



## Influence of Translation on Literature

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### Abstract:

*Translation is a part and parcel of literature. Through translation it is possible to go through the books of world literature. It also paves path for comparative study. If translation deletes any element from the original literary work, it also adds to the originality. Here is an attempt to discuss translation has become a new flavour to the taste of literature. It is also tried to discuss how translation influences, shapes and design literature.*

**Key Words:** Translation, Comparative, Literature, Originality.

### Introduction:

Language, literature and culture are the mirrors of society. And to introduce these integrated elements to the world, 'translation work' is an intellectual practice. It is the creation of thoughtful mind. To go beyond the periphery of one's own knowledge and to explore limitless viewpoints, the genre of translation work has been initiated. The reason behind such literary practice is the scope it provides to carry forward the ideology, feelings, thoughts of a particular language to a different one without any change. Consequently, translation becomes a medium of communication among various groups of people. It works as a process to reflect human culture and civilisation of the world. All these features of translation work make it a trend of the world literature.

### Aims and Importance:

This paper entitled "Influence of Translation on Literature" reflects that from the beginning of literary practice itself the notions of comparison and translation are some prevalent aspects of literature. Objective of the paper is to delineate the fact that without the notions like translation and comparison, it will be difficult to integrate our literature, culture and civilisation with that of the world. Without translation, it is impossible to taste the fruits of various literatures. Without translation it is impossible to exchange the trends and ideas of various literature with one's own. Although researches have been done on the literature of translation, the study of translation

works does not stop there. Because every theory has a future scope to get evolved. Hence, a discussion of the new perspective will help the study of the new researcher.

### Methodology and Limitation:

In this paper, basically the analytical method has been applied and the topics are narrowed down only to the discussions of the traditions of translation, influence of translation on literature and its importance.

### Source:

In this study, the book entitled "Anubad Parikrama" has been taken as a primary source. Other articles and researches have been gone through as secondary sources.

### Introduction to Translation:

The assamese word 'Anubad' is derived from the mingling of prefix 'Anu', verb 'bad' and pratyay 'ghayan'. The prefix 'anu' refers to 'anukaran' which means, in English, imitation. And word 'bad' means to speak or speech itself. In this sense, the word translation means the repetition of a speech which has been told before. The word 'anubad' has been taken as the equivalent of English word 'translation.' 'Translation' as a word has been coined from the Latin word 'translatum' (trans+latum). 'Trans' means 'par' in Assamese, which means different direction in English. 'Latum' word means to move. In this sense, the word 'translation' means to transfer the elements of one language into a different one.

There are various theories in translation literature. In Sanskrit- English Dictionary by Maniyer Williams, the meaning of translation has been given in this way: "Saying after or again, repeating by way of explanation, explanatory, repetition...translation" (Kataki, Prafulla: Anubad Parikroma, P.1-2). In general, translation means the transmission of thoughts, transmission of language and a process of imitation from one language to another. According to Mahavir Prasad Dwivedi, "Establishing the thoughts is the best translation." (Dwivedi, Mahavir Prasad (trans.): Kumar Sambhabahm, Preface). According to

Sridhar Pathak, "To recreate the thoughts of the original work is called translation." (Pathak, Sridhar: Santapathik, Bhumika) Some critics also denote translation as arts, science and craftsmanship. Western scholar Yujin A. Nida calls translation a science, "When speak of science of translating we are, of course, concerned and with the descriptive aspect, for just as linguistics may be classified as a descriptive science, so the transference of a message one language to another is like wise a valid subject for scientific description." (Nida, E.A.: Towards a Science of Translation, Pyr.3) Scientific study, generally, means application of certain knowledge, practical thoughts and analysis. But same is not the case with translation studies. It is for this reason translation can not be termed as a scientific study. But the process of translation can be termed as scientific. Many people term translation as practical arts. Primary characteristics of arts are imagination, thoughtfulness and recreation of thoughts. All arts and literature are creative. It is in this sense translation work is a creative task. Moreover, it is termed as crafts because the translator has to take the help of the words of both the languages. With this discussion, it can be said that translation is the combination of science, arts and craftsmanship. There three ways of doing translation: a) On the basis of the nature of translation, one way can be literary, paraphrasing, free translation, explanatory and conversion. b) on the basis of the process, it is contextual and textual c) on the basis of the process of language, it is interlanguage, intralanguage and symbolic.

#### **Traditions of Translation in Literature:**

Translation studies as a tradition is as old as literature. In the West it is through Bibel and in the East it is through Bedanta, translation works became prevalent.

#### **Translation in Western Literature:**

The first phase of translation studies continued in the west from the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> century BC to the 5<sup>th</sup> century BC. From 5<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> Century BC it is the second phase and from 19<sup>th</sup> century to the second world war it is known as the third phase. In the first phase it was the religious translation from Hebrew to Yunani and Greek. Second phase covers the translation of Greek and Latin and in the third phase the works of translation flourished unprecedently. The translation works in Greek, Rome, Arab, China and in England give the hints of the translation studies. In 2000 century B C itself, the epic 'Gilgamesh' was translated into Asian languages which is an ancient example of

translation in Greek and Rome. In 240 century B C, Homer's 'Odessey' was translated by Livia Antonica. In 365 century B C Bibel's New Testament was translated by St. Jerome. 72 translators from Hebrew to Yunani translated Old Testament in 370 century B C. 'Arabian Knights' and 'Protagoras' translated by Cicero are the famous examples. Translation work in Arab is remarkable. From 10<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> century scientific and philosophical books are translated into Greek. From 8<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> century, the Sanskrit books of India are translated into Arabic. The "Hirak Sutra" of India is the first book to be translated into Chinese. From 67<sup>th</sup> to 1285 years, the books of Buddhism which are in Sanskrit and Pali translated into Chinese. In this regard we can take the names of Fahiyen and river Tsang. River Tsang has translated 74 books to Chinese continuing the tradition of translation.

In England translation work began in the 9<sup>th</sup> century. King Alfred translated The history of Reed. The English tradition of translation can be divided into two groups. In the first group, Geoffrey Chancer being the first translator of Elizabethan period, translated Wycliff's Bibel and Baceaccio's "Romount of the Rose." After that Lord Berners translated 'Froessart' Carton did 'Morte de Arthur' Thomas Nashe 'Plutarch', Filman Holland did 'Natural History' Alexander Pope did Iliad and Odessey. In the second phase of English translation we can take the names of Robert Graves. Arthur wallet, Mensfind and Norman Cameron whose works have been acclaimed high by the critics of the world.

In Russian language, the greatest translations are C.M. Beauvoire Charles Tomlinson, Harry Chifford etc. W.S Merwin translated the Spanish love stories. And in prose the tradition of translation studies is carried forward by Graves, Philip, Jackson Knight etc. In modern period, such works are seen both in novel and drama. In this regard, the names of Edwin, Henry Reed, Robert Mnuchin are famous.

#### **Translation in the Literature of the East:**

In India, translation starts from Sanskrit language, Gradually, from Sanskrit to other language and from other languages to Sanskrit, translation works are carried on. Specially, the Natyashastra of Bharat Muni and Ramayan, Mahabharat, Vedas are translated into the Indian and International languages 'Astadyai' by Panini Veda, Upanisad, Ritusanghar, Gitgovinda and Shakuntala are translated into German language. Not only in German language but also in French

and Russian language translation become prevalent gradually. In India, translation to Hindi starts from the age of Blaratanady .William Jones translated Persian poems and William Mote translated Bibel into Hindi. At that time itself the books of Urdu and Bengali are translated into Hindi Mahabir Prasad Dwivedi translated 'Bridal Night', Gopinath translated Romeo Juliet and Sridhar Pathak translated 'Goldsmith' into Hindi. Moreover, Shukla translated Arnold's 'Light of Asia', Haeckel's Adison's 'Pleasure of Imagination' into Hindi. In modern times, Maithili Charan Gupta, Nirala, Panta Bachan, Kunwar Narayan, Amrit Pritam, Biswanath Iyer, Bholanath Tiwari are the remarkable names of translation works. At present times, just like the world literature, Punjabi, Gujrati, Marathi, Assamese and many other such literatures have been translated into various languages.

#### **Relevance of Translation in Literature and Its Importance:**

In creative literature the place of translation is very significant. It is because of the translation works, local or native culture can be associated with that of the world. Translation works have helped to bring in the knowledge of world literature to our own. Impact of literature is so widespread because of translation works. It is because of translation, we can read literatures of different languages and the notion of comparative literature become easier. At one point of time, people were not aware of explorable knowledge of other literatures. It is commented by Dr.Sisir Kumar Das. But in Greek, Sanskrit or Hebrew Literature. The influence of literature are available even in Arya culture, Greek and Chinese influence can be seen. It is mentioned by Suniti Kumar Chetarjee- "The ancient Greek, Sanskrit, Avestan, Hebrew and Chinese literature have an uninterrupted history from some 3000 years and more and we are now becoming alive the submerged. Influence of the earlier literature on these" (Bora, Dilip, Tulanamulak Sahitya p.18) Although, reflection of different literatures can be seen in one single literary work itself, there is no doubt that one psychological and mental feature touch everyone .This viewpoint is also succeeded by translation works. It is impossible to learn all the languages of the world by one person. Consequently, translation is the one and only medium of communication to learn the ideas of various literatures. In this regard, world famous books like 'Crime and Punishment', 'The Plague', 'Anna Karenina', 'Pamela', 'Clarisa' are only readable for various countrymen only through

translation. Translation has added to the assets of world literature. Edwin Arnold's translation of Gita, Deuson's translation of Upanisad, Rider's translation of Shakuntala are examples of such significance. Translation had helped not only to spread literature but also to disseminate ideas. According to Dr. Sisir Kumar Das: "The Greatest singular effect of the availability of significant works of literature of different nation is translation is liberalisation and an enlargement of taste." In "Introduction of translation: History and Culture", Bassnett and Lefevere comments: " Translation has been major shaping force in the development of worked literature and no study of comparative literature can take place without regard to translation."(mentioned, p-97-98)

Dr. Banikanta Kakati comments, "the book which is not influenced by world literature is assumed by people as poor." French and British literature have their own rich literature than too greatest literature of other languages are translated to such language quickly. In these country, doors are opened to permit the sparkles of enriched literature.(Kataki, Prafulla: Anubad Parikrama,p.a) Prafulla Kataka has said once "It is no exaggeration to say that without translation there would have been no European Renaissance"

In The Classical Tradition, Gilbert Highet says," Translation does not usually create great works, but it often helps great works to be created." According to Henry Gifford, "Translation is instrument, however, fallible, without which vast area of the world's literature would be lost to us"(mentioned, p.4)

All these comments refer to the significance of translation in literature. It is seen that, 'Translation studies' has now become a discipline in both western and eastern Universities. In India, Haidarbad and Jadavpur University has such disciplines. And in Canada University as well Translation studies as a discipline has been introduced.

#### **Conclusion:**

Translation transforms one's works into various language. Translation has helped in flourishing comparative literature. In contemporary times, translation has enriched the literatures of various languages and it will carry on the same in future as well. Goethe wrote to Carlyle," say what one will of the inadequacy of translation, it remains one of the most important and worthiest concerns in the totality of the world affairs."(p 9.) This

sentence itself claims how translation is the greatest element ever happened to literature.

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