

THEORY AND PROBLEMS OF TRANSLATION STUDIES: A STUDY ON LANGUAGE ISSUES AND CHALLENGES

Dr. Dipti Ranjan Maharana

Lect. in English

U.N. (Auto) College of Sc. and Tech., Adaspur

Cuttack Odisha

Abstract:

Human beings everywhere on the earth speak and communicate their feelings in several and various languages and dialects, which differ from community to community and from region to region. Translation can fill this gap effectively and promote inter-state, international and trans-cultural communication. Historically languages are transmitted from one generation to another by habit formation and not by heredity. Even though the term “translation” cannot be defined precisely, scholars and theorists have attempted to elucidate it. In the twentieth century, a radical change has occurred in translation theory and practice as new trend of communication has developed these days. Many theoreticians, scholars, scientists and psychologists have suggested various principles of translations. Translation supports the basic purpose of interaction as well as communication. These sorts of translations have become the aim of the interpretation because of the basic needs towards language and cultural diversities. For instance Casagrande (1954) provided the subsequent classification of translations directed towards purpose. The translation problem is more of an aesthetic problem than a purely linguistic problem. Literary translation isn't just a replication of text in another verbal system of signs. It's a replication of an ordered sub-system of signs associated with a language to a different correspondingly ordered sub-system of signs being associated with a related language.

Keywords: translation, language, dialects, communication, interaction

Introduction:

People everywhere in the world speak and communicate their feelings in several and various languages and dialects, which differ from community to community and from region to region. Interaction and mutual understanding cannot happen among different communities speaking thousands of varied, mutually unintelligible languages throughout the planet; this creates problems of communication and hence the need arises for communication among different linguistic communities of the planet through an alternate means for conveying information from one language to a special.

Dr. Johnson defined translation as involving the tactic of “change into another language, retaining the sense” which is indeed a basic objective. Modifying this statement A.H. Smith

maintains: “To translate is to vary into another language retaining the utmost amount of the sense together can.” J.C. Catford defines translation from a linguistic point of view:

TRANSLATION: Definition and Relevance

Translation could even be defined as “the replacement of textual material in one language (SL) by equivalent textual material in another language (TL).” The performance of translation work is an effort to mediate between different cultures, languages, texts and nationalities. Hence “translation as an activity means moving from one language to a special—which again means the replacement of textual material in one language by appropriate textual material from another language.” Translation has become an utmost necessity for the tutorial, social, economic, scientific, technological and political developments at the worldwide level for maintaining international and mutual amity. Each community has its own language and each language has its community and its own cultural and linguistic heritage. In this way translation could also be viewed as a way for initiating and promoting cross-cultural communication. During this manner translation can play a crucial role in bringing closer divergent socio-cultural groups by enabling mutual appreciation of their cultures and knowledge.

Thus a translator renders a noble service to mankind by providing access to texts, of eternal value, just like the Vedas, The Upanishads, The Meemamsas and Darshana Sastras, The Geeta, The Bible, The Koran and each one other literatures of wisdom, knowledge and science; and each one these works are made accessible to humanity solely through their translation into different languages of the earth. The credit for this dissemination goes to the translators and their sponsors.

Its importance with reference to India is especially mentioned here as follows:

1. In the words of K.M. George “Modern transport and communication technology have advanced such tons in recent years that the planet has shrunk into a village. Hills and valleys, waters and forests have lost their significance as barriers thanks to the advanced means of transport. But languages are still barriers in communication and thus the answer remains translations”. Hence the need for translation is imminent.
2. India is believed to possess 1652 mother tongues, of which thirty three are spoken by people numbering over a lakh. The Indian languages now in use have evolved from different languages families corresponding more or less to the varied ethnic elements that have been inherited from other culture and regions.

Translation is one of the tools which can effectively contribute to this goal. Translation in India could also be a socio-cultural necessity for political and ideological integration.

3. The English has been recognized as an Associate Official Language by the Constitution of India in view of its role in mass communication and its function as a medium of instruction for education and research. it is also been the language of Science and Technology, international diplomatic relations, trade and commerce. Hence there is a

requirement for translation of data and texts from English into Indian languages and vice-versa.

4. The practical utility and importance of translation has been growing in India for the subsequent reasons:
 - i. At the University level the medium of instruction is modified into regional languages in some faculties. As variety of source texts are available in English alone in many disciplines, translating these texts into regional languages is imperative not just for enriching and expanding the regional languages but also for meeting the wants of upper education. Many of the schools have either introduced, or are getting to introduce special courses in translation.
 - ii) The press and media are rapidly expanding in regional languages. The journalists who work under deadlines need to remember of translation process, as they need to translate and– edit national and international news available largely in English, and make the knowledge accessible to people with no loss of your time.
 - ii. The multi–lingual urban societies need translation as a tool for simpler and meaningful communication. Otherwise there's an opportunity of confusion and mutual distrust among different sections of society.
 - iii. With a view to promoting cultural harmony the Sahitya Academy, New Delhi, is encouraging translations of regional literatures from one language to a different and into English and vice-versa.
 - iv. With the fast growth of data technology and Internet media, translation has become an immediately felt need.
 - v. As the tutorial technology, which is out there only in English, has been introduced in class education; and therefore the source in educational technology which are available only in English, and that they are to be translated into all the regional languages of India.
 - vi. In a democratic country like India legislative bodies like parliament and state assemblies do transact the affairs within the national language Hindi and also in other regional languages.

During this context automatic processing and MT became the necessity of the hour. Hence, the methods of sophisticated machine translations need to be developed.

- vii. There may be a necessity to market translation as a topic from lyceum level to post–graduate level, so on enable the scholars to creatively interact while engaged in translation.

In view of the above–mentioned factors, a study of the practice and problems of translation acquires significance. it's going to not be out of place to quote here the views of Alien Tate who emphasized the inevitability of translation in spite of its problems and impossibilities.

Tate observes: “Translation is forever impossible and forever necessary.”

Method:

In the twentieth century, a radical change occurred in translation theory and practice as new concepts and communication had developed. variety of theoreticians, scholars, scientists and psychologists have suggested various principles of translations. Accordingly, differing types and methods of translations are explored. a number of them are briefly discussed below:

Types of Translation:

There are different types of translation. Translation supported purpose: These sorts of translations have the aim or end of the interpretation because the translation becomes the basic need. For instance Casagrande (1954) provided the subsequent classification of translations directed towards purpose.

- i. Pragmatic translation: It refers to the interpretation of a message with attention on accuracy of the knowledge meant to be conveyed within the SL form. Translators haven't any concern but conveying information within the Second Language (e.g., translation of technical and legal documents)
- ii. Aesthetic – poetic translation: during this translation, the translator takes into the account of the consequences, emotion and feelings of the first language rendition, the aesthetic form (e.g. Sonnet, couplet, Dramatic monologue) employed by the first author also as any information within the message (e.g., Translation of literary texts)
- iii. Ethnographic Translation: Its purpose is to explicate the cultural context of the source and therefore the target iv. Language versions- With this object, translators need to be sensitive to the way–words that are used
- iv. Linguistic Translation: It concerns with equivalent meanings of the constituent morphemes of the second language and with grammatical form (e.g., Machine translation).
- v. Phonemic translation: This attempts to supply the SL sound within the TL while at an equivalent time producing a suitable paraphrase of the sense. Lefevere involves the conclusion that although this works moderately well within the translation of onomatopoeia, the general results clumsy and sometimes barren of sense altogether.
- vi. Literal translation: during this the stress on word–for–word translation distorts the sense and therefore the syntax of the first. vii. Metrical translation: Here the criterion is adopted to breed the metre of the SL text. this is often possible when the two languages have shared the metre.
- vii. Poetry in Prose: during this type Lefevere concludes that distortion of the sense, communicative value and syntax of the SL text results from this method, although to not an equivalent extent like the literal or metrical sorts of translation.

This is an empirical study based upon the interpretation of select literary texts in English translated into Telugu. The texts (short stories in English) selected and their translations are given within the following

TABLE – I

Source Language – English		Target Language – Telugu	
Author	Title	Translator	Title
Bhabani Bhattacharya	A Moment of Eternity	N.Venugopal	Ananta Kshanam
R.K.Narayan	Another Community	V. V.B.Rama Rao	Maroo Jaathi
Mulk Raj Anand	The Golden Watch	Kakani Chakrapani	Bangaru Gadiyaaramu
Anita Desai	The Accompanist	A.Subba Rao	Pakka Vaadyagaadu

In addition to the above, two English novels translated into Telugu are selected for this study. They are given in the following Table – II

TABLE – II

Source Language – English		Target Language – Telugu	
Author	Title	Translator	Title
R.L. Stevenson	Treasure Island	Nanduri Rama Mohana Rao	Kaanchana Dweepam
Mark Twain	Adventures of Huckleberry Finn	Nanduri Rama Mohana Rao	Huckleberry Finn

RESULT:

(i) Translator should possess equal insights into which the text of SL is translated from which the interpretation is to be made and therefore the target language to which the interpretation is to be done. If the translator doesn't have command over both the languages and therefore the words don't "obey his call" and lacks a "feel" of the language, his translation might not be put up to the mark. Language is essentially a culture oriented and thus translators face the matter of translating certain culture based words into another language with different culture. Colloquial expression, slang proverbs and a few dialectical expressions are difficult to translate and therefore the equivalence of words in two or more languages is tough to determine.

(ii) It is straightforward to translate from one Indian language into another Indian language because the cultural ethos is more or less is common. But the interpretation from an Indian language into English may be a hard task and problematic one. for example, in Indian languages there are honorific terms of address indicative of the social distance between the speaker and addressee, but they are doing not have equivalents in English then create problems in translation Meeakshi Mukherjee makes an apt observation on this subject. consistent with her, "The act of translation is voluntary, that's the fabric has been chosen by the translator himself and therefore the first cause may be a compelling desire to recreate.

CONCLUSION:

"The translator may be a writer within the language during which he's translating that's not merely competent but creative". Stressing upon the most complication and problems that arise in translation as G.N. Devy mentions: due to its bilingual involvement, translation poses highly complicated problems before the literary theorists. the foremost complicated and defeating problem is, what makes an honest translation "good?" While it's also difficult to mapped out such a problem in reference to poetry or fiction, there are at least some attempts to pressure that aesthetics of literature are often regarding some criteria as "organic structure", "relevant form", "complexity", or "imagination". The translation problem is more of an aesthetic problem than a purely linguistic problem. Literary translation isn't just a replication of text in another verbal system of signs. It's a replication of an ordered sub- system of signs with during a language to a different correspondingly ordered sub-system of signs with during a related language.

Reference:

- Bassnett , S. 1980. Translation Studies. London, Methuen
- Catford, C. 1965. A Linguistic Theory of Translation, London: Oxford University Press, p.20.
- Casagrande. 1954. The Ends of Translation, (International Journal of American Linguistics p.20
- Das, B.K. 1998. The Horizon of Translation, New Delhi: Atlantic Publishers

- Eugene A. Nida, A Framework for the Analysis and Evolution of Theories of Translation. (Leiden: Drill, 1974)
- George, K.M. 1998. Translation From Periphery to Cent restage, New Delhi: Prestige Books
- Jacobson, R. 1966. On Linguistic Aspects of Translation. New York: Oxford University Press
- Manorama Year Book, 2003: pp.524 – 527
- Mukherjee, M. 1981. Transposition of culture, Cygnus 2: 2
- Prabhakar Rao, S.S.: Translation From Periphery to Centresta.ge, (New Delhi: Prestige Books
- Savory , T.1959. The Art of Translation, London: Jonathan Cape
- Verma, S.K. 1998. Translation From Periphery to Centre stage, New Delhi: Prestige Books