

## Velutha and Ammu

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### Abstract

All human language is based on sound and hearing or in the case of sign language and vision. Most of the language has a written form. Translation is an act of communication. Translation means to copy writing or speech from one language to different language. Translation of literary works like novels, short stories, plays, poem, is considered a literary pursuit in its own right. The translator aims to transfer the text from the source language to the target language so that both the meaning and the writing style remain unchanged. Through this translation we come to understand their culture, religion and their life style. Translating a language is not a easy task and requires more work than a simple transfer of words from one language to another. God of small things is the debut novel of Arundhati Roy. This novel won the Book Prize in 1997. The novel is about male domination, family, it explores the relationship between brother, sister and the question of identity of important to all character in the *The god of small things* but especially to Estha and Rahal.

**Keywords:** Translation, Problems, English Novels, Indian Languages, Sign language, literary pursuit, target language, male domination, identity

### Introduction

Translators faced many problems during translation especially translating English story into Indian language. Translators usually have to deal with six different problematic areas in their work whether they are translating technical document. These include lexical – semantic problems: grammar, syntax, rhetoric and pragmatic and cultural problems. Lexical – semantic problems can be resolved by consulting dictionaries, glossaries, terminology banks and experts. Cultural issues may arise from differences between cultural references, such as names of food, festivals and cultural connotations in general. The translator will use language localization to correctly adapt the translation to the culture targeted. **The God of Small Things** is a story of case exploitation at the centre of which is the sub- text of forbidden love between Ammu and the Untouchable Velutha, and focuses the helpless daughter of the Ayemenem House Ammu with her twin children Estha and Rahel.

## Research question

- How do Dalit people suffer from high class people?
- What is the cause of the male domination?
- How do twins search for their identity?
- What is the role of women in this society?

## Discussion

Arundhati Roy's novel deals not with one reality, but several realities. The God Small Things has been widely hailed as a classic of the post-modernist ethos seeking to explore reality from various angles as seen and experienced by different characters. The novel is set in a small town Ayemenem in Kerala. The novel opens with Rahel's return to Ayemenem after hearing that her twin brother, Estha, has come home. We switch to the funeral of Sophie mol, when the twins are seven years old. Rahel believes that Sophie is awake during her funeral and buries alive. The rest of the family refuses to acknowledge the twins and Ammu. on the train ride back to Ayemenem, Ammu cannot speak except to say "He's dead...I've killed him" Rahel and Estha have not seen each other since Estha was sent away as a child to live with baby in Assam.

Next Chacko invites Margaret Kochamma and Sophie mol to Ayemenem. Chacko, Ammu, Baby kochamma, Estha and Rahel go to pick Sophie and Margaret from airport. On the way two important things were happened one is Rahel sees and calls out to Velutha who is with other communists in the streets. . On their way, they see their servant, velutha marching with a group of Communists. Next is Estha is molested by the concessions man at the movie theatre when they stop to see the movie, "The Sound of Music". Rahel felt left out and forgotten Estha is tormented by thoughts and fears that the man from the theatre will find him. He derives a plan to hide out and live in the deserted history house down the river and invites his sister to join him. The twins find a boat and ask Velutha to fix it for them. Vellya paapen (velutha's father) visits Mammachi's house and claims that Velutha and Ammu are lovers.

Ammu is of a much higher class and Velutha is the lowest of the lows Aka an untouchable. Classes are very important in their society. Mammachi locks Ammu in her room to keep her away from Velutha. Ammu blames Estha and Rahel and claims everything is their fault. Estha and Rahel decide that it was time for them to leave. Sophie mol convinces the twins that they should let her go with them in the middle of the night. The three take off down the river. Unfortunately the boat collides with a log and the boat tips over. Rahel and Estha swim to the other side of the river with no sign of Sophie mol. The twins realize that she has drowned. The twins make it to the History House and decide to sleep there for night. The twins don't realize that Velutha is waiting inside the house for his routing meet up with Ammu. The family finds Sophie's body. Baby kochamma goes to the police station to file a false report claiming Velutha

tried to rape Ammu and kidnapped the kids. The police go to the history house for Velutha. They nearly beat him to death before removing him from the house and taking him into custody. Estha and Rahel witnessed the whole beating. The investigator can tell that Baby Kochamma has no case and in fact filed a false police report. Baby Kochamma tells Estha and Rahel to go along with her story so that Ammu and Baby Kochamma aren't sent to jail. The twins validate her story when they speak to the police. The family attends Sophie's funeral.

Ammu goes to the police station to clear Velutha's name but the police tell her he is already dead. Ammu is sent away to live on her own. Estha goes to live with his father, Baba. Rahel lives with Mammachi and Baby Kochamma.

Few years later Ammu dies at the age of 31 from a lung disease. Rahel goes to the school to study architecture. Rahel moves to the US to marry a man named Larry. Larry and Rahel divorce and Rahel hears that Estha has returned to Ayemenem. Rahel decides to go back as well. Rahel sees Estha for the first time for many years. Estha no longer speaks. Rahel and Estha spend a lot of time together and become incredibly close.

### **Theme of Untouchable**

The idea of untouchability is explored at two levels in the novel. Firstly we have socially untouchables or **Paravan**, who never allowed basic human rights. Secondly, we have metaphoric untouchables in high castes. Here discrimination expresses itself in marginalizing the women in their personal and public life. The community represented in **The God of Small Things** is Syrian Christian. The Christians of Kerala are divided into five churches: Roman Catholic, Orthodox Syrian, Nestorian, Marthoma and Anglican. The narrative belongs to Syrian Christian. In the novel religious differences appear in disagreements between Father Mulligan (who belongs to the Roman Catholic church) and Reverend Ipe (who belongs to the Mar Thoma Church) as well as in Baby Kochamma's conversation with Catholicism and her consequent lack of suitors. The socio-political changes brought about by colonial rule led to upper caste shunning the Syrian Christian. **The God of Small Things** thus refers to the school for "Untouchables" built by the great grandfather of the twins, Estha and Rahel. Later, number of paravas and members of other low caste converted to Christianity, they were made to have separate churches and thus continued to be treated as "Untouchable". After independence, they were denied government benefits created for "Untouchable" because officially, on paper, they were Christian and therefore casteless.

Baby Kochamma's role in the entire Ammu - Velutha episode is sharply portrayed as that of a typical sadist. She seems to derive immense pleasure in seeing the helpless paravan being pushed to the wall and rendered totally defenseless which she condoned and even "facilitated her son Choko's sexual relations with low-caste women workers in pickles factory in the name of 'Men's needs', demonstrates her sorrow and disgust at the unfortunate fact that her daughter had

liaison with Velutha. To the police Baby kochamma reports that an untouchable had forced himself upon her niece Ammu. The dialogue between her and the Police Inspector Thomas Mathew is quite illustrative in this respect with him chiding her for first spoiling “these people, carry them about on your head like trophies, the n when they misbehave, you come running to us for help”.

Velutha, The God of Small Things, the outcast can never co-exist peaceful with the “touchable” communities for as long as the stigma of untouchability is attached to him and countless other like him. Ammu, another “Untouchable” within the “touchable” cannot pursue happiness because doing so threatens the existing order, and the society takes every possible step to stop change.

### Summation

The role of women in this story is very important. All the women character is affected by male domination. The novel is rich with Indian family relationships, social custom and mores, politics, and the most universal of human emotions and behavior. The relationship of the twins in this story is beautifully shaped. Through this novel we come to understand Velutha’s suffering and ill treatment of Baby kochamma towards Dalit.

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