



Theme: Problems of Translation

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Abstract:

Translation aims at recreating the source text into target language without changing its original meaning .During translation the translator should be focused on the Indian frame of reference in order to make the flavor of Indianness alive in the target language .This paper aims at focusing on the challenges and barriers concerned with the translation of Indian short stories .Most of the translations are done in the poetry as well as drama whereas the short stories ,essays are not much focused .The translations are brought into implementation with the renaissance in various countries .The translation has a particular importance since ages .The retelling of epics is also significant with respect to the translations done in ancient India. Certain problems arise during the translation from source language to target language like lexical problems related to exact wordings. Not only lexical also other difficulties arise like words ,emotions, Jargons etc. In these translations sometimes the real essence might be missing to some extent .India is a land of diversified languages like Bangla ,Sanskrit ,Oriya, Malayalam ,Hindi and so on. There is also lack of translators in the regional language who fail to interpret the original meaning of some words of classical origin. Few translators give their own interpretations during translation of the works. The main theme of translation is readability and clarity of the source language in its translated version. Translators try to recreate the original text in order to preserve the sensitivities .Their main aim is to appeal their translations to readers from different backgrounds .Certain ‘untranslatable ‘ words become a challenge during translation wherein the translator tries to reflect the idea.

Key words:

Translations, problems ,translator, language ,Source ,Target, lexical, challenges.

Problems of translation

The word translation has a broad sense of understanding in terms of its importance and application in the field of linguistics. The very essence of translation lies in the replication of the original document without changing its actual meaning. It is a very tough task and also requires a lot of understanding under knowledge of the source as well as the target language. The current paper focuses on the problems of translation and the challenges faced during translation.The

word translation is a combination of two Latin words -Trans and Lation which can be defined as across and to take which is simply taking across the same content from one language to authored. During translation along with words ,complex expressions and word associations are also included in translation along with its culture.

Walter Benjamin says about translation in this way in his book “the task of the translator” that the Translator must “Lovingly and in detail incorporate the originals made of significance then thus making the original and the translation recognizable as Segments of a greater language just as fragment’s are parts of a vessel”(1969:78).

Sujit Mukherjee says about translation in this way:

“That is how we learned English through translation and re-translation through transcription in Hindi and annotations in Bangla through learning grammatical rules by rote and English idioms by heart(the latter processes popularly known as ‘by hearting’) out of such remembering and recording will come Indian’s theories of translation”.(Mukherji,2002:30).

Objectives of the paper:

- to focus on the issues of translation
- to focus and understand the possibilities of translation
- the importance and development of translation
- to study the types of translation
- to focus on the challenges faced by translators.

Translation of Indian literature:

The India translation is different from the west as it is more likely related to retelling of the original text compared to translation. If we consider certain Indian classics and epics like Ramayana and Panchatantra, Mahabharata they were translated by various translators.

K.Satchitanandan says:

“Indian culture of translation dates back to pre- colonial times that had witnessed several kinds of literary translation ,though our ancients may not claim to be doing so.This is perhaps natural to multi-lingual culture where poets ...easily moved from one language to another without being aware of it and translations did not fear being executed for deviations as in the west....we do not even have a proper word for translation in the India languages so we have at different times borrowed anuvad (‘speaking after’)from Sanskrit and trauma (explication or paraphrase)from Arabic...one predecessors used texts as take off points and fully retold and resituated them as was done in the case of many, Ramayana ,Mahabharata and Bhagavatas in different languages ...This tendency to transform texts from older languages like Prakrit ,Pali,Sanskrit,Tamil or Persian continued almost to the end of the pre- colonial period.”(3).

Certain scholars from French,Italy and German translated Indian texts into European languages. The Indian Renaissance had a special feature of these Indian translations which also paved a way for the fight in the freedom movement.

Translation of Indian texts into English:

India Is a land of variety of dialects which adds to the richness of its literary tradition. There were many pioneers who entered this field of translation to overcome the misinterpretations of the western ideas during the translation of Indian texts. Many Indian classics like Ramayana, Mahabharata ,Vedas and Buddhist tales and Upanishads has been translated during the colonial period.

Our eminent poet and author Tagore was known to everyone for his work ‘Githanjali’,it raised an urge to learn Bengali to enjoy the text in its fullest form.

Sisir Kumar Das says:

“ The contact with English literature provided the Indian author and the reader with a new set of values and canons ,thus creating an area of commonality of perception in the endless variety of different Indian literatures ”Das(46).

During the translation the translator plays a pivotal role in three areas .He must be aware of the original text with the rules ,socio cultural context. The translator should effort for true translations without losing its essence...Translation may vary from a prose and poetry as it must be accurate in the translation of figures of speech and other components of the poem. Certain problems arise during the translation of a prose piece in complex structures like idioms .For instance the hindi idioms “woh khoun ga ghoont peekaboo reh Gaya ” can be translated as ‘he drank a draught of blood and remained ’but the actual sense of it is ‘he pocketed the insult ’.so a translator must be aware of such kind of translation issues which can create an ambiguity in the readers minds.A good translator should create an impression in the mind of the reader that he is reading an authored version rather than a translated one.

Raja Rao talks about the Indian expression in his novel Kanthapura(1933) in this way:

“ one has to convey in a language that is not one’s own but the spirit that is own(...).we are instinctively bilingual ,many of us writing in our own language in English.we cannot write only as Indian (...)The tempo of Indian life must be infused into our English expression ,even as the tempo of American or Irish life has gone into making of theirs.”(5-6).

He uses certain Indianised English words ‘milkless’, toughened’youngling’,frothing milk-pot’.

Types of translation :

Based on the approaches and theories there are two types of translation : transliteration and the other is transcreation.Transliteration includes word to word ,sentence to sentence or phrase to phrase translation from source language to target language whereas Transcreation is also named as cultural translation where the translator is having a complete or partial freedom with the source text to reproduce the translated version in target language unlike transliteration.

In his essay ‘Trans creating translation’ Sujit Mukherjee says:

“The English language has git so domesticated that Indians not only translate Indian language texts into English but they are also writing poetry ,fiction and drama in English even when they have lived much of their lives in India”(2004:46).

About translation G.N.Devy (1993) states:

“In the Indian context Indian translation can be divided into three types:(i)those interested in preserving the ancient literary heritage.(ii)those interested in ‘westernising’ Indian languages and literature and (iii) those interested in ‘nationalizing’ literature in modern Indian languages.In correspondence with the different objectives of these three types;their mode of operation differs”(49).

Problems of translation:

The problems of translation include structural problems related to structures of every language in its placement of nouns, adjectives etc..

The second problem is about the cultural differences where certain language structures have colloquial words which may put the translator into a confusion in translating accurately without disappointing the readers from diverse backgrounds as some texts have sarcasm which is not acceptable in all language texts.

Third problem is about the untranslatable words which have no direct translation in its target language.

Importance of translation:

In this modern Era many Indian writers translated their own work like Girish Karnad who translated his kannada text into English and the latter Tagore who translated his Bengali works into English. These days the field of translation is evolving as major discipline to study the cross culture and perspectives round the globe.

Susan Basnett and Leferene states that:

“With the development of translation studies as a discipline in its won right ,with a methodology that draws on comparatives and cultural history ,the time has come to think again. Translation has been a major shaping force in the development of world cultures and no study of comparative literature can take place without regard to translation”.(12).

Conclusion:

Finally it is clear that translation bridges the gap between diverse background people and also increases the language learning.

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