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New Trends in Translation Studies



**R.S. MUNDLE DHARAMPETH
& COMMERCE COLLEGE, NAGPUR (Maharashtra) INDIA**

Pradnya
Co-ordinator,
Internal Quality Assurance Cell
M.G.V.C. Arts, Commerce & Science College
MUDDEBIHAL-586212, Dist: Vijayapur.



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**M.G.V.C. Arts, Com. & Science College
MUDDEBIHAL - 586212**



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CONTENTS

Sr. No.	Title
1	Dalit Feminism in the Translated Works of Marathi Women Writers Dr. Piyushbala
2	Godaan: Criticism of Life Dr. Vinita Virgandham
3	Importance Of Translation In A Multilingual Country Like India Prof. M. I. Biradar
4	Neo-colonialism in Shashi Tharoor's Riot and Show Business Name: Mr. Shmoon Arfan Dr. Smarika Pareek
5	Role of translation in personal growth and personal change Dr. Kirti Harkare
6	Transliteration, Omission And The Factor Of Culture In The Translation: A Study Of Baluta Priyanka Sudarshan Shitole
7	The State of Society Depicted in Mrchhakatika Dr. Kapil R. Singhel
8	Transcribing the Consciousness of Mexico-Spaniard Diaspora in Papeles de Pandora: A Study in Translation Dr. Renuka L. Roy
9	Translating Across The Borders: Humans Vs Machines Prof. Sangita Ghodake
10	Machine Translation in India Dr. Mangesh N Pathak
	प्रज्ञाचक्षू गुलाबराव महाराजकृत 'ईश्वरदर्शनम्' या सूत्रग्रंथाचे मराठी भाषांतर आणि समीक्षण प्रा. कविता होले
12	संस्कृतातील अनुवाद परंपरा प्रो. नंदा ज. पुरी



Importance Of Translation In A Multilingual Country Like India

Prof. M. I. BIRADAR
M.G.V.C Arts, Commerce
And Science College
Muddebihal

India is one of the very few countries in the world that has two different names on its postage stamps and currency 'India' in English and 'Bharat' in Hindi with its 28 recognized languages and 10 scripts. It is one of the most challenging. Yet promising areas of literary activity as well as publishing in India.

Translation is not one thing. Like the Elephant in the story of 'the Six Blind Men and the elephant', it has meant different things different people, at different times, in different cultures and histories. Term 'translation' to any one fixed definition is not productive either. That is because the term 'translation' covers a whole range of widely differing writing practices. Just look at the Plethora of words which refer to the concept of translation in our languages: bhashantar, anuvad, tarjuma, anuvarthan, adhoor (based on), spoorti (inspired by) in Hindi, or the Kannada words-punarlekhana, punarachane, maru kattu, kannadisu, deshaanthara, kaalanthara, or English words like reflection, refraction, adaptation, rewriting, new-writing, transformation, transcreation.

Translation plays a key role in the utilization, addition and expansion of languages. It enriches the target languages and literature written in it. The target language benefits through the absorption of phonology, vocabulary and syntax of the source language. Translation reveals strikingly the likeness and difference between two civilizations because it depends on a double awareness of the cultural context in which the original was produced and of the context in to which it is to be projected.

India is a multicultural multiethnic and multilingual nation. As many as 1,652 languages and dialects are spoken in India. The constitution of India recognizes fifteen major languages. These are Assamese, Bengali, Gujarati, Hindi, Kannada, Kashmiri, Malayalam, Marathi, Oriya, Punjab, Sanskrit, Tamil, Telugu and Urdu (Competition success Review book (1990-596). So, In India translation is a necessity for following reasons.

- The medium of instruction has been changed into regional languages event at the University level.
- Most Universities are now planning to offer special courses in translation.
- The Sahitya Academy, New Delhi, is encouraging translations of regional literature from one language to another and into English.
- Translation from one Indian language into another are necessary for national integration.
- The Urban societies which are multilingual need translations in order to permit people to communicate with and understand each other better.

What is very heartening is that scholars from India such as A.K Ramanujan, Sujit Mukherji, Gayatri spivak and G.N.Devy have made a substantial contribution from an Indian perspective to take the debates in translation forward into the post colonial arena. 'What do translation do?' Which is one more patent and revealing question. For translation, for from being innocent or



benign, is an activity charged with cultural and political significance. How could the British have conquered India without 'translating the Indian Maharaj Sahib, Pundit, Baboo, Sepoy, Loot, Coolie, Ayah, Mussala and curry' The post colonial approach has focused attention on translation as an ideological negotiation between two cultures, often unequal and hierarchically placed.

In India, Translation has been in the post and now, making to much happen forces. Though there have been some efforts to take translation seriously, the attention given to it is not commensurate with the cultural and political significance. Translation has had in ancient, medieval or modern India. Post independent India has had to conduct its business using at a minimum three languages. The Sahitya Academy, set up in 1954 and the National Book Trust are both govt. initiatives to nourish literary translations across states through translations. Private publishing houses are also showing increased interest in translations. States such as Kerala and Maharashtra have a more vibrant translating culture than other states.

Besides the spread of print circuits have established networks through translations. More recently, the electronic media has inaugurated new genres of texts –dubbed programmes, remakes and sub-titled versions-which are functioning powerfully because of translation. In an increasingly globalised India, the English language has put in place a new 'caste' system between the English deficient rural poor and the English proficient, upwardly mobile urban masses. Translation is the only way by which We can hope to bridge this imbalance.

Translation is not new to India because India has always been a multilingual, multicultural and multiethnic . It has always been a target of foreign conquests. So Indians had learn translation unconsciously. Translation in the Indian context is both natural and necessary. It is natural because we do it unconsciously and it is necessary because we are a multilingual nation.

In a multilingual and multicultural like India, translation of words is of paramount importance for exchange of ideas and thoughts among people belonging to different regions, languages and cultural. Without translation it well neigh impossible for the people of India to communicate among them selves. For mass information and technical know how translation from one regional language into another or to nation language. Dilip Chitre writes about translation in his following words:

“It is not only vehicle of reaching out the people but it serves as a bridge among regional languages and people of India”.

Paul st pierre also reiterates the concept of translation as nation building in the following words:

“ The importance of translation can be located in the fact that translation brings the readers, and critics of one nation into contact with those of others, not only in the field of literature but in all areas of human development, science and philosophy, medicine, political science, law and religion.....”

Translation helps in the process of nation building in our country. The language of our administrative communication at the nation level is done either through the official language or in English. It needs to be translated into more than twenty regional languages for the benefit of the people of several states. Similarly the language of court is either English or Hindi and judgment is delivered in one these two languages. There after the judgment is translated into



regional language for the benefit of the common people. For administrative and judiciary purposes, translation is obligatory in India.

In the post colonial phase the onus for continuing in English is ours alone. It is necessary for the purpose of translation, In India it is imperative on the part of a person of one state to translate his words in the native language into either English or Hindi to communicate himself to another person belonging to another regional language. It bridges the cultural and linguistic gap between two languages.

In the present context of national development, translation is considered as an important aspect and component of language learning. As the world has become a global village and internet has facilitated the communication system at the national level, translation helps in bringing out nation integration (in multi lingual countries like India, France, Canada etc.) and at the international level. It helps in improving good relations among neighboring countries and bilateral relationships. In a way, translation helps the people in their effort at nation building and establishing the national identity.

In the concluding, I would like to say the translation scene in India shows a new tendency during the post colonial decades. Most Indian writers contend with each other to translate their works into English or vice versa. So there is an increase in the number of translations from Indian languages into English or English to Indian languages. At present it has become a symbol of status for the Indian writers to translate their works into English.

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