risk playing the ball, the batsman lifts the bat high above his shoulder to keep his bat and hand out of harm's way.

Leg before: Leg Before (Wicket), It means when there is leg in front of wicket then the batsman is given out, but bowler have to make an appeal to umpire.

Declared: Declaration is an act of a captain voluntarily bringing his side's innings to a close, in the belief that their score is now great enough to prevent defeat.

Draw: A result in test matches where the team batting last are not all out, but fail to exceed their opponent's total.

Lunch: The first of the two intervals taken during a full day's play in a test match, which usually occurs at lunchtime at about 12:30 pm (local time).

Tea: The second of the two intervals taken during a full day's play in a test match.

Stumps: In a match lasting more than one day, "stumps" refers to the end of a day's play when the match is not complete.

Chapter 10: An English Love Affair

Dead ball: The state of play in between deliveries, in which batsmen may not score runs or be given out.

Chapter 11: Man behind the Myth

DRS: Decision Review System is a technology-based system used in cricket to assist the match officials with their decision-making.

Bibliography

Texts, articles, research papers:

'Cricket is the best sport' by Sambit Bal in *Intelligent Life Magazine*, 2012

'No culture ... feral': David Gower takes shot at Australia on Ashes eve', *The Australian*, June 2013

'Great balls of fire', *economist.com*, 25 June 2002

'Profile of Jagmohan Dalmiya' for *espncricinfo.com* by Amit Varma

'Sachin Tendulkar retires: Famous quotes on the master', *News18.com*, Oct 2013

'The Dhoni Effect: More than just cricket' by Sandipan Deb, *Livemint.com*, Jan 2017

'What Made Ranchi Famous Before Dhoni Came Along' by Vivek Kaul, *Firstpost*, 2013

'A Man Possessed' by Chandrahas Choudhury, *espncricinfo.com*, April 2005

'Dhoni: Basic Instinct' by Anand Vasu, *espncricinfo.com*, October 2005

'Dhoni's innings was the turning point – Inzamam', by Osman Samiuddin, *espncricinfo.com*, February 2006

'2007 World Cup failure had big impact on me: Dhoni', *Sify.com*, September 2016

'Sachin Tendulkar said MS Dhoni would make a good captain: Sharad Pawar', *Times of India*, November 2013

'Grace Under Fire' by Dileep premchandran, *espncricinfo.com*, September 2007

'India In The lights' by Peter Roebuck, *espncricinfo.com*, March 2008

'Former captain Ganguly bids farewell in style' by Sanjay Ranjan, *Reuters*, Nov 2008

'I would go to war with Dhoni by my side: Gary Kirsten', by Vijay Tagore, *DNAIndia.com*, June 2011

'How to make a team and other stories from former Indian cricket team coach Gary Kirsten' by Daksh Pawar, *Indian Express website*, October 2016

'I feel sorry for India's cricketers' by Kumar Sangakkara, *espnricinfo.com*, March 2007

'I have at times disagreed with Sachin on team strategy', says MS Dhoni, PTI, *timesofindia website*, March 2013

'Dhoni is the best captain I played under: Tendulkar', *Indian Express website*, April 2011

'Dhoni the greatest Indian captain – Ganguly', *espnricinfo.com*, April 2011

'Dhoni's among the great modern captains- Ian Chappell', *espnricinfo.com*, April 2011

'Mahendra Singh Dhoni retires: Best quotes on captain cool', *Indian express website*, December 2014

'Pressing for a win not worth the risk: Dhoni', PTI, *TheHindu.com*, July 2011

'West Indies v India in West Indies, 2011', Tony Cozier, *espnricinfo.com*, July 2011

'W.G. Grace's bat-first advice heeded in the BDCA in 2016-17', Luke West, *Bendigoadvertiser.com.au*, February 2017

'Rohit Sharma credits MS Dhoni for his 'career changing decision to open'- PTI, *Indianexpress.com*, January 2017

'Mahendra Singh Dhoni: When the usually cool captain turned persistent' by Karthick Parimal, *Yahoo.com*, July 2014

'Dhoni's move should set an example – Strauss' by Andrew Mcglashan, *espnricinfo.com*, August 2011

'Dhoni's presence would be priceless for DRS: Kohli', PTI, *thehindu.com*, January 2017

'Dhoni's biggest Australian fan comes to Delhi to see her star in action' by Venkata Krishna B, *newIndianexpress.com*, October 2016

'Mahendra Singh Dhoni arranges final ticket for Pakistan fan', PTI, *indianexpress.com*, April 2014

'Meet Ram Babu, skipper Dhoni's die-hard fan' by Prasad RS, *timesofindia.indiatimes.com*, October 2015

'Selectors wanted to sack MS Dhoni in 2012 but N Srinivasan put foot down, says former selector', *Express News Services*, June 2015

'Dhoni breaks silence on IPL scam', PTI, *thehindubusinessline.com*, January 2015

'Dhoni should have been punished – Harper' by Daniel Bretigg, *espncricinfo.com*, July 2014

'Dhoni-Laxman rift out in the open: Hyderabad doesn't invite captain to party at home', *dailymail.co.uk*, August 2012

'There was no support for Laxman from Dhoni: Ganguly', *zeenews.india.com*, August 2012

'Dhoni, Mustafizur fined for collision', Alagappan Muthu, *espncricinfo.com*, June 2015

'Mahendra Singh Dhoni fights over biryani with hotel staff', *Deccanchronicle.com*, September 2014

'IPL 2016: Harsha Bhogle off air, says 'no one told me anything'', by Shamik Chakrabarty, *Indianexpress.com*, April 2016

'Did senior India players ask for Harsha Bhogle's ouster?', by cricketnext staff, *news18.com*, April 2016

Cricket, colonialism, culture, and cosmopolitanism by Habibul Haque Khondker, Department of Sociology, National University of Singapore, *researchgate.net*, Dec 2017

Cricket's Effect on Indian Culture and Unity by John Winn, *Prezi.com*, Sept 2015

Cricket in India a cultural artefact, a research paper by Gayatri Gopalan, Manpreet Kaur, and Amit Malhotra, *slideshare.com*, Sep 2010

Books:

Anyone but England by Mike Maqusee, *Two Heads Publishing*, 1998.

The Tao of Cricket by Ashis Nandy, *Oxford University Press* 2001.

Beyond a Boundary by CLR James. *Hutchinson*, London 1963.

Sphere of Influence, Gideon Haigh, *Simon & Schuster UK*, August 2011

Playing It My Way: My Autobiography, *Hodder & Stoughton*, December 2014

A Corner Of A Foreign Field, by Ramchandra Guha. (The updated edition first published in India in Allen Lane by *Penguin Books India*, 2014)

Wisden On India, edited by Jonathan Rice, *John Wisden and co.* 2011.

MSD The Man, The Leader by Biswadeep Ghosh, *Rupa publication*, 2015.

ON Warne, by Gideon Haigh, *Penguin Australia*, 2013.

Captain Cool: The MS Dhoni Story by Gulu Ezekiel, *Westland publishers* 2014.

"MS Dhoni: Captain Cool" by Ayaz Memon, *Jaico Publishing House*, November 2013

Beyond A boundary by CLR James, *Hutchinson*, London 1963.

The Great Tamasha: Cricket, Corruption and the Turbulent Rise of Modern India by James Astill, *Wisden*, 2013

Mahi: The story of India's most successful captain by Shantanu Guha Ray, *Roli books*, 2013

Think and Win like Dhoni by Sfurti Sahare, *Jaico publishing house*, July 2016

Films:

MS Dhoni: The Untold Story, Official MS Dhoni biopic, September 2016

Poems:

'IF' by Rudyard Kipling, Poets.org

Statistics and analytical data from online media:

ESPNcricinfo.com, cricbuzz.com, bcci.tv