

## **Problems Faced in Translating English Stories into Indian Languages**

**Bharati Narayan Adkoli**

Associate Professor and HOD of English

The National College, Autonomous

Jayanagar, Bangalore-560070

[bharatina@gmail.com](mailto:bharatina@gmail.com)

=====

### **Abstract**

The purpose of this paper is to address some of the challenges and the problems faced in the process of translating English stories into Indian languages. Based on the study of the Secondary data collected through the Internet, Books, Journals related articles, the paper makes an attempt to explain the various facets of the nuances and the characteristic features of 'Translation' as an important genre of literature in general. The paper further reflects upon how the 'Translations' from many languages across the world have enriched the field of English literature with their vivid, versatile, qualitative, quantitative and voluminous contributions. The paper further provides a glimpse into the role and responsibilities of the translators with all their limitations while analyzing the problems and the challenges faced by them with an illustration from a select text. The paper concludes with an endeavor to discuss the possible suggestions to meet the challenges and to solve the problems faced in the translation of English stories into Indian languages.

**Keywords:** English stories, Indian languages, genre, reflect upon, voluminous, endeavor, illustration, versatile.

### **Objectives**

1. To reflect on the significance of 'Translations' as a literary genre and to highlight how 'Translations' in all languages have enriched the field of literature across the world.
2. To discuss the role, responsibilities and requirements of translations and translators in the field of translation.
3. To examine and analyze the challenges and problems writers face in the process of translation from one language to another.
4. To explore the general skills and techniques which are adopted to tackle the problems and to meet the challenges faced in the translation of English stories into Indian Languages.

### **Introduction**

Translation is a creative but complex art. Though Translations are done scientifically, technically, and methodically, based on the basic guidelines of certain theories, translators do adopt required skills consciously and artistically not only to retain the spirit and essence of the original resource text language but also to make the translated work of literature in the target language interesting and sustaining.

The word ‘translation’ is derived from the Latin word ‘translatio’ which comes from ‘trans’ meaning ‘across’+ ‘ferry’ which means ‘to carry’ or ‘to bring’. So, ‘Translation’ means ‘carrying across’ of a text from one language to another. It is a process of the communication of meaning of a source language text by means of an equivalent target language text. In other words, it may be understood as the process whereby a message which is expressed in a particular source language will be linguistically changed, so that the readers of the target language would understand easily. Literary translation focuses on the translation of all genres of literature.

### **Importance of Literary Translations**

Translations have benefitted mankind from time immemorial. Human beings would have been deprived of the knowledge about the greatest pieces of literature of the different period of time. We should be grateful to the invention or evolution or emergence of this art of Translation. It could be a word to word translation, adaptation, interpretation, or equivalent expressions, whatever be the mode, Translations have not only enriched the field of literature with which transcending all the barriers have also added to our experience, influenced and educated our perspective, outlook and understanding of different facets of societies across the world with all their unique features at different levels. They serve as a link between cultures, ages and traditional languages.

Translation is important as people get an opportunity to enjoy reading great literary classics of different places and different periods of time in their native language. Great works of all times are available in translation for every generation. They are ‘Pearls’ from literature. Sophocles, Aristotle, Plato, Homer , Virgil, Dante, Tolstoy, Chekov, Shakespeare, Milton, Wordsworth, Keats, Shelley, Tennyson, Browning, Shaw, Eliot, Frost, Tagore, Aurobindo Achebe, Ngugi, Soyenka, Hardy, Jane Austen, Dickens and many more innumerable literary personalities , our own ‘The Ramayana’, ‘The Mahabharata’ , ‘The Bhagavadgitha’, the sacred books of all great faiths and practices would have remained elusive to those who have passion for literature not only for its aesthetic aspects but also for the universal values the uphold, which are relevant for every generation and every period of time. Translations of great pieces of literature throw light on the essence of man and the strength of mankind. They play a great role in promoting the proper understanding among the people of the world. Tracing the history of the art of translations in India One would come to know that the earlier writers were translators. India is a multi-lingual country, it is a land of diverse languages, cultures, religions, and practices. According to Satchidanandan, “Translation has helped knit India together as a nation throughout her history.” It has been opined by Dr. K. Satchidanandan that the role of translation in achieving National Integration in India is great. Till the nineteenth century, Indian Literature consisted

only of translations, adaptations, interpretations and retellings. Translations of literary works, Knowledge texts, discourses on medicine, astronomy, travel, ship-building, architecture, philosophy, religion, Poetics from Sanskrit, Pali, Prakrit, Persian, Arabic, have enhanced the scope, and range of Indian Literature. They also have enriched our awareness of the world. Most of our ancient writers were multi-lingual. Kalidasa's "Shakuntala" has Sanskrit, and Prakrit songs and poems composed by Saint-poets like Kabir, Basavanna, Mirabai, Gurunanak, Namdev and others have been translated into more than one language.

### **Role and Responsibilities of Translators and Translations**

Translating foreign literature into Indian languages, Indian literature into foreign languages Indian literature in one language into other Indian languages is a creative but complex process. The translator's role is like that of an artist. He needs to abide by two norms: Fidelity and Faithfulness to be shown to the original source language text, in other words the source language text should not get distorted in the process of translation. There needs to be transparency to the extent where translated text would comprise each and every aspect of the source language text. It is equally important to preserve the spirit of the original source language text. A translator should have a mastery over both the languages, and he should be familiar with all the skills, techniques, with a complete understanding of the nuances of these languages. It becomes an obligation for the translator to bring out the target language text in its flawless complete form transcending all the barriers.

### **Problems Faced in the Process of Translation**

English is a foreign language and writers face many difficulties in the process of translation. At its inception, it is the problem of using the language chosen for translation from the source language text. A lack of knowledge of Grammar, Syntax, Vocabulary of source language text and target language text may result in an incomplete and a very misleading version of translation. Problems do arise due to lexical gaps between the two languages because of various facets of differences between the two languages. The Indian writers while translating the English stories may not get equivalent words, suitable to express the ideas thoughts, cultural traits because of the differences that do exist between the two cultures. Sometimes the translators may find the he words in English inadequate to express emotions, ideas, thoughts and Indian sensibility accurately. So, they have to depend upon coining new words suitable to the Indian context. Similarly, a translator has to address the challenges involving the differences in culture, climate and description of nature. There would be difficulty in finding the equivalent literary material of the source language in the target language. Even the use of figurative language used in literature, several layers of meaning in the text may also pose problems for translators. Problems may also arise when the translators fail to find equivalents for certain culture based words, jokes, slangs and colloquial expressions, certain food items, costumes prevailing in a particular society. A translator if takes up a short story *DUSK* written by H. H. Munro with his pen name 'Saki' for translation into one of the Indian languages may come across all the above discussed problems. To find an equivalent expression for the title suitable in the Indian context, creating a desirable required setting, atmosphere, localizing the situation, portraying all the major and minor

characters, conveying the theme in a certain way, organizing the plot in such away where the translation would not omit any detail to make it a successful piece of literature when translated, would really be an interesting and challenging task for any writer. A skilled translator would create a work of art out of translation.

### **Recommendations**

To solve the problems and to meet the challenges in the process of translation writers need o equip themselves with linguistic competence in both the languages. They should have communicative competence, the knowledge of rules, conventions for using skills of language in contexts and at different levels, they should familiarize themselves with paralinguistic rules, they should also acquaint themselves with social structure, values, attitudes... etc.

### **Conclusion**

Despite the problems and challenges which the writers face and experience in the process of translation, 'Translation' has been appreciated as a very strong genre of literature. Translators have been able to rise to the occasion to meet the challenges in the field of translation. Translations do enrich the indigenous literature and knowledge by bringing into our languages great Master of Literature of all languages across the world, extend the scope of languages, strengthen democratic outlook in the field of literature in general.

**Sources:** Google and Wikipedia.