

## **The Role and Scope of Translation Studies in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century**

**Mr Shivnath Kumar Sharma**

*Research Scholar, Pondicherry University, Puducherry*

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**Abstract:** *Translation Studies is not only an interesting but a challenging job also. It is highly skilful action and profession in the Twenty-first century. Translation Practice is an intercultural activity through languages. In this paper, I intend to explore the role and scope of translation in the globalized world. How translators play a vital role to build a bridge between two different cultures, languages and customs. This paper provides a panorama of the many perspectives in which translation is becoming an essential for us and for interdisciplinary studies. How the future of translation is bright and beautiful? Translation studies, theory of translation and courses on translation are introduced and implemented at University level all over the world.*

**Keywords:** *translation studies, language, scope, role, nature, and culture of translation*

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### **I. Introduction**

Translation Studies is an emerging discipline of research and profession in the Twenty first century. It has emerged and flourished as a new field with a lot of ideas springing from anthropology, philosophy, literature, linguistics, literary studies, lexicology, semiotics, computer science and many other fields. Both written and spoken translations have played a crucial role in the inter-human communication throughout history. The term “translation studies” was coined by the Amsterdam-based American scholar James S. Holmes in his paper “The name and nature of translation studies”, this is considered as a foundational text for this discipline. (7) The word translation itself derives from a Latin term meaning "to bring or carry across". The Ancient Greek term is 'metaphrasis' ("to speak across") and this gives us the term 'metaphrase' (a "literal or word-for-word translation") - as contrasted with 'paraphrase' ("a saying in other words"). This distinction has laid at the heart of the theory of translation throughout its history: Cicero and Horace employed it in Rome, Dryden continued to use it in the seventeenth century and it still exists today in the discussion around "fidelity versus transparency" or "formal equivalence versus dynamic equivalence". (6)The first known translations are those of the Sumerian epic Gilgamesh into Asian languages from the second millennium BC. In India, later Budhist monks translated Indian sutras into Chinese and Roman poets and adapted Greek texts. The Bible

### **II. The Nature Of Translation:**

The scope of translation is a bright and beautiful in the coming years because it is the only medium through different people come to know different works. Today many people think that anyone who knows more than one language can become a translator or interpreter. But it is only a half-truth because a good translator must have good background knowledge of both languages, subject knowledge, social and cultural competence and apart from it he/ she need advanced language skills for the medium of communication. Basudeb Chakraborty says that a good translation shows “a spontaneous and creative process of journey of a theme and a meta theme from one linguistic framework to another”. Translation is a production process of conveying meaning and information underlying in the source language into target language with the help of linguistic and cultural convenience. “The fact that we are able to produce equivalent in English for every word does not mean that we can give an adequate translation of the text. Translation implies that we have capacity to enter into the mind, the world, and the culture of the speakers or writers and we can express their thought in a manner that is not only parallel to the original, but also acceptable to the target language”. (A. Duff. 5). We need to be faithful and loyal to the original text while act of translation and it is necessary to focus more on ideas and concepts than its surface meaning of the text. The work of translation requires the theoretical knowledge and understanding of source text and translators bound to make compact relationship between two different domains of knowledge.

### **III. Indian Perspectives: Medieval Examples**

India, a country of unity in diversity with multilingual and multicultural aspects has an aged old history where translation has been worked for a long time and still continues to play a pivotal role. It is very pertinent to talk about Indian perspectives on the translation of classic literature. Indian translation had not in limelight till the 19<sup>th</sup> Century. Throughout the middle ages, translation of Sanskrit's classic like the epics and puranas continued to be retold, adapted, subverted and translated without proper consideration about the formal equivalence. For instance, Kambana Tamil translator, took all freedom while translating Valmiki's *Ramayana*

into Tamil version. He followed the Dravidian epic structure and modified the text according to the taste of readers. There are still some kinds of version among these texts from Valmiki's *Ramayana*, Tulsidas's *Ram CharitaManas* and to folk *Ramayana*. Religious texts have played a great role in the history of translation. One of the oldest examples can be cited from the Old Testament of Bible into Greek in the 3<sup>rd</sup> century. Saint Jerome, the patron saint of translation, produced a Latin Bible in the 4<sup>th</sup> century AD which was preferred a text for the Roman Catholic Church for many years to come. Translation of the Bible was and is controversial question which emerge and re-emerge time to time and this sort of split in ideas create big gulf among Christianity due to the disparity prevails in the versions of the Bible. Martin Luther King Jr. is being the 'first European to propose that one translates satisfactorily only toward his own language' which statement still is true in modern translation theory. The Role of Translation in Literature is vital and pivotal because the importance and flavour of classic works can be reached to a number of readers by means of translation only. If Rabindranath Tagore's *Gitanjali* would not have translated into English and W.B Yeats would have not written preface of it. Could Tagore have received Nobel Prize in 1913? Obviously, no. The role of translation is always great and grandeur. Translation discipline is an attractive and lucrative area for job-seekers and researchers because in the globalized world, translators are in a great demand. It also is present everywhere from electronic media to print media, from national to international and vice-versa, and national to regional languages or vice-versa. One may frankly say that it is necessary at the every steps of career and life because in the world of science and technology advancement, one has to know more than two languages. Still he/ she has to depend on translation works because there are still good and great books which are untranslated. Due this untranslated factor/ reason, the importance and significant of work has not been reached to a wide range of readers. Untranslated words are may be called as 'aporia' which Derrida termed for dead lock of meanings. Is untranslatability a myth or reality? This question often rises in Target source. Untranslatability is a myth because it is a problem of translator but not for act of translation. Sometime it happens what is untranslatable for one translator may be translatable for another. But Roman Jakobson asserts that poetry is untranslatable because he considers that the complete semantic equivalence as a final objective of a translation act which is not possible in poetry. It is relevant here to quote Jakobson's threefold of translation which he proposed in his epoch-making essay "On the Linguistic aspects of Translation": (a) Intralingual translation, or 'rewording' - an interpretation of verbal signs by means of the other signs of the same language. (b) Interlingual translation, or 'translation proper' - 'an interpretation of verbal signs by means of some other language' (c) Intersemiotic translation, or 'transmutation' - 'an interpretation of verbal signs by means of signs of non-verbal sign systems'.

There are two major ways of translation: literary and machine translation where theoretician initiates in both means. There is a big gap between literary and machine translation where NTM, Mysore and others institutions are ready to fulfil a long-felt gap for which teachers, learners, language technologists, newspaper reporters and other media groups have to suffer. Machine translation is a sub-field of computational linguistics that investigates the use of software to translate a text or speech in a very short period of time. It is very useful in the live programme or some international discussion. The arrival of newer centres of language suggests that there is no dearth of economic opportunities for those aspiring to take up translation or interpretation as a full-time profession in language like English, Hindi, Chinese, Japanese, Arabic, Russian etcetera. The main aim of CIIL Mysore is to produce potential and perfect translators rather than simply translators. Awadesh Kumar Mishra, CIIL director, inaugurated the programme and he states to become a "good translator one should have good knowledge, ability to grasp the intended meaning of the source language, knowledge of linguistic languages and cultural practices of the language". Whereas L Ramamoorthy, course coordinator of the programme, said: "To choose translation as one's profession, they should have specialization in that field. As the demand for the course has decreased, CIIL came forward to recognize translation course and make it available for all Indian languages." (July 17, 2013. The Times of India)

Translation is an art and science and it is an age-old process and has continually evolved throughout the years. Translation has built a blocking bridge between two languages, cultures, customs, and civilization. Today it has become the part and parcel of day-to-day life because India, a country of diversity in terms of languages, cultures, costumes, and civilizations where twenty three languages are constitutionally recognized languages and many more still in the awaiting list. That's why, the scope and space of translation is inherent not only in India but also in the world of globalization. Due to globalization, the world has come under an umbrella where translation plays pivotal role in shaping and understanding the world. Without any doubt and dilemma, one can advocate that translation a connecting link between two different natures and cultures. For stances, English is a 'link language', 'lingua franca' and a language for masses. Translation Studies is rapidly prevailing in the globalized world when different lives come under an umbrella. Today it has developed into an independent discipline known as Translatology. The act of translation plays a essential role in order to shape a global world. The text in source language translated into target language is called translation. A source language text is subverted in the process of translation if not perverted. According to Antole France: *Il y a de bells traductions, peut-etre; iln'y en a pas de fideles* (There are perhaps some good translations, there aren't many faithful ones).

Today, Translation has become a big and broad field on the world map where translators have to face two common problems whether he/she concentrates on the content or on the atmosphere of the piece of work while translating a particular text. The contemporary theory of translation often employs a strategic form and understanding of the cultural and political status of society. Culture and civilisation of translated works are seen to engage with all broad areas of political and social concerns of the world as an empire, economics, gender, race, and so forth. According to Eugene A. Nida, in order to present a text to a language whose speakers live in a completely different culture than the speakers of the source language, a translator is permitted to take liberties when interpreting the sentences. Naturally, the gap occurs between source text and translated text because there are some words which do not have equivalent in target language. "Translation is a complex activity. It is so because of the nature of its instrument i.e., language. Language is a technology. It is self-reflexive and self-referential. It is the blue guitar of Wallace Stevens on which things, as they are, are changed upon". (10)

The relationship between words and their meaning is a fascinating one. Linguists have spent a number of years to understand and deconstruct the relationship between words and their meaning which is always fascinating. One cannot wholly express one's feelings and ideas through words because words have no real connection to their meanings or the things they describe but they arbitrariness, according to Ferdinand De Saussure, where he states that words make sense to us only because they are relational. It is important here to put Friedrich Nietzsche's statement where he says: "words are but symbols for the relations of things to one another and to us; nowhere do they touch upon the absolute truth." It is matter of extensively debate and discussion where the idea cannot express in words.

### **Translator Vs Interpreter**

In an age of globalization, technological advancement is cutting all boundaries and sections of society and making a global village and connected village. The emergence of English language as an international language is very powerful weapon where jobs for translators and interpreters are easy and available in the countries like India, China, Japan, and others. Translation and interpretation are two closely linguistics disciplines. On the surface level, the difference between translation and interpreting is only in the medium of expression: the translator interprets written text, while an interpreter translates orally. According to ProdipDutt, a freelance translator: "Both interpreting and translation presuppose a certain love of language and deep knowledge of more than one tongue". One must have strong command over at least two languages- the source language and the target language. (11) Translation is an act of interpretation and recreation as well as generation of the meanings comes out the consequences of interpretations only. Friedrich Nietzsche, a German philosopher says "there are no facts, only interpretations".

### **Translation And The Media**

India is a country of multilingual where translation mill is required especially, when one can talk about the importance of the media. The media is tool for communication and for communication quality, human beings is different from animals. The media acts as watchdog of the society for twenty-four hours and provides us updated news and what is happening in the world and around the world. Translation in the media plays a determining role because by the act of translation, translators translate a piece of news into another language and present it to the mass of people. The media moulds and shapes the people's opinions and behaviour, and politics of one's country as well. Today relevant of media is essential especially in the democratic county like India etcetera. That's why the pertinent of translation is indispensable in the practice of the media in the present scenario.

### **IV. Conclusion**

Therefore, Translation is very necessary for democratization of knowledge, social harmony and peace, and ensuring human happiness in the new world integrated by technology and economy. In brief, English language has become a backbone language so is the translation in the 21th century. As English is for all so 'translation is for all'. "To be a translator, knowing the two languages is not enough. A literary and creative bend of mind is essential." MallikarjunPatil highlights the importance of translation and he points out that adaptation is a "still another mode of translation." (Bassnett) Today why Shakespeare is so famous and fabulous to us because his works have been translated into regional languages. Shakespeare's messages have been reached to the masses of the people translation. Many of his works have adapted for films and TV shows. The translator serves as a mediator of between cultures and systematizes and generalizes the process of translation. A group of individuals, professional translators, linguists, and literary scholars exchange their views on translation and its power to influence literary traditions and to shape cultural and economic identities.

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