



A STUDY ON TRANSLATION WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO COMPARATIVE LITERATURE

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ABSTRACT

The etymological meaning of the word 'translation' is changing a 'text' from one language to another. The word 'anu' means later and 'wad' means to speak. Therefore it refers to speak the same text in another language. 'Translation' is a Latin word which consists of two word 'trans' and 'latum'. The literary meaning of translation is transformation which is seen to be a very easy job and anyone who knows more than one or two language can engage himself as a translator. But in practical sense the task is not so easy. It is a very hard task and as such, only the expert on different languages may not be able to engage in such job. Even the translation of creative literature is too hard to implement in real sense.

Translation is a branch of applied linguistics and as such the translator has to well verse in both the formation of language as well as the vocabulary, phonology, morphology and syntax of a particular language. As such the translator had a good exercise to do before he joins his assignment as a translator. This paper deals with translation with reference to the study of comparative literature.

Key words: Translation, Comparative literature, Transformation, Recreation etc.

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Introduction:

Translation means transfer of a message from one language to another equivalent language. From the etymological meaning translation means repetition of a statement in another language. In Sanskrit English dictionary Monier Williams used the word translation in the sense of repetition. According to him “*Saying after or again, repeating by way of explanatory repeating.....translation.*” (Sanskrit-English Dictionary)

Translation is the noun form of Translate which is originated from Translatum is the combination of both ‘trans’ and ‘latum’. Therefore, the word translation means ‘transfer of language’, change of language, transformation of language etc.

Translation is a hard task and only the knowledge of more than one language cannot enable one to engage into translation job. The process of translation in literature had a great tradition in the history of literature. Even the ‘world literature’ concept of Gyete had its influence in the process of translation. Translation helps the living spirit universal thoughts bring to light by different authors of the world. Translation brings nearer the original author and the translator within the two different languages, two different style, two different types of aesthetic taste and two different types of historical cultural and social tradition.

According to ‘Sabdartha chintamani’ the term translation may be defined as ‘Jyatharthyaya pratipadana’ i.e. to repeat the same as said earlier. The ancient education policy was based on oral tradition where the teachers memories their thought through oral transmission. The Brahman also agreed with the term translation as ‘repetition of message as said earlier’. According to *Aiteriya Brahman* it is said “*Yad wasi preditayam anubratyad anyasaiwainam uditanuwadinaṁ kurjat.*” (v. 2/15)

In the same way brhदारanyak upanisad used the term in the same consequence. Accordingly

“*Tad etad ewaisa devi бага anubadati*

Stunayintuh da da da eti”(v. 5/2/3)

In *Nyayasutra* it is defined as ‘*bidhibihitasyanubachana anubadah*, (v 2/1/65). Therefore there is no difference between translation and repetition of a statement quoted earlier. In Sanskrit literature the word translation (anubad) has been used in different places in literary context.

J.C. Catford has defined translation from the linguistic point of view and said- ‘*The replacement of textual material in one language by equivalent textual material in another language.*’ (Catford, J. C. A Linguistic theory of Translation, p.20)

U.A. Nida gives emphasis on the practical utility of translation and his concept has been elaborate in two essays, i.e. ‘Science of Translation’ and ‘Bibel Translating’. According to him- ‘*Translation consists in producing in the receptor language the closest natural equivalent to the message of the source language, first in meaning and secondly in style.*’ (quoted from ‘Essays on comparative Literature and Linguistic’, ed. by G.S. Amur and his associates, p- 47)

Bholanath Tiwari, a famous linguist of India, who elaborated about the translation of Indian language. According to him – ‘*Translation is a process of expression of ideas of one language with equivalent and simple expression into another language.*’ (Anubad Bigyanan, P.17)

Purpose of the study:

The main purpose of the study is to focus about the translation and its application in national integration and international understanding. Translation is

a great challenging job and it has been able to attract the new generation for its socialization as well as increasing study habit and future engagement. This study will focus about the future prospect of international brotherhood.

Scope of the study:

There is a greater scope of translation studies as different universities of India had opened degree or diploma courses of translation studies and it attracts the new generation for translation works. Different public and private organizations required translator as public relation officer, publicity officer etc. which also attracts the new generation.

Methodology:

The investor adopts descriptive as well as analytical method for preparation of the paper.

Review of literature:

Amiya Dev had edited a book entitled 'The Aesthetics of Translation' (1992) from Jadavpur University, Calcutta where different aspects of translation have been discussed. G.S Amur and his associates had edited 'Essay on Comparative Literature and Linguistics' (1984), published from New Delhi, where linguistic aspects of comparative literature and translation has come to light. Malik, G.R and Amin Mohamad had prepared the book on the 'Approaches to Literary Translation' (2002) from Srinagar, where the ethics of translation as well as its different aspects has been discussed. 'Approached to Translation' (1981) written by Newmark, P. and published from Oxford is also one of the good work about translation. Another book 'Translation Across Culture', (1987) published from New Delhi and 'The Translator Art', (1987) published by Penguin are two important books on translation.

Indranath Choudhury had edited a book 'Aspects of Comparative Literature', (1981), published from New Delhi and his own book 'Comparative Indian Literature', (1992) published from New Delhi are two most important books in this field. Another book prepared by Amiya Dev entitled 'The Idea of Comparative Literature in India', (1989) published from Calcutta, along with jointly edited book with Sisir Kumar Das entitled as 'Comparative literature: theory and practice', (1989), published from Shimla are two very important books in this field.

In Assamese Prafulla Katoky had prepared, 'Tulanamulak Sahitya Aru Anubad Bichar', (1989), Nirajana Mahanta Bezboras 'Anubad Kala' (1997), 'Patabhumikat Tulanamulak Sahitya', (2002). Karabi Deka Hazarika's 'Tulanamulak Sahitya Aru Anubad Kala', (2003), and Prafulla Kumar Nath had prepared 'Tulanamulak Sahitya: Bichar Aru Bisleshan' (2005), 'Tulanamulak Sahitya: Tatta Aru Proyug' (2014), 'Bharatiya Sahityar Tulanamulak Adhyayan' (2019) are some works in this field. 'Anubad Bijnan' prepared by Bholanath Tiwari, 'A Linguistic Theory of Translation' by J.C. Catford, 'Essays on Comparative Literature and Linguistics' edited by G.S Amar and Others are some important works about translation. Research journals were also published from different publications such as 'International Journal of Translation', Bharati publications, Delhi, 'Indian journal of applied Linguistics' Zahri Publication, Delhi and 'Jadavpur Journal of Comparative Literature' Jadavpur University, Kolkata, for developing research in this field.

Importance of Translation:

The world is changing rapidly and as such, translation has become very interesting throughout the world. As the concept of 'world literature' has been

increasing, the readers are very anxious to know about the taste of world literature and as it is not always possible for read the same in its source language, translation becomes an urgent need for the global world.

Translation helps one to know about the changing trends of literature, culture and society. It also enable us to know about the progress of science and technology, as well as development of research and investigation within the world. In such concept Sisir Kumar Das remarks:

‘The greatest singular effect of the availability of significant works of literature of different nations in translation is a liberalization and enlargement of taste.’ (Dev, A & das S.K. (ed.) Comparative Literature: Theory and Practice, p.7)

Translation opened the door and windows of the world and makes us enable to know about the progress of literary thinking globally. It also enables us to know about the change of literary trend as well as literary genre accordingly. It also introduces us with different literary style of the authors throughout the world.

Source Language and Target Language:

As translation is the transfer of a text from one language to another, it requires two different languages for the process of translation. The first language which is selected for translation is ‘source language’ and the other language into which the translation is done is called ‘target language’ or ‘receptor language.’ When the matter of a source language is transferred to a target language, the process of translation come-out.

In translation the message of source language is transferred to the target language which brings nearer the author to the translator between two different languages. Every language has its own form and structure along with morphology, phonology, syntax, phrases

and idioms. So the translator must be familiar with the formation of both source language as well as target language. Therefore, in translation, it is a very hard job for the translator for literal translation other than explanatory or concise translation according to the need of the purpose.

Translation and Comparative Literature:

The new knowledge and thought that is spread throughout the world can only be tested through the help of translation. That is why the utility of mass-communication and public relation translation had been getting preference within the scholars and educated people of the world. In this context comparative literature gives emphasis on the art of translation to a great extent. Sisir Kumar Das also observed:

‘The greatest singular effect of the availability of significant work of literature of different nation is translation in a lateralization and an enlargement of taste.’ (Dev, A. & Das S.K.(ed.) Comparative Literature: Theory and Practice, p.7)

Gilbert Highet admits that, ‘In general translation do not produce great work, but it always helps in produce great work.’ (Highet, Gilbert: The Great Classical Tradition). Henri Gifford thinks that, ‘many world literature couldnot survive without translation.’ In this context the comment expressed by Bassnett and Lefevere is remarkable. According to them-‘*Translation has been a major shaping force in the development of world literature and no study of comparative literature can be take place without regard to translation.*’ (Bassnett and Lefevere: Introduction to translation: History and Culture, p.2)

Translation opens the doors and windows of mind and introduces the reader with the external world. According to Lefevere-‘*Translation is not a just windows opened*

on another world or some such pious platitudes. Rather, translation is a channel opened ... through the foreign influences can penetrate the native culture, challenge it and even contribute to subverting it.) (Lefevre, Andre: Translation: A source book, p.2)

Translation had been taking major place and it played the important role in comparative literature. The concept of world literature could be possible for translation only.

Every language has some own internal force, due to some idiomatic form of language. Therefore, translation may not be possible of particular language without of vast knowledge of a particular language, its syntax and vocabulary. At the same time a translator must be acquired with the formation of a particular language and its idiomatic nature along with the cultural context within a particular text. The translator must be well-versed not only with the source language as well as the target language, but he must know the social folk-custom, rites and rituals, religious tradition, life-style and any other things related with everyday life.

A.F Tytler had fixed three rules for the translator in his famous book 'Essay on the Principle of Translation', According to him

a) That the translation should give a complete transcript of the ideas of the original work.

b) That the style and manner of writing should be the same character with that of the original.

c) That the translation should have all the case of the original composition.

But in real meaning, in the process of translation it is not possible to follow all the instruction given by Tytler.

Translation plays an important role in bringing the thought and feeling, ideology, emotion and intellect from source language to target language.

Therefore translation is very important in comparative literature. Translation is a kind of art which introduces the entire quality of aesthetic beauty from source language to target language. In this context the 1st language has been identified as source language and the other as target language. In translation the translator must have knowledge about both the source and the target language.

It is important that the translator must know both the 'source language' as well as the 'target language' for translation work. But when we are going to translate creative literature, we have to be aware about the word and its meaning, writing style, phrases and idioms, cultural context of a particular text of source language as well as target language.

Every literature has their own style of writing. In case of creative literature, the translator must have creative talent. Alexander pope while he translated the famous work of Homer's 'ILIAD' into English, he mentioned – 'The first and foremost duty of translation is to keep the original text unchanged and to produce the same in text in front of the readers.' On the other hand Jonson had mentioned that, 'a translator is to be like his author. It is not his business to excel him.'

Translation is a complex art and to be skilled in this art one must have knowledge of more than one language, ability to work hard, strong mental ability and continuous effort. It is not so easy to keep the original beauty intact of source language in the target language. The responsibility of the translation is much more than the original author without changing the emotion and feeling of the original author and to produce the same in the target language among the readers, the translator must have special artistic talent and creativity. Otherwise the translation will not be able to touch the heart of the reader and get

response from them. In this context a French critic remarked- 'a women may be beautiful or faithful, but not the two at the same time.' (Maik G.R & Amin, Mahamad; Approaches to literary Translation, P.60)

It is a very hard job for a translator to keep the cultural tradition and social norms, rites and rituals intact in translation. The success of a translator depends upon the ability to keep the original beauty of the author intact in translation too. Sometimes the artistic talent of a translator made the translation so interesting, so that, it reads like an original work. For example, Ananda Chandra Agarwala, the Assamese romantic poet translated a large number of English poetry into Assamese, which tested as the sweet as original.

The success of a translator depends upon his ability to keep the original work intact in its translation. The translator while translating the original text into target language, the linguistic characteristics, its resourcefulness and its idiomatic style should keep equally similar to the original. According to Semuel Butler, 'the genius of the language into which a translation is being made the first thing to be considered; if the original was readable, the translation must be so too.'

But in practice it is seen that the text of source language has completely changed in the target language. Therefore, some critic had advised not to translate a book which is hard to translate. A translator needs good practice and training for performance in the field of translation. But it needs inborn talent and author it practice or training becomes useless.

Translation has been termed as recreation, where the translator digest the original matter in his own language. In this context Ezra Pound has termed translation as the 'rebirth of

literature'. Translation is an applied art and it is the branch of applied linguistics.

Translation of Poetry:

The translation of creative literature is a very hard job. Many a critic admits that translation of creative literature like poetry is impossible. The translator must himself be a poet to translate poetry by keeping the internal feeling and emotion of the poet intact. To keep the emotion and feeling, structure and sentiment along with the style of the original author, the translator must himself be experienced with similar thought and emotion. The literal translation of poetry may not be able to keep the original beauty in the target language for which freedom of translation is necessary. It is like just a recreation in the target language. Even a perfect poet is unable to translate a poetic work of his own to a target language. For example, Rabindranath Tagore himself was a creative translator, but while he translated his own works into English language, it changed its original lucidity in target language. It is very difficult to keep the epic beauty and sweetness of the source language while translating a creative literature.

Conclusion :

Translation is the process of transfer a particular text from one language into another language. The translator must be well-versed in both the source language as well as the target language. The word translation (Anubad) is found in ancient Sanskrit literature which indicates the process of transfer of messages from one language to another language. The research of U.A. Nida has brought about a change in the process of translation. Bholanath Tiwari and others had studied the problems of translation of poetry as well as practical problem in this regard. Translation as a branch of applied linguistics it studies about morphology, phonology, vocabulary and syntax. A

translator must know about the formation of a particular language along with the sociological and cultural context of a society, while engaged himself in the job of translation. Different journals have been published for popularizing translation nationally and internationally. Translation of creative literature is a very hard job. It is very helpful for study of comparative literature.

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