

Importance of Translation in the Indian Literary Context

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Introduction

Language is a system of communication through speech and written language is an attempt to represent the spoken language by visual symbols.

Translated works are found in every language. In English, the correspondence between the written form and the spoken form is not consistently maintained. It is therefore necessary for Indian students to make a systematic study of the linguistic codes. Source language target culture, etc and avoid any prejudices arising out of their study of written English.

English as spoken over such a large part of the world that a number of slightly different accents are used by native speakers of the language in the U.S.A., UK, and Australia. Literary works of Indian languages into English is a quite popular phenomenon now-a-day. English is also spoken by educated people all over the common wealth, and a number of foreign accents' have therefore come into existence each showing certain features of the speakers' mother tongue.

English as spoken by educated people in India does not differ radically from native English in grammar and vocabulary, but in pronunciation it is deferent from both British and American English. Even within India there are a large number of regional varieties, each different from the other in certain ways and retaining to some extent the phonetic patterns of the Indian language spoken in that particular region.

Those regional varieties of English India are sometimes not even mutually intelligible. In every region, however there are people who have shaken off the gross features of regional accent and speak a more "neutral form of Indian English. It is also true that in every region there are good speakers of English and bad speakers of English, the terms 'good' and 'bad' referring to the degrees of approximation to native English and standard Indian English and also to qualities of clear, effective and intelligible speech. It would however be better to aim at international intelligibility, which helps a lot in translating regional works into English.

Language learning involves the reproduction by the learner of the Linguistic codes used by other human beings around him. In the learning of a second language, however, the habits already acquired in connection with one's first language stand in

one's way. Each language has a different system, and in foreign language learning one tends to hear and speak on the basis of the system of one's own languages. One has therefore to resist the full of the mother language and reorganize one's habits of hearing and speech.

Trends of Translation

If a particular language becomes popular, the important literary works are translated. Now English has become a universal language so people wish to translate the regionally popular literary works into English. As a result of this, translating one language into English is considered prestigious.

There are no fixed theories of translation as such, but the practice of translation system has brought out some theories which are as follows:

According to **A.L. Smith**

“Translation is to change into another language retaining as much of the sense as one can: for some of the regional effect is almost always lost”.

According to **T. David Gordon**:

“Translation theory shores a number of concerns with what is commonly called ‘Communication theory’

According to **Webster Dictionary**:

“Translation is an art that involves the recreation of a work in another language for readers with a different background”

The other definitions are:

“The rendering of something into another language from the original”

Dr. V.K. Gokak is of the opinion that “a creative translation of an Indian classic is considered a great contribution to the world Literature” He further says that, “Indian literature has a great tradition in each one of our languages, reaching back to a thousand years and more. There are a number of masterpieces in each one of these languages.

They are locked-up treasures to readers who do not know the language in which they are considerably enriched if there are available in translation for all to read. The world outside which imagines that India is a multilingual country, in which the slender sense of unity is lost in a bewildering diversity will also realize the essential principle of unity that runs through all the literatures if these works are available in trans-written.

It would be far different if our universities were interested in a programme of this kind. Each linguistic region has its own universities today which are the custodians

and promoters of its culture. They can come together and draw up a list of works which deserve to be translated into English.

Who will undertake to translate these works into English? Work of this kind requires enthusiasm as well as mature experience. A research student and a research supervisor can bring these qualities to the work.

It is obvious that only the student who is specialized in English language and literature is capable of such a task. Many Sanskrit plays, poems and prose works have been translated into Sanskritised English by several professors of Sanskrit. It is only the students who has specialized in English and has studies Sanskrit or a modern Indian language well that can do justice to such work.

Classics of Different kinds

What kind of Indian Classics do we have in view when we think of translation? There is considerable scope for choice in this field? There is an epic composition, based on ancient myth and legend presenting a sustained allegory of the political history of the times in which the poets lived or a panorama of social life-like the 'Mahabharat of Nanaya in Telugu, Pampa in Kannada and Saraladas in Oriya.

There is didactic or Philosophic poetry like the "Viveka Sindhu in Marathi. There are the devotional lyrics of great poets, Tukaram, in Marathi, Kabir and tulsidas in Hindi, The Vachanakara and dada 'Schols in Kannada and haitanya in Bengali.

There are poetic biographic of saints in all the languages by biographers like Premanand in Gujarathi, Harihar in Kannada, SaraswatiGangadhar in Marathi. There are Prabhandas in prose of verse dealing with contemporary political them like "Chikadevarajavamshavali in Kannada.

There is considerable literature reflecting the attempt at synthesisingHinduism and Islam especially in the North Indian languages. Satirical and neo-classical poetry was composed in all these languages towards the end of the medieval period.

Significant contribution

It may not be research, but it is most certainly significant contribution to knowledge which a considerable part of the research work carried on at present under many English departments in India.

We have also to remember that the critical abilities which are called forth by any genuine piece of research in English are inevitably involved in an activity of this kind. Wide scholarship is needed on the part of the student to select for translation a

work in Sanskrit or in a modern Indian language which bears translation and deserves the honour.

The students and teachers of English Literature were the pioneers of the Indian literary renaissance precisely because the students and professor of the Indian languages wandered being incapable of sensing the quickening influences around them.

Another is that the work of translation brings into play the relative abilities of the student as well. This is even more relevant because if the translation is successful, it is an achievement of creative expression in English. It is expected that only students with a creative as well as critical turn of mind will choose to work in this field. There is a course in creative writing. One can translate prose romances, novels, plays, essays and travelogues, but not poetry. Even moderate success in translation will mean a significant contribution to the library of world literature in English.

Conclusion

If one were to state briefly the results of linguistic study, one would certainly have to refer to the importance of context. The fundamental communicative unit is the sentence, not the word. Individual words removed from the context of a sentence rarely communicate effectively so, we must be aware of the fact that a given word can signify a number of different things in a number of different contexts.

Works Cited

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