

Translation and Problems in Translating Poetry

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Translation has become a sole discipline and much in use in every sphere of activity. Though the translations are many but the appraisals of art of translator are fewer in proportion. The primitive state of translations is characterized by the informative aspect of the text. At all the times and in spaces, translations have been made for purely utilitarian purposes and with no other thought in the mind of translation than to remove the barrier that is placed by a difference in languages between the writer and reader. Though, translation seems to be a difficult task but compromise and efforts make it possible.

“Translation, it seems to be a transposable of head, like the one we come across in Vikramaditya’s tale; the translator supports another writer’s head on his trunk.” Here

- T = Text – i.e. to read text carefully.
- R = Reference – the relevance of given subject.
- A = Articulation of SL and TL.
- N = Nuances i.e. – same meaning of words.
- S = Style i.e. – the style in SL of TL must be same.
- L = Linguistic level – to increase the level of knowledge for readers.
- A = Accuracy – Accurate meaning.
- T = Target language – the emotions in TL should be relevant in SL.
- I = Indifference – there shouldn’t be discrepancy between the feeling of SL and TL by translator.
- O = Orthodoxy i.e. traditional specialization must be kept in mind.
- N = Nearness – compromise with original language.

Variorum, Vol.-01, Issue-II, November 2010

It means translation is a compromise, effort to be actual and idiomatic. What is generally understood as translation involves the rendering of a Source Language (SL) into the Target Language (TL). So, to ensure that the surface meaning of the two will be approximately similar and the structure of the SL will be preserved as closely as possible but not closely that the structures of TL will be seriously distorted. The translator measures the Linguistic competence of translation by means of TL product.

Translating is not pouring wine from one bottle into another substance and can't be separated easily. Translating is more than a triple matching of words, grammatical structures etc. Translation has always been adjunct of words, grammatical structures etc. Translation has always been adjunct or creative writing itself, since, it depends upon two activities i.e. reading and writing. The reading of the source text provides the translator with the context that includes knowledge of original devices. A writing of target language requires the translation to make up a new form into the context. All the authorities of translation must preserve the original matter and form of a poem.

The translator must have the technical skills and may be governed by imagination. A translator is a reader than who writes what to read. He needs not to trouble his imagination about plot, theme or characters. Through out the centuries grave doubts have been raised over the possibility of translation of literary work. Again and again it has been maintained that it is not possible for anyone to combine it in another languages, thoughts, emotions, the style, the form of epic, a lyric poem, drama. Yet, the fact remains that the art of translation has been practiced everywhere in the world. Poetry, a form of literature has been caught in the clutches of critics.

Translation of poetry is the most challenging work in literature. It specially becomes more challenging in its structural and stylistic aspects. In human beings mind has it special importance. But the reality is that mind is incomplete without emotions. The lacks of emotions create human life as scientific. So, in human life emotions and mind play an important role. If we call literature as garden then poem should be called as the flower of emotions. If various genres of literature is called as ocean then the emotions may be called as fountains. As music is important for songs, likewise, poetry is important

Variorum, Vol.-01, Issue-II, November 2010

for life. The most beautiful thing in life is neither colors, power nor wealth but emotions. The person who is full of emotions only that seems a trustworthy.

To quote Suitranandan Pant “The woman is not beautiful due to her body but emotions. It means poem is not beautiful due to its structure but emotions expressed in it.”

However, poetry has become the most debated form in literature, because it gives various meanings. According to Grant Shower man “Translations is a sin--- Translations is meddling in inspiration.”

There are some problems which we come across in translating a poem.

- 1) A translator can't bring the rhyme pattern in TL. If the poetry lacks rhyme, then it seems to be a body without soul. It means the beauty of the words goes to be lost.
- 2) Translator can't bring musicality in TL.
- 3) In various languages some words have special meanings, i.e. they carry symbolism, but when a translator uses it then the very used words loose symbolism.
- 4) Poet in SL pours his personality which given livens for poetic meaning, but when a translator translates that poem, it adds his impersonality. i.e. TL lacks personality and emotions of SL.
- 5) A translator comes across the in problem of phrase and proverbs. In SL some proverbs give extra meanings but it can't be brought in TL. Even though they are used but that doesn't become a proverb or phrase in TL.
- 6) The words in SL are sometimes built on organic rhythm, which is the rhythm of speaking but it can't be brought as it is in TL.
- 7) In SL translator comes across with some traditional elements which can't be brought in TL. Thus, the meaning of traditional elements bring barrier in TL and SL.
- 8) The reality in SL used in experience can't be kept as unchanged in TL.
- 9) SL language contains ornamentals, i.e. comma, semi colons etc, which can't be used regularly after specific words. The lack of these elements creates double meaning.

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10) While translating a poem from SL to TL translator commits mistake in the works with general percepts when determines to preserve form SL text.

Thus, translating a poem, a translator comes across the problem of level of syntax, in TL, on semiotic level and semantic level. So, to avoid above problems in translation, we can have some solutions :

- 1) According to Anne Cuisenaire a literary translator should not work with general percepts when determining what or preserve form of SL text but should work with as eye on each individual structure.
- 2) Translator must search whether the meter used in SL is acceptable in TL or not. If not, then a translator should use another effective meter. He should try to control the length of translation also.
- 3) A translator should be aware about inner and surface meaning of poem. For this he has to read SL text carefully until he gets inner meaning.
- 4) A translator must be aware about the feelings of poet and he should use it in TL with the help of his consciousness.
- 5) A translator has to be aware about the rhymes used in SL. So that TL must not become weaker in prosody.

Reference Texts

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| iii) <i>Translation, and introduction to Literary Stylistics</i> | - Anne Cluysenaar |
| iv) <i>Anuwad Suktiya</i> | - Gargi Gupt. |
| v) <i>On Linguistic Aspects of Translation</i> | - Roman Jacobson. |